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## *THE EARLY INTERPRETERS.*

BY MR. JOHN READE.

(Continued.)

It was in Egypt that provision was first made for a regular and constant supply of interpreters. According to Herodotus (II. 164) they constituted the sixth class into which the community was divided—priests, warriors, cowherds, swineherds, and tradesmen coming before them, and pilots following. Plato mentions but six, Diodorus, but five classes, both omitting that of interpreters. That they existed, nevertheless, there seems no reason to doubt, as Diodorus gives an account of their first establishment, which is virtually identical with that of Herodotus. The story runs that Psammitichus, having overcome his rivals by the aid of certain Ionian and Carian mercenaries, granted them lands, near the city of Bubastis, on the Pelusiac mouth of the Nile, and put Egyptian children under their care to be instructed in the Greek language, and it was from them that the interpreters of Egypt were descended.

A man who had dealings with the same nation of Asiatic Greeks was Gyges, King of Lydia, the Gog of the Old Testament, the Gugu, of the Assyrian inscrip-