

modification of it. The final *u* is preserved in the classical languages alone. The Perso-Sanskrit forms are of far later date than those of the European languages, and appear to be derived from the Slavonic; a final nasal being added, apparently in imitation of the Ugrian *n*.

“The Semitic forms are likewise derived from *hwáku*; their common parent being *hwan-hwáku*, properly *adsum*, as I showed in my former paper. The double addition in the so-called Semitic languages of a prefix and a suffix, of which the meanings are almost identical, is very remarkable. It is clear that the suffix was first added; and that, when the prefix was added, the two syllables which followed it were considered as one word, the meaning of the suffix being no longer recollected. This can only be accounted for either by supposing an extremely long interval between the addition of the suffix and that of the equivalent prefix, or by supposing a miraculous confusion to have taken place in the views of the people with respect to language in the interval between these two additions having been made. I have observed facts indicative of such an occurrence, which are easily explained by the admission of its having existed, and scarcely, if at all, to be accounted for on any other supposition,—but I must forbear stating them at present. The study of these bilingual tablets cannot fail to throw great light on the early history of languages; but it would be rash to draw inductions from what has yet become known to me. As to the pronoun of the first person singular, I am satisfied that I am well informed as to the facts, but not so as to the other pronouns. Here, therefore, I must close what I have to say.

“EDWARD HINCKS.

“*Killyleagh, June 18, 1857.*”

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Sir William R. Hamilton read a paper on a certain harmonic property of the envelope of the chord connecting two corresponding points of the Hessian of a cubic cone.

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