

SCIENTIST TELLS OF FINDS AT NIPPUR

LIGHT ON ANCIENT SYSTEMS OF LAW

Discoveries Made by Prof. Hilprecht Declared to Be Among the Most Valuable Ever Made—Work of Translation Going On at the University of Pennsylvania—The Hymn to Ellil.

PHILADELPHIA—Recent evidence that the so-called Hilprecht-Peters controversy as to the results of the Nippur excavations was not killed but was merely "scotched" by the course in relation to it taken by the governing body of the University of Pennsylvania, may lead to further action of some kind on the part of the latter. There has been much disappointment among the friends of Prof. H. V. Hilprecht, the head of the Assyriological section at the university, that the mild verdict rendered by the investigating committee of the trustees in 1905 did not carry with it the weight of a vindication. The degree of contempt with which this verdict was received in



Symbols on boundary stone of Nebuchadrezzar I from Nippur.

archeological circles, the freedom with which it was denounced in many scientific quarters as merely an application of what is figuratively known as "whitewash," are almost unprecedented in any similar case. It may as well be said that among the alumni of the university there still subsists a strong feeling of dissatisfaction that a more positive course was not taken by the trustees, and a movement has been begun to make a concerted representation in favor of again forcing the issue between Prof. Hilprecht and his scientific accusers.

May Publish Stenographic Report.

It was intimated to a representative of the Philadelphia Ledger by a trustee of the university that the board might yet determine to give to the public the stenographic reports of the hearings in the Hilprecht matter, held by its special committee in 1905. In this connection the statement was made that the verdict of the committee exonerating Prof. Hilprecht was purposely couched in mild language in order that it might not wound the feelings of certain members of the university who had conscientiously believed that he should be compelled to answer formally the charges made by Rev. Dr. John P. Peters of New York and others.

"As this considerate course has not won their appreciation," it was added, "an entirely different one may be adopted."

Of course, no official of the university will concede at this time that the board is at all likely to reverse its action of 1905 or to take any steps which will mean the severance of Prof. Hilprecht's relations with the institution.

There is said to be a disposition on the part of the trustees to rely upon the results of the examination of tablets brought from Nippur that has been in constant progress at the Museum of Archeology during the last two years and a half to obliterate the unfortunate effect of the revelations of Dr. Peters, Prof. Prince of Columbia university, and Mrs. Haynes as to the real nature of the discoveries at Nippur, in their bearing upon Prof. Hilprecht's publications. It is declared that the translation of the tablets, which until the beginning of the controversy had remained for five years boxed up in the cellars of the museum, is yielding results of the most brilliant character, far exceeding the expectations to Babylonia.

The "Temple Library" Exists.

Dr. A. T. Clay, assistant professor of Semitic philology and archeology, has done much very remarkable work as an interpreter of the cuneiform

texts brought from Babylonia. As to the identity of the supposed "Temple library" at Nippur, he said, when interviewed on the subject: "You ask if there was a Temple library at Nippur? Most assuredly there was. Nearly 20 years ago Dr. Peters found tablets in the mounds at Nippur, which he designated as relics of a library. We have at the museum many religious texts of the early period in Babylonian history. But these are exactly what you would expect to find, for every Babylonian city had its temple and cultus, and in connection with them schools for scribes. This subject, I believe, I have already treated sufficiently in my book, 'New Light on the Old Testament from Babel.'"

"The advanced state of the systems of law in those old cities, for instance, was remarkable. The now famous code of Hammurabi is based upon precedents, proving the existence of systems of law long prior to his time. There may also have been codes even earlier than his. There must surely have been in the time of Abraham extensive legal libraries. Think also of the wonderful Babylonian system of writing! We know that the Chinese have from 30,000 to 40,000 values for their written signs. One scholar has already collected about 14,000 values for the Babylonian written signs, and another list is being compiled, which will, in all probability, contain as many more. Given these premises, it stands to reason that there must have been immense collections of documents and books in all the Babylonian cities. Some of the books must have consisted of a thousand tablets each. Of course, there were vast storehouses or libraries to hold them."

Religious and Literary Texts.

"There must have been a great mass of religious literature in existence. There must have been in use hymns to all the gods, in practically every cult, for in Nippur not only Ellil, but most of the other divinities of the middle east were worshiped. There must also have been large numbers of inscriptions, omen texts, etc., which are to be classed under the head of literature. Thousands of these texts have been found at Nippur, and we have many of them at the University of Pennsylvania. One of our staff is now working at the translation of religious texts. Other volumes embodying the results of study of the tablets have been projected and will be published in due order. I would not be surprised if a national epic should eventually be found in part or whole in Babylonian tablets."

"The question as to what the depository of all this material shall be called, whether a temple library or something else, is of comparatively trivial importance, although it admits, of course, of some discussion. The temple was certainly the chief insti-



Figure on stone of Amurru, now at Berlin.

tution of the city, and dominated all the rest. The fact that arithmetical matter was found in the library would not make it any the less a library. The library of the University of Pennsylvania contains statistical books of all kinds as well as literary books. I would like it to be impressed upon the public that we have at the university very large numbers of literary as well as business texts."

Prof. Clay declined to discuss any other phase of the Nippur question.

Prayer on a Boundary Stone.

The archeological publication last issued by the University of Pennsylvania is a volume of Series D, edited by Prof. Hilprecht and entitled "A New Boundary Stone of Nebuchadrezzar I. from Nippur." The author is Dr. William J. Hinke, assistant professor in the Auburn Theological Seminary. Boundary stones first appeared in Babylonia under the third, or Cassite, dynasty and the date of this one in particular is about 1300 before Christ. In all royal grants of land two documents were used; one, a large, conical block, to be placed upon the field in question for the information of the people in general; the other, a private document or tablet, to be held by the owner as proof of his title. Curses inscribed upon certain stones show that they were public monuments, which could be removed. The absence of curses in the inscriptions upon other stones shows that they were private documents. Boundaries and boundary marks were sacred to the god Ninib and were also under the protection of Nabu, the god of agriculture.

"An interesting reference to boundary stones in the religious literature," says Dr. Hinke, "occurs in the Sharpu series, in a prayer which is remarkable for its ethical contents. The priest intercedes for the worshiper and implores the deity to forgive him, asking the following questions: 'Has he drawn a false boundary? Has he omitted to draw a true boundary? Has he removed the confines, the limits or the boundary stone?'"

Peculiar Features.

There is an immense amount of very curious information about the formalities of land cessions in Dr. Hinke's book, but in view of the na-



From boundary stone found opposite B'gudat.

ture of the controversy regarding the "Temple library" at Nippur the literary features of the inscriptions are of most immediate interest. The boundary stone erected under Nebuchadrezzar I, which is under special consideration, contains a transcription of "a magnificent and typical Babylonian hymn." The stone was found at Nippur on the northwest side of the Ziggurat, within the temple area, by Dr. Haynes, in February, 1896, at the close of the third Babylonian expedition of the University of Pennsylvania. It is a conical block of black limestone, 49 centimeters in height and 73.2 centimeters in circumference at the middle. The inscription consists of a heading of two lines placed among symbols at the top, and 155 lines of text, arranged in five columns. The stone is slightly damaged, but the few lines which have been partly lost have been almost completely restored from the context. The stone has several features not found in other monuments of this kind. One is a drawing of the piece of land to which the inscription relates. The second is a beautiful hymn to Ellil at the beginning of the inscription. Dr. Hinke says that "it is the finest Ellil hymn which has been found thus far, fitly celebrating the majesty and power of the god of Nippur. In some of its expressions it approaches the psalms of the Old Testament."

The inscription recites the historical circumstances under which the land was given to Nusku-ibni, a high dignitary of Ekur, the temple of Ellil at Nippur, declares curses upon any official who appropriates the land or interferes with the rights of the owner, and offers an invocation to the gods and asks them to mete out certain punishments to an offender. The names of 14 witnesses of the grant are given. The symbols at the top of the stone are outlines of shrines, ornamented with a spearhead, a pointed shaft, a scepter, a tiara, the head of a lion, the head of a vulture, a scorpion, a five-pointed star, a crescent, a sundisk, a lightning fork, serpents, a tortoise, etc.

The translation given by Dr. Hinke of the hymn to Ellil is as follows: Ellil—the lofty lord, the ruler of heaven and earth, the prince, the lord of all, the king of the great gods, whose equal as a god does not exist in heaven and on earth, upon the giving of whose command the Igigi prostrate themselves, reverently pay homage, and upon whose decision the Anunnaki wait in submissive awe, stand in humble fear, the lord of lords, the word of whose mouth no god can set aside, the potentate of the Anunnaki, the lord of the blackheaded, the sovereign of lands, the ruler of kingdoms, the god whose splendor is overwhelming (?) and filled with brilliancy, with whose glory the whole extent of heaven, all habitations and all dwellings, are clothed, with whose majesty the lands are covered, whose rule cannot be rivaled, whose divinity cannot be equaled, whose decision is weighty, whose command is lofty, whose law is supreme, whose ways are wonderful, who rules heaven and earth, who sustains the lands, who calls the faithful shepherd, who appoints the governor of the earth, forever—with the light of his gracious countenance, with his shining face he looked faithfully upon Nebuchadrezzar, the prince, his favorite, who is devoted to his sanctuaries, and that he might shepherd Shumar and Akhad, that he might renew the sanctuaries and regulate the tithes of Ekur and Nippur, he broke the weapon of his enemy and the scepter of his enemy he placed in his hand, a life of eternal days he granted to him and above any preceding king he magnified his name. Because of the regulation of the tithes of Ekur, because of the magnificent sacrifices, because of the rich gifts and the treasures (paid) before Ellil, because of the prostrations, with which the lord and the son of the lord, with which to Ellil and Ninib he showed his respectful reverence, because of the utterance of supplications,

because of the prayer of the king, the priest,

Curses Upon Offenders.

Then follows the statement of the grant of land. Here is the curse directed against him who shall deny the legal giving of the land: May Anu, the king, the father of the gods, in anger overthrow him and annihilate his life, Ellil, the lofty god, who appoints the fate of gods, appoint for him an evil fate, so that calamity, misfortune and the commands of men may oppress him. En, the king of the ocean, the lord of wisdom, take away from him gladness of heart, happiness of mind, abundance and fullness, so that lamentation may seize him. Sin, the lord of the crown of splendor, darken his face, so that he may not have merriment (?). Shamash and Remman, powerful gods, the lofty judges, give him evil plans, and with a judgment of justice and righteousness may they not judge him. Ninib, the lord of confines and boundaries, tear out his boundary-stone. Gula, the great mistress, put lingering sickness into his body, so that dark and bright red blood he may pour out as water. Ishtar, the mistress of lands, whose fury is like a flood, reveal the difficulties to him, so that he may not escape misfortune. Nusku, the powerful lord, the mighty scribe, (the god), my creator, be his evil demon and may he burn his root. The inscription apparently establishes the fact, says Dr. Hinke, that Nebuchadrezzar was a usurper and that the first kings of his dynasty were contemporaneous with the Cassite kings. At first he battled in vain against the Elamite and Assyrian supremacy, but after repeated reverses and late in his reign he was able to throw off the foreign yoke, ascend the throne of Babylonia and even extend his conquests to the Lullubians in the east and the land Amurru in the west. This enabled him to assume the proud title of "King of the World."

Southern Seas Salty. The sea is much more salt in the tropics than in the northern latitudes. This is due to the greater evaporation.

THE SLEEP-WALKER

ROMANCE OF THE MYSTERIOUS THIEF AND HER CAPTURE.

Mistress of Detroit Home Who Had Purloined Silverware and Other Valuables and Ends by Stealing the Baby.

The following story of the queer happenings that took place some months ago at the house of the Mills Mannings, a well-known family of Detroit, is but another illustration of the old adage that "truth is stranger than fiction."

Morning revealed one day that almost all the silverware that the Mills Mannings possessed had vanished. Consternation prevailed, and was intensified the more when the police arrived. Neither finger marks, nor broken window, nor forced door betrayed the entrance of the marauder. Throughout the day detectives scoured the house, peering into every corner, but without result.

The morning following, Mrs. Mills Manning met the detectives with a look of much concern on her face. During the night, she told them, the thief (whether the same one or another remained to be seen) had stolen many more valuable articles. Stirred to fresh vigor by the story, the detectives again made a minute examination of the house. Again it was to no purpose; the thief had covered his tracks so securely that not a clue remained.

Some weeks went by. Then, one morning Mr. Mills Manning discovered while dressing, that his pockets had been rifled during the night and every coin abstracted. Still more was to be revealed. The floor was scattered with little fragments of paper. Mrs. Mills Manning pieced some together, and, with a little cry of horror, discovered that the thief had destroyed a number of dollar bills that her husband had carried in his pocket-book. Again the detectives were called in, and again they vainly endeavored to find traces of the miscreant. Further mystery was still to be added to the affair. Two nights later Mr. Mills Manning's pockets were again rifled while he slept, his cash purloined, and the same treatment meted out to his paper money as had been done on the preceding occasion.

One night a detective who had remained in the house in the guise of

a servant, heard a door open stealthily. A white figure moved silently from the Mannings' bedroom. As it stole by him the detective became aware that the figure was moving in its



Presently the Door Opened and the White Figure Emerged and Made as if to Descend the Stairs.

sleep. Along a passage, straight to the nursery, where the baby daughter of the house lay, the figure stole.

Some minutes passed. Outside the door the detective waited expectantly. Presently the door opened, and, bearing the baby, the white figure emerged and made as if to descend the stairs. But the detective's hand gently restrained the thief. It was Mrs. Manning herself who, afflicted suddenly with sleep-walking, had during her sleep purloined the silverware, rifled her husband's pockets, and attempted to kidnap her own baby.

GIVES UP THE FIGHT

WILLIAM ROCKEFELLER TO LET WOODSMEN HUNT IN PEACE.

Effort of the Brother of Oil King to Stop Hunting and Fishing on His Estate in the Adirondacks Fails.

It was no use. The battle of millions against the ingenuity and persistence and desperation of the woods-



WILLIAM ROCKEFELLER.

men of the Adirondacks has ended after five years of desperate and murderous conflict in victory for the latter, and they will hereafter be unmolested in what they claim is their right to fish and hunt upon the vast game preserves of William Rockefeller. Such at least is the news brought by trappers from the Bay Pond country, who say that the guards have been removed from the Rockefeller lodge, and that the "natives" have virtually won the battle, since they roam at will over the 52,000 acres composing the estate.

Several times during the long continued fray, when some fresh incident had particularly aroused the ire of the woodsmen, Mr. Rockefeller was virtually a prisoner at his own camp at Bay Pond, his adversaries declared, and predictions were freely made that should he show himself in the open harm would befall him. The murder of Mr. Dexter, a wealthy landowner near Santa Clara, was frequently recalled.

While he was driving through the woods one day Mr. Dexter was shot from ambush and killed. Spurred on by the hope of winning a large reward which the father of the murdered man offered for the discovery of the assassin, amateur and professional detectives flocked to the Adirondacks, but their activities were repulsed by the mountain folk and it was not long before they returned to the city. Soon after the torch was applied in a dozen places to the Rockefeller woodlands.

Mr. Rockefeller's troubles with his Adirondack neighbors began soon after he decided to establish a lodge in the great North Woods. He first acquired 26,000 acres by purchase from Patrick Ducey, a lumberman. Subsequently he bought more land, until his tract now comprises 52,000 acres. The woodsmen who had been employed by Ducey were thrown out of work through his selling his land, but Mr. Rockefeller found occupation for many of them in improving the property. He made it a rule, however, that none of them should shoot or fish on his land, and they were forbidden to carry guns or fishing tackle.

Soon the earlier settlers were figuratively and literally "in arms" against Mr. Rockefeller. They had shot and fished on the land as far back as the oldest inhabitant could remember, and they saw no reason why the arrival of Mr. Rockefeller among them should change their custom. They declared that Mr. Rockefeller could not claim the protection of the private park law, as his 52,000 acres of wilderness, lakes and rivers, all public waters, were not really a private park. They held that wild deer could not be bought with the land, nor could Mr. Rockefeller acquire the fish which, at the expense of the state, had been placed in the streams running through his land.

Mr. Rockefeller's agent had bought the whole of the town of Brandon, house by house and lot by lot—all except the property of Oliver Lamora, a French Canadian woodsman, who stubbornly refused to sell. Mr. Rockefeller quickly wiped out the whole town of Brandon, even the post office being removed to Bay Pond, where the Standard Oil man was supreme. Lamora defied all attempts to keep him from fishing in the headwaters of the St. Regis river, which are a part of the Rockefeller park, and finally he was arrested.

Suits and counter suits followed, first one side winning a point and then the other. The feeling against Mr. Rockefeller grew intense, and poachers and vandals got busy on his estate. Mr. Rockefeller hired a large force of guards and armed them with rifles.

Every spring, when the ground is covered with dry leaves and the forest is inflammable, many fires on the Rockefeller tract have originated under the most suspicious circumstances. Some of these were undoubtedly of incendiary origin. One man familiar with the woods can set fires which in a few hours are practically beyond control. It is seldom possible to bring against him sufficient evidence to convict.

Least Frequented of Her Haunts. Fashionable Dame—That house we just passed has a strangely familiar look. Have we ever been there, James?

Chauffeur—Yes, ma'am. You live there, ma'am.—Baltimore American.

Fun With The Professor.

Erudite Teacher Deceived by Conscienceless Student.

A well-known professor remarks that the passion for any science may make a man hopelessly narrow, in a way. As an example he cites the case of an elderly professor in Middletown, Conn., whose love for philology was so excessive that it frequently led him

to disregard the broader principles of language in his minute searches for the particles binding an ordinary English word to its Aryan or Sanskrit ancestor.

Once a student thought to have a bit of fun at the learned professor's expense. Assuming an air of great modesty, he rose.

"Doctor, I've been thinking a great deal of late about the derivation of the

word 'Middletown.' What is your idea of it?"

"The professor was a bit taken back. 'Really,' he stammered, 'I—er—really, young man, that is a subject that will require much reflection. May I ask whether you have chanced upon anything that would throw any light on the question?'"

"It is my firm belief, sir," responded the student, with great gravity, "that Middletown is derived from Moses!"

"Dear me, dear me!" exclaimed the guileless professor. "And pray, sir,

how do you derive Middletown from Moses?"

"Very easily, doctor," replied the joker; "by dropping 'oses' and adding 'iddletown.'"—Lippincott's Magazine.

Poison Used by the Ancients. The deaths of Socrates, Demosthenes, Hannibal and Cleopatra testify to the pharmaceutical knowledge of the ancients. Phrysa poisoned Queen Statira, in the reign of Artaxerxes II. (B. C. 405-359), by cutting food with a poisoned knife.