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vowel "i", or "i", the vowel "u" and the vowel "e" or the lett^{er} we represent by the vowel "e", which is much less common. We have these four different vowel sounds, and then you have about one hundred signs which represent a consonant and a vowel together, or else a consonant, vowel and a consonant, two letters or three letters represented by one sound, and then you'll have hundreds of signs which represent individual words which are not so common, a few of them very common, the others you may come across just once in a while. This gave the clue to the Babylonian writing but it didn't sound reasonable to the people in England. When scholars began to write about this and began to tell how they would read these inscriptions and how these different, how many different signs there were with different meanings and not only that but one sign might be used with different meanings; for instance, there is one sign that may mean , and it is a very common sign. It may mean "a", "u", "e" or "i". Whenever you find that sign in a word you know it is one of those four syllables, unless it means the word " "; otherwise it is one of these four. Well, that looks very complicated but is really isn't near so bad as it looks because if it is preceded by the sign that means " ", you know it means " in the midst", and if it is followed by the sign " ", you know it is " ", and the other two signs also occur in rather common words so it is usually quite easy to decide which of the four it means, but to the person who hasn't worked in the language a system in which many of the signs have anywhere from two to ten different possible meanings seems like an extremely cumbersome and awkward system of writing and it just didn't seem possible that the ancient Assyrians should have had such a complicated system of writing, so that there was much doubt and skepticism of it and in the British Museum it was decided to try to prove whether there was anything to it or not. It just happened that at one time Rollinson was back in England, an Irish clergyman, Edward Hinks, who had done a great deal of study of this material as also of ancient Egyptian material