



Stele engraved with a charter of Nebuchadnezzar I., king of Babylon
about B.C. 1140.

[Babylonian Room, Wall-Case 17, 192; 90,858.]

(See p. 66.)

190. Brick of **Tiglath-pileser I.**, king of Assyria about B.C. 1115-1103, recording the building of a temple to the god Adad in the city of Ashur. [90,252.]

191. Fragment of a limestone stele of **Tiglath-pileser I.** inscribed with an account of his campaigns. [115,693.]

192. Fine limestone stele, resembling a boundary-stone, inscribed with a valuable text recording the restoration and confirmation of certain rights and privileges to Ritti-Marduk, the warden of Bit-Karziabku, a district which was apparently situated on the confines of Elam, by **Nebuchadnezzar I.**, king of Babylon about B.C. 1140. This remarkable monument is probably the finest specimen of its class, and its contents are therefore described in some detail. According to the inscription, the god Marduk, the king of the gods, instructed Nebuchadnezzar, the ruler of kings, the governor of Babylon, to muster his army, and to set out to avenge Akkad. The king, "the bearer of the mighty bow, the "one fearless in battle, who with his weapons had smitten the "power of the country of Lulubi, and had subdued the Amorites "and spoiled the Kassites," set out from Dêr, the city of Anu, and marched a distance of about 100 miles across the desert. The month was Tammuz, *i.e.*, June, and all the wells and fountains and brooks had dried up and no water of any sort was to be had. The desert blazed like fire and the strength of the strongest horses and men failed before it. The hostile forces which Nebuchadnezzar went forth to meet included those of all the countries round about, and their kings drew them up in battle array; their number was so great that "the face of the sun was darkened by the clouds of "dust raised by them." The king engaged in battle with them, and at the time when "the storm of their battle broke," Ritti-Marduk bore down upon the foe with his troops and smote the enemies of his lord with great slaughter, and vanquished the king of Elam, Khulteludish-Inshushinak, the son of Shilkhak-Inshushinak (see p. 75), and seized his country. Nebuchadnezzar then marched into Elam and occupied and plundered it. When the king had returned to Akkad in glory and with joy of heart, Ritti-Marduk was held in high favour, and in reward for his bravery Nebuchadnezzar confirmed to him certain ancient privileges which his family had formerly enjoyed, but which had been curtailed through the enmity of the king of Namar, a neighbouring state, and he added others to them. These **privileges** were as follows:—The king of Namar was not to enter into Ritti-Marduk's country (without permission); no tax was to be levied by him on stallions, mares, oxen, sheep, and grain; no portion of a plantation or date-grove was to be cut down by him within Ritti-Marduk's district; no road was to be opened through his territory; no bridges were to be built in certain places; any units of the Babylonian army stationed in Bit-Karziabku must respect the personal liberty of the inhabitants,

and were to be quartered there at the expense of Namar. This grant of privileges was promulgated in the presence of the chief men of Babylon and other cities, including the governor of Babylon, the Secretary of State, the governor of the Palace, the prefect of the city, the governor of Namar, the prince of Namar, and a priest of Akkad. The name of the scribe who drafted the document was Enlil-tabni-bullit. The text concludes with a series of **imprecations** in which the gods Enurta, Gula, Rammân, Shumalia, Nergal, Nanâ, Sakhan, Sin, and other deities are invoked to curse in a far-reaching manner any ruler or governor of Namar, or any person whatsoever who shall attempt to annul or curtail the privileges of Ritti-Marduk, or abolish his freedom from the jurisdiction of Namar, by the destruction of this stone by breakage or fire, or by sinking it in the river, or by burying it in the depths of the earth. Hunger and want shall fill the land of such a ruler, his rivers and canals shall become silted up, his enemy shall harass him day and night, the house which he has built another shall occupy, and his posterity shall be cut off. The divine **emblems** sculptured on this stone are fine examples of their class. (See Plate XXV.)

[90,858.]

193. Fragment of a boundary-stone of the reign of **Bel-nadin-akhi**, last king of the Kassite Dynasty, about B.C. 1170. The reverse contains fragments of a deed of gift or purchase, and curses directed against any who should infringe its provisions. [113,891.]

194. Boundary-stone inscribed with a deed recording the sale of a piece of corn-land by Awêl-Enlil, the son of Khanbi, to Marduk-našir, a high official. The payment for the field consisted of a chariot, six saddles, two asses, two asses' saddles, one ox, corn, oil, clothing, etc., the total value of which was estimated at seven hundred and sixteen shekels. The inscription concludes with the usual series of curses on anyone who shall remove or injure this land-mark, which is named *Mukin-kudurri-dârâti*, i.e., "Establisher of the boundary for ever." On the flat side of the stone is a male figure wearing elaborately embroidered apparel and armed with a bow and arrow; it is probably that of the king, **Marduk-nadin-akhê**, of the Fourth Dynasty, in whose reign the stone seems to have been set up.

[90,841.]

195. Boundary-stone inscribed with texts concerning the gift of certain corn-land which was situated on the banking of the river Zirzirri in Bit-Ada, to Rammân-zêr-îkîsha in perpetuity, by **Marduk-nadin-akhê**, king of Babylon. The surveyor of the property was called Bêl-zêr-keni, and the document is dated from Dindu-Bit (?) in the tenth year of the king mentioned above, in the presence of sixteen witnesses, among whom was the governor of Bit-Ada, the district in which the property was situated. Almost two columns of this text are occupied with imprecations in which the great gods Anu, Enlil, Ea, Marduk, Nabû, Rammân, Sin,

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