

lawyers, statista, men of business, nay, ladies—ladies moreover, never previously suspected of having in their mental coloring the faintest tint of *blue*—talked of it, discussed it, argued about it, expressed opinions as to its age and its contents, and smiled if they met with anyone who confessed to complete ignorance on the subject." These discussions soon passed away; the Moabite Stone, like many another wonder, was forgotten; and John Bull, his wife and his daughters talked once more of the hunt, the weather, operas, balls, engagements, flirtations and the like.

Interest in the Moabite Stone was re-awakened a few weeks ago by the publication, in the *Academy*, of a new reading of the inscription. This revised translation has been issued by two German professors, Profs. Smend and Socin, under the title of *Die Inschrift des Königs Mesa von Moab*. It seems desirable that this reading which, so far as we know, has not yet appeared in any journal on this side of the Atlantic, should be given to Canadian students.

First, however, it may be well to recall the account of the discovery and appearance of the Stone. In August, 1869, Rev. F. Klein, a German clergyman, while travelling in what was once the land of Moab, was informed that not far from the place where he then was, among the ruins of Dhibân, the ancient Dibon, there was a curious monument with an inscription which no one had been able to decipher. This relic he found to be a stone of black basalt, two feet broad and nearly four feet high, bearing an inscription of thirty-four lines, in the characters of the Phœnician alphabet. No European had ever seen it. M. Klein unfortunately did not know the value of the discovery and contented himself with copying a few lines and taking measurements. Shortly afterwards efforts were made by the French consul, M. Clermont-Ganneau, and an English explorer, Captain Warren, to obtain "squeezes" or paper casts of the inscription. The story of the Stone from this point is somewhat intricate, and cannot be related in detail. Three nationalities, represented by M. Klein, M. Clermont-Ganneau and Captain Warren, began to compete for it. Unseemly jealousies were stirred up. The Arabs, in whose possession the stone was, became aroused, and, fearing some blight would fall upon their crops if the stone were removed, put a fire around it, and threw water on it when heated,