

the discovery or wise adaptation was first applied. Dr. Davis, in his interesting work on "Carthage and its Remains," gives an engraving of a Punic inscription found at Pula, in Sardinia, the letters of which resemble those of the Hebrew alphabet, and the words of which (as interpreted) are also Hebrew. The first part of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum* of the French Academie des Inscriptions, that which relates to Phœnician and Punic inscriptions, has recently been published. It contains fifty Phœnician inscriptions, of which forty were discovered in Cyprus. Some of them are bilingual—Greek and Phœnician—and the resemblance of the latter to Hebrew is close throughout, making it certain that, whatever was their race, the Phœnicians were Semites and almost Israelites in language.* If we include in the estimate the career of both motherland and colonies, the sway of the Phœnicians endured for at least fifteen hundred years. They are especially interesting to us as to them, of all the nations of antiquity, the world was most indebted for what it knew of that other world that lay beyond the Pillars of Hercules. Whether they ever touched these shores is doubtful, though M. Paul Gaffarel has collected no slender evidence in favour of that hypothesis. That they had dealings with the tribes on the Gold Coast, would appear from the statement of Herodotus (Herod. IV., 196.)

Whatever side we take in the controversy as to the classification of the ancient Egyptian language,† there is no branch of study more interesting or variously fruitful than that which concerns the early dwellers on the banks of the Nile. In any estimate of the causes which contributed to human progress, they must have a leading place. Whether, as some argue, to them belongs primarily the credit for the moral and intellectual conquests of the Israelites, we cannot venture to affirm, but they undoubtedly had no small share in the training of the Greeks for the part they were to play, in turn, as teachers of mankind. How far their language, as an instrument for the communication of thought, contributed to that result, cannot be stated with confidence; but in that respect they were

*The Punic scene in the *Penulus* of Plantus (Act. V., Sc. I) has never been satisfactorily deciphered but there is no doubt of the kinship of the language with Hebrew.

†Some philologists look upon the ancient Egyptian as representing a stage of transition from Turanian to Semitic. M. Alfred Maury considers it allied to the Berber whose domain once extended even to the Canary Isles. At the same time he finds in it, as in all the languages of the Eastern side of Africa, traces of Semitic influence. (*Indigenous Races of the Earth*, pp. 56, 57.) Champollion-Figeac says that the ancient Egyptian, resembled in stature, physiognomy and hair the best constituted nations of Europe and Western Asia, and, differing from them in complexion, which was tanned by the climate. In this view he is supported by his illustrious brother. (*Egypte Ancienne*, p. 27.) Canon Rawlinson expresses the following opinion as to the Egyptian language: "Although in some respects it presents resemblances to the class of tongues known as Semitic, yet, in its main characteristics, it stands separate and apart, being simpler and ruder than any known form of Semite speech, and having analogies which connect it on the one hand with Chinese and on the other with the dialects of Central Africa." (*The Origin of Nations*, Part II., chap. 3.) Dr. Birch writes as to the whence and how of Nilotic settlement: "The race of men by whom the Valley of the Nile was tenanted was considered in their legends to have been created by the gods out of clay; a legend closely resembling the Moslem account of the creation of man. Modern researches have, however, not as yet finally determined if advancing from Western Asia they entered the alluvial land bringing with them an already developed civilization; or if ascending from Ethiopia they followed the course of the river to its mouth; or if they were aborigines, the date of whose appearance is beyond the knowledge of man and the scan of science. On the earliest monuments they appear as a red or dusky race, with features neither entirely Caucasian nor Nigritic, more resembling at the earliest age the European, at the middle period of the Empire the Nigritic races or the offspring of a mixed population, and at the most flourishing period of their Empire the sallow tint and refined type of the Semitic families of mankind." (*Egypt*, in the series of "Ancient History from the Monuments.")