

and read the inscriptions. No such convenience was there now, and it was difficult to get near enough to the inscriptions to be able to make out the characters with much certainty. Rollinson took a spy glass and tried with its help to copy the inscriptions, but found this not very practical. Then he tried to climb up the face of the rock and eventually succeeded in climbing the 350 ft. onto the narrow ledge at the foot of the inscriptions. This ledge<sup>which</sup> was about 14<sup>inches</sup> wide had been made when the large surface had been smoothed off and the inscriptions carved in it. At one place the ledge was completely worn away. Rollinson copied as much of the writing as he could, standing on the narrow ledge. Then he dragged a ladder up this face of the mountain with him, and placing it on the narrow ledge, he had an attendant hold the lower part of it while he climbed the ladder and continued to copy the inscriptions. At the place where the ledge was completely worn away, it was necessary to climb up the other side of the mountain and let himself be suspended in front of it by a rope. After spending all his spare time during four years at this dangerous task, Rollinson managed to complete copying the twelve hundred lines of inscriptions.

Before finding the Behistum rock, Rollinson had already taken some interest in the cuneiform writing and had compared some of the old Persian inscriptions. This was the first long text that had yet been available for study. On close examination it proved to be composed of three different inscriptions, as was the case in the smaller inscriptions. The first of these had about forty characters which occurred constantly in it. The second had about one hundred characters, while the third had several hundred. The first third of the inscription was ancient Persian. Rollinson was quite familiar with modern Persian and succeeded in translating the five columns, nearly four hundred lines of the old Persian cuneiform writing.