

XXIII. *A Letter containing some Remarks on an erroneous Reading of a sentence in the Cufic Inscription on a Grave-stone brought from Dhalac-el-Kibeer, and described in the second volume of the TRANSACTIONS of the ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY. By GRAVES C. HAUGHTON, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., SECRETARY to the SOCIETY.*

Read 20th of April, 1833.

To HENRY THOMAS COLEBROOKE, Esq., F.R.S., F.S.A., Director of the Royal Asiatic Society, &c. &c. &c.

London, 10th of April 1833.

SIR :

Since the publication of my translation of a grave-stone, written in *Cufic* characters, and printed in the last volume of the Transactions of the Society, my attention has been drawn by friends to the fact, that the words in the thirteenth line, which I had read *حمد الله*, "praise be to God," should really be *رحمها الله*, "May God have mercy upon her." As this last reading is the right one, I beg leave, through your kindness, to make it known ; for the error, though of no great importance to the general import of the inscription, deserves to be noticed.

By a reference to my remarks on the subject of the stone,* it will be seen that I was then struck at the apparent deviation in the particular formulary expression which I took it to be. In decyphering the stone, I had not only to contend with the disadvantageous light in which it was placed ; but the ground and letters being of the same uniform colour, and the writing in such low-relief as scarcely to be obvious to the touch, the difficulty of tracing it out may be easily imagined. The practised eye of the artist, however, who, besides the choice of light, had only to trace the forms of the letters without attending to the sense, succeeded in discovering and delineating that which my less perfect vision was unable to distinguish.

* Page 577 of vol. II.

If I had had the good fortune to have made my translation from the drawing instead of the stone, I should have been saved much painful effort, and could not have fallen into this error, as the letters in it are well defined, and in strong contrast with the ground of the stone.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) **GRAVES C. HAUGHTON.**