

They have been regarded as foreigners on Italian soil, and there has been a very strong desire to read their numerous inscriptions, and to trace their affinity with other nations. It is more than half a century since Niebuhr said that he would willingly give half of what he possessed, if he could possibly obtain a clue to the deciphering of the Etruscan language, but he had come to look on this as utterly hopeless. Undoubtedly since Niebuhr's day some advance has been made in our knowledge of the Etruscan language. In 1828 appeared the first edition of Ottfried Müller's "*Die Etrusker*," and in the second volume of this very learned work the author established the value and power of both the Etruscan and the Umbrian letters. Five years after, in 1833, appeared Lepsius' work, "*De Tabulis Eugubinis*," in which he substantiated the results arrived at by Müller. The subsequent researches of Aufrecht and Kirchhoff, of Grotefend and Lassen, of Mommsen and Deecke, of Corssen and Pauli, of Curtius and Bugge, with those of English, French, Italian, and Swedish scholars, have all tended to support the results arrived at by Müller and Lepsius, till in the last edition of Müller's work, edited by Deecke, we have a very valuable supplement, in which there is very clearly and satisfactorily represented, not only the value of the Etruscan letters, but the changes of which they are susceptible, their possible combinations, the laws of syncope, of inlaut and auslaut, of anlaut and ablaut, in fact a thorough treatise on the subject.

Prof. Campbell ignores the results arrived at by these scholars, whose names are a sufficient guarantee of the conscientiousness of their labours, of their industry and judgment, their extensive learning, and their sincere love of the truth. Lepsius was perhaps better versed than any other in Egyptian writing, and his researches are marked by striking calmness and judgment. Grotefend and Lassen devoted themselves with equal success to the study of the cuneiform inscriptions. Kirchhoff and Aufrecht have thrown a flood of light on the old Italian dialects. Mommsen is our greatest authority on Roman history and Roman epigraphy. Why has Prof. Campbell ignored the works of all these eminent scholars? He once quotes from Deecke, but it is from that rather meagre article which Deecke contributed to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*--an article scarcely in keeping with Deecke's erudition. These earnest students were obliged to confess their inability to translate the Etruscan inscriptions, or to establish the affinity of the Etruscan language. But