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This reminds ~~us~~ us of ~~the~~ statement that you made in your first letter ^{could} that it was rather questionable whether Abraham ~~was able to~~ handle ~~large~~ large numbers. You say that it may be ~~dx~~ significant that four hundred shekels of silver, of gold that he weighed out for the burial place for his wife, ^{figure named} is the largest ~~number mentioned~~ in the chapter, named in the Bible in connection with him.

This is surely jumping to extreme conclusions. If a man is wealthy enough that he could weigh out four hundred shekels of silver simply for a burial place, and had an establishment of hundreds, perhaps of thousands of employees working for him, so large an establishment ^{in fact the hill country} of ~~Mesopotamia and~~ Palestine would have been ~~was~~ unable to bear ~~them~~ ^{them,} him and his flock and Lot and that of Lot together and it was necessary that they separate in order to find sufficient room. It is rather absurd to think the amount that he paid out for a burial plot was the highest figure that was known to him. At any event one who could weigh out four hundred shekels for a sum like this must have figured his ~~own~~ property in ~~thousand~~ thousands of shekels. Doubtless he had many scribes working for him.

Incidentally, the suggestion that you made that very few people in Babylonia and Mesopotamia in those days knew very much and the knowledge was simply confined to a few scribes is quite contrary to the facts ~~that~~ as archeology has brought them to light. About the time of Hammurabi and of Abraham, the great king Hammurabi put up a big monument in the centre of ^s ^{that} Babylon in which he inscribed the law ^{of} Babylon. He says on it, ^{these are} put here so that anyone who thinks that he is not receiving what is, he is not being justly treated can go to the [,] come to the square and read the law and see for himself what ~~is~~ his rights are. Some have suggested that this means that