

- i. *A Letter from Mr. F. A. Esq; R. S. S. to the Publisher, with a Paper of Mr. S. Flowers containing the Exact Draughts of several unknown Characters, taken from the Ruines at Persepolis.*

S I R,

I Here send you some Fragments of Papers put into my hands by a very good Friend, relating to antique and obscure Inscriptions, which were retrieved after the Death of Mr. *Flower*, Agent in *Persia* for our *East-India* Company; who, while he was a Merchant at *Aleppo*, had taken up a Resolution to procure some Draught or Representation of the admired Ruines at *Chilmenar*, pursuant to the third Enquiry for *Persia*, mention'd in the *Philosophical Transactions*, pag. 420. viz. *Whether there being already good Descriptions in Words of the Excellent Pictures and Basse Relieves that are about Persepolis at Chilmenar, yet none very particular, some may not be found sufficiently skilled in those parts, that might be engaged to make a Draught of the Place, and the Stories their pictur'd and carved.* This Desire of the Royal Society, as I believe, it hinted at a Summary Delineation, which might be perform'd by a Man qualify'd in a few days, taking his own opportunity for the avoiding much Expence, (which you know they are never able to bear :) So I cannot but think Mr. *Flower* conceived it to be a business much easier to perform than he found it upon the place, where he spent a great deal of Time and Money, and dying suddainly after, left his Draughts and Papers dispersed in several hands, one part whereof you have here, the rest its hoped may in some time be recovered, if Sir *John Char-*

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di's exact and accurate Publication of the entire Work do not put a period to all further Curiosity, which I heartily wish.

An Exact Draught or Copy of the several Characters engraven in Marble at the Mountains of Nocturestand and Chahelminar in Persia, as they were taken in November 1667. By Mr. S. Flower.

N 1. N 2. These two Characters are engraven on the Breast of two Horses cut out of the Mountain of Black Marble at *Nocturestand*, distant a League from *Chahel-manare*, or the ancient *Persepolis*, one whereof is said to be *Alexander's*, the other *Rustram's*, (a Famous Hero supposed to have lived about the time of *Cambyfes*.)
Mr. *Fl*.

N 1. This Character hath some Similitude with the Ancient Hebrew, but the *Persians* would have it their own, tho' they understand not a Letter. Mr. *F*.

N 2. In these Lines the places are prickt where the Letters were defaced and not perceptible. Mr. *F*.

N 4. These two Lines were writ entire on *Rustram's* Horse. Mr. *F*.

N 3. This is the (*Arabick*) *Persian* Character engraven at *Persepolis* not above 500 years since, and is little different from the Writing us'd at this day. Mr. *F*.

N 5. This Character, whether it be the ancient Writing of the *Gaures* or *Gabres*, or a kind of *Telesmes* is found only at *Persepolis*, being a part of what is there engraven in white Marble, and is by no Man in *Persia* legible or understood at this Day.

A Learned Jesuit Father, who deceased three years since, affirmed this Character to be known and used in *Ægypt*. Mr. F.

It seems written from the Left Hand to the Right, and to consist of Pyramids, diversly posited, but not joyned together. As to the Quantity of the Inscriptions, *Herbert* reckon'd in one large Table Twenty Lines of a prodigious Breadth. Of this sort here are distinct Papers, each of several Lines.

N 6. This Character is likewise engraved at *Persepolis*, of like Antiquity with the former. It has some Affinity with the *Syriack* and *Arabick*, and has been pretended to be understood by some of the *Padres*. Mr. F.

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