

by their peculiar shibboleth. Another French article is Professor Karl Piehl's Inscriptions from a *Mostaba* or monument of the sixth Egyptian dynasty. The same professor continues his notes on Egyptian philology; and the Rev. C. J. Ball presents ideograms common to Accadian and Chinese. In this connection appears an able article by Dr. MacCurdy, of Toronto, in the Presbyterian and Reformed *Review*, entitled "The Sumerian Question," in which he holds that no Accadian or Sumerian, names that he seems some times to confound, element preceded the Semite in Chaldea. Dr. MacCurdy is a good Semitic scholar, and has acquired a reputation through his Assyrian studies which entitles him to deference; but he is a Semitic specialist, and, like all specialists, he wants to force everything into his line of study, just as the Aryanists have done. This is unwise and unconsciously unfair. General Vallancey and others translated the Punic passage in Plautus by Irish: so every man translates by what he knows best, to the detriment of truth. I am as sure of the existence of Accadian and Sumerian in Chaldea as I am glad to be of the existence of Professor MacCurdy. Yet there is truth in the Professor's contention, and it is this: Semitic is as old as Sumerian. The first rulers of Egypt spoke a sub-Semitic dialect, which was never displaced. In Chaldea, Sargon, of Agade, a contemporary of the patriarch Jacob, wrote his proclamations in Semitic. The Hittite rulers of Assyria and Babylonia were never able to supersede the Semitic languages of their subjects. Phœnicia was Semitic from before the days of Sanchoniatho, and so were the Amorites of Palestine. But we have remains of monarchs who preceded Sargon, and their Accadian language has all its affinities with the Ugrian tongues of Europe and Asia. Nevertheless, we dare not say that the Accadians or Sumerians invented the cuneiform characters, although they certainly made use of them. Dr. MacNish is now editing a Sumerian or Celtic document from Tell-el-Amarna that no Semitic, Aryan, or Turanian language on the face of the earth can interpret.

There is published in New York a magazine called *Biblia*, the aim of which is to record progress in the field of Biblical Archaeology. The January number is full and interesting, dealing with the Egypt and Palestine Exploration Funds, with the Haram at Hebron or cave of Machpelah, with the Tell-el-Amarna Tablets, Egyptian Art, the Preservation of Sacred Texts, and many other items well worth knowing. It is well worth its subscription price of a dollar a year, the sum charged for it by Messrs. Westermann and Co. of New York. The Rev. John Mitchell, B.D., F.R.A.S., has delivered an eloquent lecture on The Solar System, an exposition of the Eighth Psalm, a very full synopsis of which has reached me through a Chester paper. Unhappily the Editor-in-Chief has so skilfully arranged for copy, that he has more than enough to carry the session through, so that there is no room for even a glance at Mr. Mitchell's admirable discourse, replete with astronomical lore and excellent theology.