

~~Murphy~~

Halifax

Ottawa July 28. 80

My dear Sir

Lundström here has been
an announcement that D. R. G. H. has
has found some "intended animal
remains" in the Canary Islands
I read a paper on them. I never
had the D. R. G. H. which was given me
as an Hon. degree of King's College.
but I think I may regard my
skull as coming under the head
of animal remains.

When I went to Morocco I paid
special attention to the customs
languages & traditions of the
Berbers especially the skellin
or Soos, who live S. of the Atlas.
I was rewarded by a series of
unexpected, & most important
results - both as to their language
& their traditions -

First I detected without having a
list of Berbers, & only one or
two very fragmentary vocabularies

being also aided by personal
enquiries, not less than 60
English words in that language.

The first attracted my attention
by finding that in answer, questions
the Soos would repeat my
word with aye (yes) - and I
found he understood them - Thus
"bosc", "ox", & several other
words - their word for pasture
is meadar (meadow), from
our word "meas" is "bus" in their
language - of course the Soos
must be much greater than
I have been able to detect -

I also found remarkable
traditions especially as to
Hercules whom they call
Herakles - Their Country is the
Scene of Hercules labours,
& the Peak of Teneriffe is
I find the mountain on which
Geryon pastured his 300 Cows,
which "a navigator named
Herakles tried to steal".

I am convinced that that was
the Country of a very early civilization
& that they were "the happy Ethiopians".

of Homer who were near, the
Gods than other mortals, & at when
banquets the celestials were
guests. According to Lucian's
fable (no doubt a bit of
folklore) the Ethiopians used
at the end of Ulysses' dream of
a ship with two Concocks in it
& 3 months provisions on a
voyage to the Islands of the
Blessed - & he gives us the
account of an imaginary visit
to the Fortunate Isles. This then
- for settles the point that the
Ethiopians were on the West
Coast of Africa - I have found
that the Berbers say that Herakles
sailed to the mountains to the
South in the ocean, & went
into a cave from which
he never returned - Now
at Ycod on the Peak there is a
cave many miles in extent,
but as addendum to this I have
actually found a place or one
of the Canaries - the Valley of
the great King - the valley of
Herke.

Of course my Berber researches
were a proper beginning
for a visit to the Canaries,
I wish very much to show my
notes to some one who is up on
the Berber language, or has
books on it. I understand that
Mr. Rev. J. Campbell of Montreal
wrote a paper on the Shepherd
Sheep of Egypt. If he assumes
them to have been Lybians &
of the light haired Berber
race, he may have studied
their language. Have you
his paper? The papers of the
Canadian Institute are
not in the library here!!!

Perhaps Mr. Campbell may have
some works on Berber - If so
I should much like to have a look
at his library.

If not I think I must make
the acquaintance of
Prof. Whitney of Yale - Do
you know him - Perhaps you
might be able to introduce me

I have. I do not like to see him
before I go read the paper
you asked for. I purpose reading
a paper on "Atlas, the Atlantis
& the Fortunate Isles". I am
quite sure it will be interesting
& I trust may be of some
value & novelty.

Lenormant (I find in Donnelly)
has anticipated my discovery
made two years ago, that
Atlas meant water, & was the
same as the Mesiciac Atl.
But he hastily assumes that
the word for water is only to be
found in America. I have
found it in the N. E. of Asia
& among the Berbers - for
water Atlas, or a Talas.
It shows how careful we must
be in attempting to assume
the original home of words, as
well as of races (& even of
plants). Aristotle is right in
assuming that great physical
changes have taken place in the
Earth's surface, where seas once
were are mountains, & where

mountain ones were, and
now oceans.

I may mention that I have
found a remarkable fact
that the old Caravan route
from Imbutoo came to
Ophraw south of Soos, where
the caravans scattered in
different directions. At
Ophraw there is an ancient
Jewish colony dating back
near our era, if not much
earlier. The Ophraw is not
far from the sea - & there is
a curious tradition that there
was once a short Caravan
route thence to Jerusalem
which has been forgotten.
I am disposed to think that
this Ophraw the subject
of the African gold & ivory
trade of remote ages, & well
known to the ancient Jews,
must have been the ophir
of King Solomon - Faro
in Portugal from its name here

Supposed to be the Ophir!
Such a trade would create
a centre of early civilization
& wealth - & may explain why
the Ethiopians were so famous
but so little known to the
ancients.

Would you kindly let me
know if a paper on the
traditions of the Atlas Country
would be interesting as a
part of my paper on the
Guanches - How long can I
make it - or rather them - for
I shall take up the Guanches
last.

By the way, I tried if any trace
of Guelic could be found - & asked
of Kinnarasha (It is a fine
day) which I spell by the ear,
was known to the Berbers - &
the Skelle told me Newword
Tamarasha had that meaning
I doubted his sincerity, but

I find that tamaraga had
this meaning among the
Guanches, & that it is selected
with many others by a late
German writer to prove that
the Guanches were Vandals!!
There can be no doubt that
this is the word just I have
often heard in Pistonsom

Pardon this long letter
which I trust will not
be uninteresting - & which
I mark private as it
anticipates the some of the
points I intend bringing
out on my paper -

With kindest regards

I am
my dear Sir

Yours truly

R. Staunton