

seem almost self-evident, and no one has for one moment doubted it, till Prof. Campbell propounds his hypotheses. Believing that he has solved all other linguistic problems, of the Horites and Hittites, of the Japanese and Aztecs, of the Cyprians and Choctaws, he believes it his duty also to untie the Etruscan knot. He ridicules all these bilingual similarities, and marks out a certainly original mode of dealing with the subject. He has resolved that Etruscan is Basque, and Basque he intends to prove it, and all difficulties must give way before this hypothesis. But in choosing the Basque with which he is to prove the affinity of the Etruscan, we think Prof. Campbell has been very unfortunate. The Basques are a small body of people living on the Spanish and French slopes of the Pyrenees. They number about 700,000, and are the descendants of the old Vascons. They have never played an important part in history, and have contributed nothing to the general development of civilization. They show some affinity with some of the native tribes of North Africa, but perhaps more with the inhabitants of the American continent. We know that at one time Africa was joined to Europe at the Straits of Gibraltar, and there is every probability that in the Miocene period Europe was connected with America, and the people of America may have crossed over by a great Atlantic bridge, having left however a small remnant in Spain. But, whatever the affinity of the Basques, they have, from a very early period, been largely affected by foreign influences. No part of Europe has so changed masters as Spain. Phœnicians, Celts, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Visigoths, Alans, Moors, and the Romance nations have at one time or other held Spain, and have influenced the Basques, and these at the present day present physiological characteristics so diversified as to baffle all attempts at ethnological classification; and the Basque language is perhaps the most corrupt of all languages. The writer of the article on the Basques, in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, a work Prof. Campbell is fond of consulting, says: "Foreign words are easily assimilated, but with modifications to suit the Basque ear." If Prof. Campbell was resolved on proving the affinity of the Etruscans with the Basques, he ought to have positively assured himself, that in using individual words, it was really in each case a Basque word of which he had got hold; for to prove the affinity of the Basque and Etruscan by means of Greek or Latin, Gothic or Romance words, however perfectly incorporated into the Basque, would be an