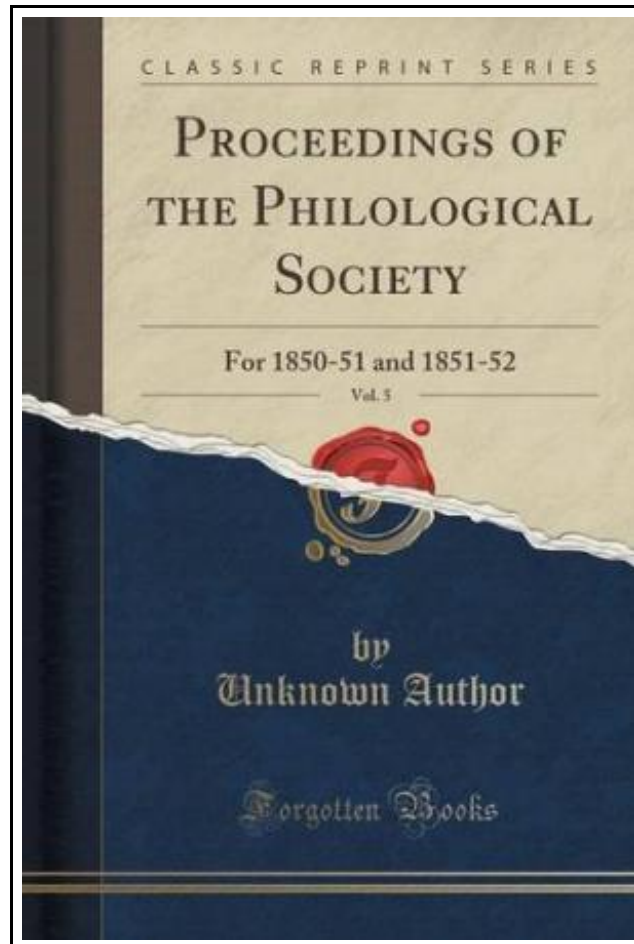


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Proceedings of the Philological Society, Vol. 5: For 1850-51 and 1851-52 A paper was read: - On the Traces of an Egyptian Origin in the Alphabets of Greece and Rome. By Hensleigh Wedgwood, Esq. The researches of the last thirty years have shown that a system of writing comprising, amid much that was merely symbolical, a numerous class of truly alphabetic characters, was in use in Egypt from the earliest times of the monarchy down to the Christian era. It is remarkable too that the alphabetic element is employed in the earliest monuments to explain the reading of certain characters which are themselves symbolically significant, and are frequently used without any phonetic accompaniment. Thus, as Bunsen observes, the symbol called the Crux ansata, signifying life (in Old Egyptian anx), is often followed by the letters n and x, which must have been added in the first instance for the sake of indicating the pronunciation. When the value of alphabetic writing in securing clearness of expression was thus early recognized, it is truly astonishing that among a people so civilized as the Egyptians, and having so much occasion to make use of writing in all the concerns of life, the alphabetic system was not speedily carried out to the exclusion of all symbolic expedients. Yet in truth no such tendency to simplification seems to have taken place. The symbolic element is as strong in the demotic or popular writing in the times of the Romans as in the early hieroglyphic. The number of equivalent alphabetic signs, instead of diminishing, is materially increased in later times, and the whole system of writing appears nowhere so confused and...



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