

plete manuscript of the Epistle of Barnabas, and of the Shepherd of Hermas, both said to belong to the second century of the Christian era. Herr Tschendorf hopes, from the munificence of the Russian Government, that he will be enabled to give immediate publication to these three manuscripts. A most important discovery of inscriptions has been made in the Holy Land near Mount Sinai.

The following account of the excavations which led to the discovery, we owe to a friend:—"Suez, April 9.—I made the most interesting discovery close in front of the cave of Mugarnah. I felt so convinced that some of the large blocks there contained inscriptions, that I examined them very closely, and on washing the dust and sand from a huge block of many hundred tons weight, I found, to my great delight and surprise, not less than six inscriptions, of which I have five; the remaining one it was impossible to take, owing to the peculiar position of the stone. I then proceeded in my search, and on passing my hands underneath a huge block, I could distinctly feel some tablets. I fortunately possessed four crowbars, and, with the assistance of ten Arabs, I succeeded in about three hours in raising it and turning it over upon its face, and I have never seen any inscription more beautifully preserved. You will find these impressions exceedingly well taken, and I hope they will prove interesting. I have been to Mount Sinai and Mount Serait since I wrote last. I ascended the highest peak of the latter mountain, and found it covered with inscriptions of the Sinaitic character. No one has ascended the summit besides myself, except Burckhardt, who has given a very accurate description of it. Dr Lepsius ascended a lower peak. I never had so hard a day's work in my life." The inscriptions have reached London, and are in the hands of Mr Birch of the British Museum.—*London Athenaeum.*

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