LIBYAN VOCABULARY, AN ESSAY TOWARDS REPRODUCING THE ANCIENT NUMIDIAN LANGUAGE OUT OF FOUR MODERN TONGUES

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FRANCIS WILLIAM NEWMAN

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Trieste

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AN ESSAY

TOWARDS REPRODUCING THE

ANCIENT NUMIDIAN LANGUAGE,

OUT OF FOUR MODERN TONGUES.

BY

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Naturally it is to be expected that among the Nouns not known to be Verbal, the chief mass of words imported from the foreigner will be found.

ON THE

LIBYAN OR BERBER LANGUAGES.

Preliminary Note, on the Alphabet here used.

The Libyan Alphabet is preserved to us in the Tefinagh characters, which by reason of deficiency in Vowels are with difficulty read by the natives themselves. The consonants nearly respond to those of Hebrew; though, by Gimel changing to Jimel as in Arabic, a double sound is obtained; also, the letter which responds to Hebrew Teth, is liable to take the sound of Arabic ض, sometimes of necessity. Thus we get two consonantal sounds more than in Hebrew.

The consonants B D F G (hard) H J K L M N R S T W Y Z are sounded as in English. Besides these attention must be paid to the accompanying list (see next page):

The letters Π Σ Δ seem to be not properly Libyan, but introduced by the Arabs. They sometimes supplant the true sound *even in native words*. Sayce (Assyrian Gr.) treats Hebrew ח as ح rather than ح. In Ghadamsi the Σ constantly supplants the Γ. The Tuarik of Barth *could* not say Moſammed, but inevitably made it Moſammed.

The sounds of J and of Ϡ seem to have some local diversity, which is the case also with T.

I have several times put forward reasons for transcribing foreign languages by a Romanized alphabet. Especially for Maps, the foreigners must learn to read our letters. In this tongue, French experience finds it impossible to be satisfied with

the Tefinagh. My effort has been to get forms which will not be mistaken, even in small print; this is my reason for extending ⵛ and ⵜ below the line. Also I avoid two Roman letters for one native (as kh, th, sh), and accented letters.

HEBREW.	ARABIC.	CAPITAL.	SMALL.	
ח	ح	ⵀ	ⵀ	wheezing Irish *h*,—an Arabic sound.
ח	خ	ⵃ	ⵃ	German rough *ch*. True Libyan, yet rare.
ע	ع ء	ⵄ	ⵄ	rough jerk of the voice.
ד	ذ	Δ	δ	English *th* in *this*,—Kabail.
ת	ث	Θ	θ	English *th* in *thing*,—Kabail.
	غ	Γ	ⵖ	modern Greek Ghamma, Dutch *gh*? Northumberland *Burr*; a favourite Libyan sound.
ט	ط	ⵜ	ⵜ	thick t,—*palatal* t?
	ض	ⵅ	ⵅ	thick δ, a letter specially Arabic.
ש	ش	ⵅ	ⵅ	as in Spanish (and Oscan ?) for English sh.
ק	ق	ⵇ	ⵇ	soft k formed at the root of the tongue.
צ		ⵚ	ⵚ	probably Tz or rather thick Ts.

[N.B. In Arabic ك takes the sound of English Tch with the Bedouins and at Bagdad, but elsewhere that of English K. These are the two sounds of Italian C; hence it seemed to me convenient to use C for ك *in Arabic*. There is no such reason in Libyan; with Hanoteau I write k, and rather reserve C for our Tch, which yet in Libyan seems better written tx.]