

present no difficulty whatever, and he proves their affinity with one another by long lists of words, which he says are identical in Basque and Etruscan, in Japanese and Circassian, in Hittite and Choektauw, in Iroquois and Aztec. We trust Prof. Campbell will pardon us if we prefer the judgment of Müller and Schott, and of a score of other Turanian scholars to his judgment, and if we express a very strong doubt as to the value of his researches and his very remarkable conclusions.

And now a few words regarding the Etruscan alphabet, its origin, some of its peculiarities, and the extent of country over which it prevailed, and a short statement of what is generally received concerning the origin of the Etruscans. The town of Chalcis in Eubœa was one of the oldest of the Phœnician colonies, and received from Phœnicia the alphabet, which it adopted with very little change. When Chalcis became an Ionic possession it still retained its alphabet, which is more closely connected with the old Phœnician than any other of the Greek alphabets. Shortly after Chalcis became Ionic it entered into rivalry with Miletus for commercial and colonial supremacy. Miletus acquired a supremacy in Eastern Europe, in the *Ægean*, and the Euxine; while Chalcis turned to Italy and the West. Cumæ was founded by a colony from Chalcis, and became a centre from which Greek learning, Greek culture, and the Greek Chalcidian alphabet were communicated to the rest of Italy. Etruria early received its alphabet from this source and an examination of the Etruscan letters will at once show their similarity with that earliest Greek alphabet. The Etruscan, the Umbrian and the Oscan of the Italian dialects approach most nearly in their alphabets to the Chalcidian, and the Latin is the farthest removed. The Etruscan rejects the soft mutes B, G, D, and retains the aspirates *th*, *ph*, *ch*. The Latin on the other hand retains the soft mutes and rejects the aspirates. The Etruscan and the Umbrian alike retain the Sam and the Sigma, the Zain and Samekh of the Phœnicians. At that early period we perhaps cannot expect exact fixity in the alphabet, and while all the Etruscan inscriptions are of the same type, there are yet some minor differences, as we may see by comparing the pure Etruscan alphabet with the Etruscan alphabet of Campania. This last lying close to the Oscan, seems to have been affected by it. The influence of the Etruscans was very great in the South, but especially so in the north of Italy, and even in the districts still further north. They carried on commerce with