

So the British took the Rosetta Stone to the British Museum, but I think the French got even with them because the Rosetta Stone was in the British Museum for 20 years and scholar after scholar tried to read it and didn't succeed and then a young French scholar named Champoleon succeeded in reading it! This brilliant young French scholar succeeded in figuring out the system of the hieroglyphics and then the English, and German, and French scholars have gone on on that basis and since that thousands of hieroglyphic inscriptions have been copied and hieratic papyri have been found in the tombs on Egypt in which we have a great part of the literature of ancient Egypt.

I studied Egyptian writing at the University of Berlin and it was interesting to see the tremendous amount of material that is there and the great amount of study that has been put on the grammar of the ancient Egyptian writing and on the study of what we can learn about ancient Egyptian writing. And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. Certain he could have written in the Egyptian writing if he chose to do so.

Not only could Moses have written in Egyptian writing had he chosen to do so, there was ~~about~~ about 1880 and Egyptian peasant woman who was walking in Egypt. She stumbled, and she looked down to see what kind of a rock she had kicked ~~against~~ against and she found it wasn't an ordinary rock. It was a little thing about the size of a cake of ivory soap or a little larger with ~~a~~ some queer marks on it. So she told a friend that it might be ~~something~~ something of value, so the friend came and they dug there and they dug up about 400 thing about the size of a large cake of soap, some a little larger which had some queer little marks on it. But you could see there was a similarity to the marks on it--each of these. So this man took these tables, put them in a bag, put it over his shoulder and carried it up to Alexandria some hundreds of miles distant.

He said there were people there who would buy antiquities, and he sold it to an antiquities dealer for a comparatively small price. Then when an Egyptologist came through the antiquities dealer tried to sell these tables to them. They would look at them and they would say, That's not Egyptian writing. That's just some kind of scribbling. Nobody paid any attention to it. But a man who had been excavating in Mesopotamia way over far beyond Palestine came through Egypt and thought he'd like to take home a souvenir, and he went into this dealer's store and there he happened to see these and he looked at them and he said, Why here in Egypt is the kind of writing they use way over there in Babylonia! We have been reading that writing now for 50 years already. In Babylonia in 1830 in Mesopotamia there they had found up on the side of a monument-- a mountain, a great inscription that had been put up there to celebrate what King Darius had done. This was beyond Mesopotamia over in Persia, but it was in this Babylonian writing and the Persian writing. There were 3 types of writings there. Scholars had been studying that and comparing and had figured it out already for 50 years. And now they found in Egypt from about the time of Moses, or a little later, writing in Egypt in this kind of writing way over there in Mesopotamia.