

And the name of the old abomination Ashera also seems to linger at Deir el Ashayir on the Hermon range (*ibid.*, p. 497). In the Bible we find it written with, as well as without, the letter *yod*.

Also the words Beth Ba'al were found at Siloam by M. Clermont-Ganneau in a fragment of a Phœnician inscription (*ibid.*, p. 423). And the name of Sutekh, the Ba'al of the Hykshôs and Hittites, is appropriately stigmatized in the Jordan Valley, south of the Lake of Gennesaret, as "Sat-h the Dæmon." ("Memoirs," II, p. 248.)

These strange "restitutions of decayed intelligence" are illuminations unknown to Milton of his magnificent "Ode on the Nativity," and the grand parallel passage in the "Paradise Lost."

HENRY GEORGE TOMKINS.

FELLAH DIALECT IN PALESTINE.

(*Quarterly Statement, January, 1886, p. 17; April No., p. 84.*)

CAPTAIN CONDER emphasizes the Aramaic character of the dialect spoken by the fellahs, as distinct from Arabic. I believe, and have often felt convinced, that a great many names are misunderstood in the light of Arabic, and that in reading the "Memoirs" and "Name Lists" many ancient clues are lost, through forgetfulness of this, and modern trivialities are substituted for important historic and mythological links with the past. Of course the first thing of all was to take down phonetically in the most trusty fashion the names on the lips of the inhabitants, especially of the most unsophisticated "oldest inhabitant." This was necessarily done in Arabic, but then comes the deeply interesting task of seeing the old name through its mask, as the true portrait-painter,

"Divinely, through all hindrance, sees the man."

"The Bully-ruffian" was a capital name for a man-of-war in the ears of a jack-tar of the old pig-tailed breed, but after all the true name was "Bellerophon," which to him meant nothing; and the good ship "Wheel-em-along," was really christened "Ville de Milan."

HENRY GEORGE TOMKINS.