

About the head waters of the Yenisei, and west and east of them, he built his wooden cities, heaped his mounds, and engaged in the chase and in war. Still his inscriptions are in the same character, if a little ruder in form, and their Japanese is less archaic than that of India. The chief monarchs who reigned in Siberia appear in the Japanese annals, which do not tell, as do the rocks of the Yenisei, that they ruled over the Raba and the Yoba Kita. It is hard to decide, from the diverse data furnished by the Korean, Japanese and Chinese historians, when the Turanians of Siberia descended upon Corea and northern China, over which they ruled for about two centuries. The rule of the Khitan in China is said to have ended in 1123, and is supposed to have begun before the middle of the tenth century; but they were in Corea before the end of the seventh. The Korean alphabet is a much modified form of the Lat Indian and Siberian syllabary, and, with the Cypriote syllabary and the Aztec hieroglyphic system, constituted my material for fixing the phonetic values of the Hittite characters.

The Turanian writers must have been in Japan long before their brethren conquered China, probably as early as the sixth century. This we know, not from the Japanese annals, full of Siberian, Indian and still more western and ancient monarchs, going back to 660 B.C., but from the mound-builder inscriptions of America, and from the history of Mexico. The most ancient date of Mexican history is 717 A.D., and the oldest monuments on American soil which are dated are the two stones from Davenport, Iowa, engraved in 793 and 795. Their dates are Buddhist, reckoning from the death of the sage in 477, B.C. Copies of inscriptions in the Turanian character from Japan have been sent to me, but they were too much weathered to yield any satisfactory result. The Japanese are said to have replaced their ancient form of writing by modifications of the Chinese in 285 A.D., under the advice of the wise Wonin. This is quite fabulous, as the Japanese were at that time in India. But it is probable that the change of script took place during the period of Khitan rule in the celestial empire, which lies somewhere between the sixth and the twelfth century. The mound-builder inscriptions of America are all in the old character, although their dates extend from 793 to 1261, and I am not aware of the existence of any American inscription in the Japanese modifications of the Chinese form of writing. Ban Nobutomo's work on old Japanese alphabets shows that the Japanese are now ignorant of their ancient form of written speech; yet I have a shrewd suspicion that it may be preserved among the arcana of Buddhist priests in the land of the chrysanthemum. At any rate, it is perfectly evident that there is not knowledge enough of this old Turanian writing in the world to enable any one to forge it, as it has been charged over and again to have been done by American antiquarians, who have thus sought to shield their own ignorance.