

THE TOWER OF BABEL

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RUIN and desolation mark the site of the ancient biblical city of Babylon. Where, "by the water of Babylon," the Jewish nation "sat down and wept," stand today staggering walls of an old-time splendor. Until a few years ago what had once been the "cradle of civilization" was covered with the dirt and dust of ages, but in 1900 a number of German archaeologists cleared away the debris, in part, and uncovered portions of the royal city.

The work is still being carried on and the photographs here reproduced are the first to reach America showing the results of the German savants' labor of love. For twelve years Prof. Robert Koldewey, director of archaeological research in Babylon, assisted by Dr. Oscar Reuther, has carried on his work, supported by the emperor of Germany.

On the site shown in one of the pictures the Tower of Babel once stood. This is the scene of the confusion of tongues of the biblical story. Several sites have been assigned to the tower. That this is the true site is the conclusion of Dr. Koldewey and his associates in the expedition sent out by the Deutsche Orientgesellschaft of Berlin. Other scholars who have sought to lo-



ENTRANCE TO PASSAGE CONNECTING TOWER OF BABEL WITH TEMPLE OF ESAGILA

cate the site have lacked the evidence obtained by Dr. Koldewey in his extensive researches.

Only the site is left. Time and war and the elements assailed the tower. For twenty centuries it crumbled. It was a quarry of building materials for man. Practically Babylonia was left unexplored until the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Before that the work of destruction had been completed. In the last century modern towns and villages in the vicinity carted off or floated down the Euphrates the last bricks of the foundation of the Tower of Babel. The foundation was over 360 feet square, a huge, bulky mass. Hillah, a modern Arab town, four miles south of it, was built with the bricks of the ancient city. Thus perished the pride of Babylon.

The temple of Esagila, the most important Babylonian sanctuary brought to light, was a part of the Tower of Babel. Its ruins were uncovered by the German archaeologists after digging a hole forty feet deep that was as broad as the mouth of a volcano. The two walls in the center of the picture mark the entrance to the passage, a quarter of a mile long, which connected the steep pyramid of Etemenanki, known in the Bible as the Tower of Babel, with this temple.

Because of the depth of the debris caused by the action of the centuries which have veiled the earth here the entire foundation of the Tower of Babel has not yet been excavated, but tunnels at the floor level have been bored into the sides until the temple walls were properly established and then the whole edifice was measured.

This is the oldest and most momentous rule on account of its connection with the Tower of Babel, and the bricks which once represented massive masonry are now so brittle that one can crush them between the fingers.

In the picture showing the ruins of Babylon the man on the left stands upon the remains of the brick pavement which was part of the long street named after Daniel, who, no doubt, himself traversed its length many times. In the ruins on the right, in the hollow, there is the gate named after the goddess Ishtar. This is the most prominent and best preserved ruin in Babylon. Its walls are adorned with reliefs of bulls, the holy animal of Nebo, and dragons, the holy animal of the god Marduk. It was through this gate that the processional road of the god of Marduk led, and passing it and turning to the right, it led on to Nebuchadnezzar's throne hall.

The excavations have brought to light many curious specimens of the work of the ancient people of Babylon. The largest piece of sculpture yet unearthed is that of a huge lion chiseled out of an enormous block of granite brought down the Euphrates on a raft from Mesopotamia. It shows a lion standing over a prostrate man. The work is crude and probably is a product of the very earliest art of Babylon. The sculptor typifies the superiority of the lion's strength over man's. Some coffins of the middle class were also found. They were of burned clay and like bathtubs in shape. Some of them were very short because of the custom of the Assyrians and Babylonians of burying their dead in a sitting position, with the head between the knees.



RELIEFS OF BABYLON

MOVING DAY IN ANCIENT BABYLON

These sarcophagi were deposited often in round roofed tombs, in some of which have been found the bones of the dead of 2,500 years ago. Many of these coffins have been discovered in the excavations about the dwellings of the middle classes. While German research has definitely fixed the location of the Tower of Babel, the origin of the biblical story of the confusion of tongues has not been found in Babylon. That it is a world myth is the conclusion of scholars. It is interesting to note that a similar legend is found in Central America in connection with the pyramid of Cholula, which was also intended to reach the heavens and which brought disaster to its builders.

But if this legend has not been verified by research the discoveries which have rewarded the labors of explorers and archaeologists in Babylonia have been many and of the highest value. Innumerable tablets have been collected which when deciphered will throw light upon a civilization which was born more than six thousand years ago. The oldest temple in the world has been unearthed at Hisya. Large square blocks have been discovered which date back to the reign of Sargon I., 3,800 years before Christ. Even older is a platform built of the peculiar convex bricks used in B. C. 4500. Inscriptions on bricks found in the temple at Hisya are stamped with the name of Dungi, B. C. 2750. A crumpled piece of gold bears the name of Param Sim, B. C. 3750. So much for the age of the antiquities of Babylon. The best preserved edifice of ancient Babylon thus far unearthed is the gate of the goddess Ishtar, of which the masonry remains well nigh perfect after two thousand years of neglect.

What is even more interesting to the general public, modern research is making the Babylonians live again after thousands of years. Much is known now of their daily life, their aims and occupations, their religious ceremonies. It is possible to reconstruct something of the life of the prophet Daniel in Babylon. It is possible to follow the course of a procession in honor of the god Marduk through the gate of Ishtar to the palace of Nebuchadnezzar. The sepulchres of the people and of the princes have been laid open.

Everywhere on the walls of buildings are to be seen representations of the bull, which was the sacred animal of Babylon.

Though it is uncertain whether the ancient Babylonians were more civilized than their Egyptian contemporaries there is but little doubt that they were the pioneers of civilization in the whole of western Asia before Greece and Rome came to the front. Four thousand years B. C. their system of writing had already been developed, and applied also the Semitic Babylonian tongue. Fourteen hundred years B. C., as the Tell-el-Amarna tablets testify, its use extended over the whole of western Asia as far as the Mediterranean and Egypt. Though not a warlike people the Babylonians possessed more than once what might have been described at the time as a world-wide empire. They were energetic, intelligent, polished in their way and fond of letters. Excellent sculptures and engravings on hard stone exist to testify to their skill and artistic instincts. Representations of musical instruments imply also that the art of harmony was not altogether unknown to them. To this must be added agriculture, mensuration and mathematics, such as they were, and their

legal enactments, codified apparently by Hammurabi, are in their way noteworthy productions. In the matter of literature we owe to them no less than three accounts of the creation, two accounts of the flood, one of them put into the mouth of the Babylonian Noah (Utnapishtim or Atrahasis), who is represented as relating it to the semi-mythical Gilgames, a primitive king of Erech. To these must be added a number of other legends, such as the story of Ure (the pestilence), Etanna, the horse and the ox, with many others—one at least, the story of Sargon of Agade, being historical.

It is difficult to judge which was the more predominant characteristic of the Babylonians, their trading instinct or their reverence for their gods, for both are equally marked. They had intercourse by means of trade with Elam on the east, Syria on the west, and many other places on the north and south. Slavery was common, and contracts concerning the buying, selling and hiring of slaves are frequently met with.

One of the pictures shows an interesting phase of present day life. How would it feel if the worry of moving could be eliminated as in the picture of the Babylonian who is moving his household goods and chattels. The Babylonian gathers his earthly possessions together, carefully arranges his furniture (in most cases a rug) on the back of his donkey or mule, and with his family comfortably seated on the pack, he starts merrily off to some place which may strike his fancy.

The transportation by any other means than that of the donkey or mule is unheard of by the Babylonian who believes that this is the mode of transportation the world over. It is only the extremely wealthy, or personages of political importance, who can afford a carriage. A journey on the back of a donkey or mule is filled with many hardships and is very slow and tedious to those unaccustomed to that mode of conveyance, but the Babylonian, knowing no better, is satisfied with his lot and thankful to Allah that he has a donkey or mule to carry him about wherever his business or fancy dictate.

GOOD HAND.

Dummy made it no trumps and put down the ace, king and queen of hearts.

"Ah, good hearts," remarked her polite opponent.

She put down the ace, king and queen of spades.

"Good spades!"

She put down the same sequence in diamonds.

"Good diamonds!"

She then displayed the ace, king, queen and knave of clubs.

"Good gracious!"

OR SOMETHING.

"What do you think of a judge as a secretary of war?"

"I think it's a good move. If the enemy should ever prove too strong for us, he can launch an injunction at 'em or take a change of venue."

MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION.

"I took my laundry ticket to a friendly Chinaman, and, after some hesitation, he translated it for me."

"What did it say?"

"Little man; ears stick out; wart on nose."

SPORTS OF ANCIENT EGYPT

Boxing and Ball Playing Were in Vogue Centuries Before Greece Was Known to Exist.

Athens, Greece.—That boxing, ball playing and sprinting were favorite sports of the ancient Greeks is widely known. But it is not generally known that these sports were in vogue in ancient Egypt centuries before Greece was known to history.

The accompanying sketches are reproductions of prints from the works of Lepsius, Rosellini, Maspero and other Egyptologists. The large print is a copy of a photograph from a rock carving which was executed in Thebes during the reign of Rameses II. in the early part of the fourteenth century, B. C. Long before Moses led the hosts of Israel into the Sinaitic desert; long before the oldest books of the Old Testament were written; and four centuries before Solomon wrote, "There is nothing new under



Showing Old Egyptian Sports.

the sun." It is a draft of the camp of Rameses II. before the Hittite City of Kadesh. It plainly shows the diversions of the Egyptian soldiers in their hours of leisure. In it the artist has depicted boxing, baseball, horse racing and even the gentle pastime of "crap shooting."

The smaller sketches might have been made on any professional ball ground in this country, barring the uniforms. One of them might have been labeled "safe on second." It probably represents a runner stealing second sliding into the bag after a headlong dive under the baseman. The umpire is shown with downturned palms, indicating that the runner is safe, while the baseman is evidently protesting against the decision.

The other cut depicts another familiar figure and is evidently intended to represent a megaphone man announcing a change of batteries, or, perhaps, informing the "fans" that "O'Sarkon, the great Memphis pinch hitter, will bat for St-East, the south-paw twirler, who has been taken out of the box by Manager Rut Ammon."

The amusement of crap shooting was probably introduced into the Egyptian army by the Ethiopian or Nubian mercenaries, as it is still the national sport of the descendants of the hunters of Equatorial Africa. Just who introduced baseball into ancient Egypt is not known, but the "Records of the Monuments" show that Father Time discovered the game before either Father Chadwick or Father Spalding.

Truly there is nothing new under the sun. What with the discovery that Egyptians in the dawn of history probably used electric or hydraulic drills to shape the blocks of granite for the Pyramids, and the granite pictures showing that even baseball and crap shooting were popular sports, and boxing bouts a regular thing among Egyptian soldiers when ancient Greece was a backwoods settlement and Babylon a one-horse town, the fact that there was boxing in Greece 2,300 years ago is a modern incident, and in all likelihood it was only a hoary sport introduced into Greece along with other civilizing innovations from the "Land of the Pharaohs."—Professor "Dusty" Miller.

ERASERS BRING HER FAME

Mrs. Houston, Originator of Rubber Pencil Tips, Brought to St. Louis for Burial.

St. Louis, Mo.—The body of Mrs. Mary E. Houston, reputed to be the originator of rubber eraser tips on lead pencils, was brought to St. Louis for burial. Mrs. Houston, who was 85 years old, died at Greenwood, Miss., of apoplexy.

In 1859, Mrs. Houston said, she entered a stationery store in New York city to purchase a pencil. She asked the clerk why rubber tips could not be placed on the pencils. The clerk called several officials of the firm and explained her suggestion. Before she left New York, Mrs. Houston said, lead pencils with rubbers attached were advertised there for the first time. The stationery house refused to admit it was indebted to her for the suggestion.

SKIRTS TARGET IN CLASH

Ohio Traction Company in Retort When Women Ask Lower Steps on Cars.

Youngstown, Ohio.—The Woman's Club league of this city has petitioned the council to pass legislation compelling steps on trolley cars to be lowered within eight inches of the street. It is asserted the present steps are too high and women are embarrassed every time they board or leave the cars. It is believed the company will maintain that the present tight skirt is to blame and not the car steps.

GHOSTS OF LONDON

Temple Bar and Tower Favorite Haunts of Spooks.

Writer Advises Americans Who Seek Excitement to Spend an Evening With the Spectral Forms That Roam in Buildings.

London.—If the Americans who come to London find time hanging heavily on their hands, they might do worse than divert themselves with ghost hunting. It is widely known, of course, that the shade of the famous American lawyer, Judah P. Benjamin, haunts the picturesque old Temple, where, as one of the most successful "K. C.s" in the history of the English bar, he once had chambers, and now we have it on the authority of one of the leading spook experts in this country that the Tower of London, where so many celebrities, from queens downward, lost their heads, is haunted, too, though not by as many specters as might have been expected, considering the wholesale killing that once went on there.

Thousands of our countrymen visit the "Temple" every year—mainly to see the grave of Oliver Goldsmith—and thousands more explore the grim old Tower, with its racks and dungeon and site of the scaffold where Queen Anne Boleyn, Lady Jane Grey and the Earl of Essex were beheaded, and perhaps if these visitors stayed on after nightfall, instead of going back to their respective hotels and boarding houses, and kept a sharp eye out, they might be rewarded, at the Temple, by a glimpse of the ghostly Benjamin, or maybe even of the ample shade of Doctor Johnson, who likewise lodged there, or, at the Tower, with a view of Henry VIII., the much-married, whose spectral form has been seen in the neighborhood at least once.

Elliot O'Donnell, who, of course, is one of the most eminent authorities on ghosts in England, tells about the Tower ghosts in the pages of the Occult Review, and an astonishing crowd they prove to be. One of them, which was "undoubtedly," according to O'Donnell, the shade of Queen Ade-



Garden Corner of "Temple."

laide, the wife of George IV., appeared to two persons, one of them a former keeper of the crown jewels at the Tower, as a "cylindrical figure, like a glass tube, about as large as one's arm, and seemingly filled with a dense fluid," and another in the shape of a "huge bear" which issued from underneath the jewel room door. "A soldier thrust at it with his bayonet, which, going right through it, stuck in the doorway, whereat he dropped in a fit and was carried senseless to the guardroom, dying on the following day."

TO TEACH HENS TO LAY EGGS

English Agricultural Experts Tour North Wales in Special Train to Show Machines.

London.—The Agricultural Organization and the National Poultry Organization Society are jointly responsible for a unique scheme by which it is hoped hens may be taught to lay.

What is known as the "golden egg" train left London recently bearing a party of poultry experts who are going to teach the hens in Wales how eggs really should be laid. The train consisted of three special coaches, fitted with every modern device calculated to encourage the most educated hens to lay prize eggs, and it will travel from station to station in North Wales for a fortnight. The poultry experts will lecture at each stopping place to the local chicken farmers.

BABY THREW MONEY AWAY

Steelworker Gave Child Pocketbook to Play With on a Train and He Drops It Out of Window.

Newcastle, Pa.—According to word received here from Fernando Russo, a steelworker now at Harrisburg, Pa., his savings, a small fortune, were thrown from a train near Philadelphia by his baby, Jose Russo, and his family are stranded.

Russo, his wife and children were returning from New York, where they went to meet a relative, when the savings of several months were thrown away. The parent gave his baby his pocketbook to play with and Jose tossed it out of a window. The family traveled from Philadelphia to Harrisburg on a freight train.