

authority in Assyrian, Accadian, Vannic, and Hittite, persist in speculating about languages which others know, and which he does not?"

Some years ago Dr. W. Wright, once missionary at Damascus, now on the staff of the British and Foreign Bible Society in London, wrote an interesting book called *The Empire of the Hittites*. It came forth with quite a flourish of trumpets, constituting even in Canada the substance of a college inaugural lecture that attracted some attention. This book consisted of Professor Sayce's collection of Egyptian and Assyrian references to the Hittites, together with those found in the Bible, and an account of the inscriptions, viewed chiefly as works of art, and of the arts of that ancient people. It solved no problem, told nothing that was new. The Rev. Dunbar Heath before the Anthropological Institute, and the Rev. C. J. Ball, before the Society of Biblical Archaeology, with Dr. Hayes Ward before the American Branch of the Palestine Exploration Fund, attacked the Hittite Inscriptions and retired baffled from the field. Then Major Conder, heralded by the *London Times*, came forth to solve the question in his *Altaic Hieroglyphics and Hittite Inscriptions*, which, after raising great expectations, fell flat and is now all but forgotten. It was thought that Dr. Sayce, like Brer Fox in *Uncle Remus*, was lying low, and would soon electrify the world with a true reading of the stones of Hamath and Jerbais, of Babylon and Merash. At length the Hittites appeared; *nascitur ridiculus mus*.

The chief value of *The Hittites* is in its illustrations, some of which, however, are very badly engraved. They are in part copied from Texier, a fact which leads me to ask any reader of this Talk who may have seen a copy of Texier's *Asie Mineure* in two volumes lying about anywhere, to let me know. Mr. Young says he took the book to Messrs. Drysdale & Co. for the Rev. Mr. Coull, who knows Asia Minor at least as well as anybody in Canada, but Messrs. Drysdale's employees disclaim all knowledge of it, not Asia Minor but the book, which is Texier's *Asia Minor*. Professor Sayce has not thought it worth while to do any serious work for a mere bypath of Bible knowledge. He has furnished no complete history, not even to the extent sufficiently indicated by the Egyptian and Assyrian monuments. He has not even given a thorough sketch of the people, has translated no word of their writing, furnished the sense of no inscription. To questions relative to their ethnological affiliation and language he answers *ignoramus*. The book contains historical statements of course, and draws attention to Hittite art, following its traces into Asia Minor, beyond which Professor Sayce holds that the Hittites did not go in the direction of the west. How does he know this? How can he tell that a people of whose language he knows nothing, of whose writing he has not successfully interpreted a character, were shut into Asia by the Hellespont and the Bosphorus, and excluded from Europe by straits insufficient to bar the