

tively to which family certain races respectively belonged. Although, for example, the Hamite language of Babylon, in the use of postpositions and particles and pronominal suffixes, approaches to the character of a Scythic or Turanian rather than a Semitic tongue, yet a large portion of its vocabulary is absolutely identical with that which was afterwards continued in Assyrian, Hebrew, Arabic, and the cognate dialects; and the verbal formations, moreover, in Hamite Babylonian and in Semitic Assyrian exhibit in many respects the closest resemblances." "One of the most remarkable results arising from an analysis of the Hamite cuneiform alphabet, is the evidence of an Aryan element in the vocabulary of the very earliest period, thus showing, either that in that remote age there must have been an Aryan race dwelling on the Euphrates among the Hamite tribes, or that (as I myself think more probable) the distinction between Aryan, Semitic and Turanian tongues had not been developed when picture-writing was first used in Chaldea; but that the words then in use passed indifferently at a subsequent period, and under certain modifications, into the three great families among which the languages of the world were divided." If we confine ourselves to the vocabulary, disregarding grammatical forms, it will not be difficult to prove the kinship of the whole race. Professor Müller quotes the statement of Dr. J. Rae, to the effect that all the Indo-European languages have their root and origin in that of Polynesia, a statement in which Dr. Rae is in part justified by the presence in many of the Malay dialects of roots identical in form and meaning with those of the Aryan languages.⁸ Dr. Bleek thinks that the Kaffir and Hottentot languages, the latter of which is supposed to have old Coptic connections, are fitted to shed great light upon the most important problems of language in general;⁹ and the Revs. H. M. Waddell, and Alex. Robb, missionaries in Old Calabar, find in the Efik, one of the Nigro-Hamitic tongues, a grammatical construction of Semitic form, and a vocabulary possessing radical affinities with the Nilo-Hamitic, Semitic and Indo-European families of speech.¹⁰ I observe that Dr. Edkins, of Pekin,

⁷ Rawlinson's Herodotus, App. Book i; essay vi; section 18.

⁸ Lectures on Science of Language; series ii, lecture i. Dr. Leyden long ago (*Asiatic Researches*, vol. x,) set forth the same truth, which modern theorists in language have rejected as interfering with their *a priori* conclusions.

⁹ Lectures on Science of Language; series ii; lecture 1.

¹⁰ Twenty-nine years in the West Indies and Central Africa, by Rev. Hope Masterton Waddell; appendix. vi. Notes on the Efik language.