

The White god Quetzal-coatl, somewhat in disguise to a non-philologist, preserves the memory of the old word. Professor Maspero on some terms of Egyptian literature, Professor Sayce on Greek graffiti at Abydos, and some of the other contributors tell little of general interest. But the Rev. C. J. Ball on inscriptions of Nebuchadnezzar the Great, Dr. Wiedemann on Texts of the second part of the 18th Egyptian dynasty, and Professor Sayce on cuneiform tablets of Tel el Amarna, now in the Boulaq, are worth listening to. Professor Sayce has done good service in partially translating the Tel el Amarna tablets, which indicate a number of petty kingdoms in Syria and eastwards that made use of Semitic dialects in the time of the Egyptian Amenophids who preceded the Exodus, but plain history has not yet been made out of them, although they contain valuable notices of Hittite and other monarchs. The Amenophids were themselves of Hittite origin but their language was not Semitic. Some of the inscriptions are in a kind of *Lingua franca*, partly Assyrian and partly Hittite. At the latter Professor Sayce makes guesses sometimes clever, sometimes ludicrous. He has no apprehension of the fact that in Hittite a nominative cannot possibly precede its genitive unless that genitive is followed by a postposition as its regimen. All men translate by the language they know best. We do the same in common social life and alas! in theology also. The Thirty-nine Articles, Confession of Faith, Luther's Catechisms, and Wesley's Sermons translate the Bible. There is a Spirit of Truth higher than these. Just as Dr. Sayce, instead of finding the spirit of what he would translate, rushes his Semitic grammar over the Turanian text, so with the ploughshare of an ancient logical system we rip into dark uniform furrows the green pastures of the Word, as if there were no spirit now to lead us over them into all truth.

Some years ago I received from Russia copies of all the Siberian runic inscriptions then discovered, through the kindness of Mr. Vladimir Youferow of the Imperial Society of Geography at St. Petersburg. These I have succeeded in translating for the first time, and the translations with the text will appear in my book on *The Eastern Track of the Hittites*. To day I am the happy possessor of an elegant folio, published at the expense of the Government of Finland and under the auspices of the Finnish Archaeological Society at Helsingfors, containing photographs of a large number of new Siberian inscriptions, with separately printed texts of them and a memoir giving an account of all that has been done up to date, 1889, in the field of Siberian Archaeology. It embraces thirty-two inscriptions, two at least of which are of over four hundred syllabic characters, extensive and exact enough to fill the heart of the epigrapher with joy. The photographs are magnificently executed, and the introductory memoir is illustrated with rock carvings identical in style with those found on the more ancient American inscribed rocks. The post brought the book from Helsingfors.