

survives, like that of Adonis, in a river of Phœnicia, the Tamyras. Hitzig insists on the connection of the Sanscrit Tamara and *tama* with water;<sup>92</sup> and both of them we find as names of rivers, or as forming the base of such names, in India, Palestine, Spain, Britain, and indeed throughout the whole of the Indo European and Sēmitic areas.<sup>93</sup> Herodotus informs us that Thamimasadas is the Scythian name for Neptune, and all are agreed that while *masadas* stands for ruler or god, *thami* is water or the sea.<sup>94</sup> Strabo quotes Polybius as his authority that the people at the head of the Adriatic called the river Timavos the "mother of the sea;"<sup>95</sup> and from Pliny we learn that the Scythians named the Maeotis Tamarunda, which meant the same.<sup>96</sup> In the language of the ancient Irish, who claimed Scythian ancestry, *tamh* signified the ocean, and in an old Assyrian dialect it is TAMTU. We have thus presented to us a word of Egyptian origin, designating a god, applied to a water plant, and conveying the idea of water, especially as found in rivers, in many different forms, the principal of which are THOM, ATHOM, PITHOM. The loss of the initial vowel need be no more a subject of surprise than the prefix o the Coptic article. Strabo tells us that the Thessalian Ithome was originally called Thome but acquired in some way another syllable.<sup>97</sup> This is possible, but it is more than likely that the two forms came from Egypt, where THOM and ATHOM were interchangeable from a very early period. Without entering more into detail, or pushing our researches for the present beyond the bounds of the Greek language, this paper may fittingly come to a close with a fourfold illustration or proof of the transference of Coptic words, article included, into languages of the European family. The word Patumos, which Herodotus gives as a Greek form of PITHOM, is the same as *potamos*, a river, for which such far-fetched derivations as *potimon hudor* have been proposed; and thus the ancient name of the Nile, which, in the forms of the English Thames and Tamar, gives brotherhood to many

<sup>92</sup> Hitzig, die Philistaer, 230.

<sup>93</sup> Such are the Tomeros of Arrian or Tonberos of Pliny; the Wady Taamirah that runs to the west of the Dead Sea; the Tamaris of Spain; the Tamarus and Thamesis of Britain. Vide Arriani Indica xxiv.; Plinii Hist. Nat., Lib. vi., 25; Ritter's Comparative Geography of Palestine, vol. iii. 135; Pompenii Melae De Situ Orbis, Lib. iii. 1, 81; Six Old English Chronicles—Richard of Cirencester on the Ancient State of Britain, and Appendix, Bohn.

<sup>94</sup> Rawlinson's Herodotus, Appendix, Book iv., Essay ii. 7.

<sup>95</sup> Strab. vi., 1, 8.

<sup>96</sup> Plinii Hist. Nat., Lib. vi. 7.

<sup>97</sup> Strab. ix., 5, 17.