



To these may be added the words *parru* and *parrat*, apparently 'bull' and 'cow' respectively. It is probable, also, that the Assyrian for 'son' *aplu* (Akk. *ibila*), and 'male child' *māru* (fem. *mārtu*, Akk. *dum*), come from some of the above roots.<sup>1</sup> The word *ibiru* (in Akkadian *am-si ġarran* 'the horned bull of the road') is even found in Egyptian under the forms  *ābar*,  *ābari* 'an animal imported from Syria' (Chab. voy. p. 87, Brugsch, Pierret, Lauth, who all compare the Hebrew אַבִּיר אַבִּירֵי בָשָׁן, Ps. xxii. 13, 'bulls of Bashan'). The word was probably imported into Egypt with the animal.

THEO. G. PINCHES.

#### IV. OBITUARY NOTICES.

Although the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society is neither privileged nor required to place on record in its Obituary Notices the services of statesmen and others who pass away from the living circle of distinguished public characters, on the mere plea that they happen to have been enrolled among its subscribers, it is nevertheless within its competence to give expression to its profound regret for the loss, and respect for the memory, of one who, like the late *Earl of Iddesleigh*, was not only a Member of eighteen years, but ever a keen promoter of education and literary research, and at one time Secretary of State for India. To add that the sentiment of the Society is universal, is not, in the present case, the utterance of a conventional platitude, but the assertion of a sober truth.

By the death of *Sir Walter Elliot* on the 1st of March, and of *Mr. Alexander Wylie* on the 6th of February, European Orientalists have lost two remarkable members of their body, each eminent in his particular sphere. As regards the first, although a brief notice of his career was in type, it has been thought advisable to await a fuller Memoir promised for the July number of the Journal. A similar course will be pursued in the case of the second, who, though not a Member of the Royal Asiatic Society, seems to merit a careful and substantial record.

According to the *Athenæum* of the 11th of December, the Indian papers report the death of *Babu Prasanna Kumar Sarvadhikari*, for

<sup>1</sup> The ancient Babylonians seem to have derived *aplu* or *āblu* from the root *āpālu* 'to bring again,' *pu'ul appulu* 'to produce.' The Akkadian *ibila* is therefore a borrowed word.

many years Principal of the Sanskrit College at Calcutta, and author of several mathematical treatises in the Bengali language. The same paper, on the 18th idem, announces also the death of *Dr. John Nicholson*, of Penrith, translator of Ewald's "Hebrew Grammar," and, from the Arabic, of the History of the "Fatimite Dynasty in Africa."

#### V. EXCERPTA ORIENTALIA.

The third number of the first part, vol. lv., *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, contains Mr. Theobald's "Notes on some of the Symbols on the Coins of Kunanda"; an article on the "Mina tribe of Jéypur," by Kavi Ráj Shyámál Dás, translated by Babu Ram Prasad; Mr. C. J. Rodgers, on "Coins supplementary to Mr. Thomas' Chronicles of the Pathan Kings of Dehli"; and Babu Sarat Chandra Dás, on "Buddhist and other Legends about Khoten." As both the contributions of the European writers relate to coins, the brief notice which can be given to them in these pages will be under "Numismatics." The second paper is the outcome of an inquiry concerning the Minas of the Kherár, who are compared with the Bhíls of the hilly tracts. As to their origin, the contributor gives what would appear to be the generally received opinion, but forms his own separate conclusions on the subject. With regard to Khoten, the scholarly local knowledge of Sarat Chandra Dás makes all he has to say worthy of attention.

The *Journal Asiatique*, huitième série, tome viii., has in its No. 3 (Novembre-Décembre, 1886), the final pages both of M. Sénart's study of the Piyadasi Inscriptions, and of M. Sauvaire's materials for a history of Muhammadan Numismatics and Metrology. In the *Nouvelles et Mélanges*, M. Pavet de Courteille reviews Vambéry's *Das Türkenvolk in seinen Ethnologischen und Ethnographischen Beziehungen*; M. Rubens Duval contributes an instructive notice of M. Chwolson's *Syrische Grabenschriften aus Semirjetschie*; and M. Oppert, under the head, "Kakkab Mesri," argues in favour of his own particular version of a particular Assyrian inscription on a broken obelisk. No. 1 of vol. ix. contains "Fragments d'un roman d'Alexandre, en dialecte Thébain," by M. Urbain Bouriant; extracts from "Tchou-tze-tsieh-yao-tchuen," a *résumé* of the essential principles of the philosophy of Tchou-tze, bearing especially upon morals and the laws of propriety, by the learned Professor De Harlez of Louvain; and M. Clermont Ganneau's "Stèle de Méssa," commenting upon the inscription of the Moabite king Mesa, as interpreted by MM. Smend and Socin (vide *Academy*, November 27).

*Journal of the China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, Vol. xix. Part 2. In his article on Yuen Fszts'ai. M. Imbault-Huart displays an unrivalled knowledge of the most difficult department