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# On the Polyphony of the Assyrio-Babylonian Cuneiform Writing; A Letter to Professot Renouf

By Edward Hincks

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Excerpt: . the lesser evil, in a case where some evil was unavoidable; nor have I explained how, in applying to their use the Chaldean syllabary, they introduced into it polyphony which was not an original feature of that syllabary. I will now give these explanations. Allowing for the identity, as to their mode of being expressed, of s and n, and of i and a, an Assyrian syllable might have twenty different beginnings. To each of these three vowels might be added, giving sixty syllables consisting of a consonant followed by a vowel. Each of these would require a representative, and also the combination of each with b, g, d, kh, z, l, m, n, r, and s, as final letters in the syllable. The syllabary should thus contain 660 characters; and if some of these might be dispensed with, as of rare occurrence,...



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