

THE  
INSCRIPTION ON BELLINO'S CYLINDER,  
COMPRISING THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF THE  
REIGN OF SENNACHERIB.

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TRANSLATED BY  
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THIS inscription is preserved in the British Museum. It was published, by Layard, in the first volume of the British Museum Inscriptions, plate 63.

An admirable facsimile of it was made by Bellino, and engraved by the care of Grotefend, in the *Abhandlungen der k. Ges. d. Wissensch. zu Göttingen*, 1850, 4er Band, s. 1-18.

In 1866 I presented a translation of it to the Royal Society of Literature, which is printed in their *Transactions*, Vol. viii. p. 369.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> I had made a previous attempt in 1860 (*Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, vol. xviii. p. 76).



## TRANSLATION OF THE INSCRIPTION.

*Line 1.* Sixty-three inscribed lines: (*written*) in the seventh month of the year whose *eponym* was NEBO-LIHA, Prefect of Arbela.

2 SENNACHERIB, the great King, the powerful King, the King of Assyria, the King unrivalled, the pious monarch, the worshipper of the great gods.

3 The protector of the just: the lover of the righteous:  
 . . . . .<sup>1</sup>

4 The noble warrior, the valiant hero, the first of all Kings, the great punisher of unbelievers, who are breakers of the holy festivals.

5 ASHUR, the great Lord, has given to me an unrivalled monarchy. Over all Princes he has raised triumphantly my arms.

6 In the beginning of my reign I defeated MARDUK BALADAN, King of Babylonia, and his allies the Elamites, in the plains near the city of Kish.

7 In the midst of that battle he quitted his camp, and fled alone: he escaped to the city of Gutzumman: he got into the marshes full of reeds and rushes, and so saved his life.

8 The chariots, waggons, horses, mules, camels, and dromedaries, which in the midst of the battle he had abandoned, were captured by my hands.

9 I entered rejoicing into his palace in the city of Babylon: I broke open his royal treasury: gold and silver: vessels of gold and silver: precious stones of every kind: goods and valuables, and much royal treasure,

<sup>1</sup> Some words here follow, in praise of the king, the meaning of which is uncertain.

10 his wife: the men and women of his palace: the noblemen: and those who ranked first among all his men of trust, and were clothed with the chief authority in the palace, I carried off, and I counted them as a spoil.

11 I marched after him to the city Gutzumman, and I sent off my soldiers to search through the marshes and reeds. Five days they moved about rapidly, but his hiding place was not discovered!

12 In the power of ASHUR, my Lord, 89 large cities, and royal dwellings in the land of Chaldea, and 820 small towns in their neighbourhood I assaulted, captured, and carried off their spoils.

13 The Urbi, and the Aramæans, and Chaldæans who were in the cities of Erech, Nipur, Kish, Herris-kalama, and Tiggaba, and the people of the cities which had been in rebellion I carried away, and I distributed them as a spoil.

14 BELIBUS, the son of a *Rabbani*, who was *Prefect* of Suanna<sup>1</sup> city, who as a young man had been brought up in my palace, I placed over them as King of Leshan and Akkadi.

15 During my return, the Tribes of the Tuhamuna, Rihikhu, Yadakku, Hubudu, Kipri, Malikhu, Gurumu, Hubuli, Damunu,

16 Gambulu, Khindaru, Ruhuha, Bukudu, Khamranu, Hagaranu, Nabatu, and Lihutahu (Aramæans all of them, and rebels), I completely conquered.

17 208,000 people, male and female: 7,200 horses and mules; 11,173 asses; 5,230 camels; 80,100 oxen; 800,600 sheep; a vast spoil, I carried off to Assyria.

18 In the course of my expedition I received the great tribute of NEBO-BIL-ZIKRI, Chief of Ararat: gold, silver, *meshukan* wood of great size, mules, camels, oxen and sheep.

<sup>1</sup> Suanna was the name of a part of Babylon, which was accounted sacred.

19 The people of the city Khirimmi, obstinate enemies, who from old times had never bowed down to my yoke, I destroyed with the sword. Not one soul escaped.

20 That district I settled again. One ox, ten sheep, ten *goats* (these twenty beasts being the best of every kind), I appointed (*as a sacrifice*) to the gods of Assyria, my Lords, in every township.<sup>1</sup>

21 In my second expedition, ASHUR, the Lord, giving me confidence, I marched against the land of the Kassi and Yatsubi-galla,<sup>2</sup> obstinate enemies, who from old times had never submitted to the Kings, my fathers.

22 Through the thick forests and in the hilly districts I rode on horseback, for I had left my two-horse chariot in the plains below. But in dangerous places I alighted on my feet, and clambered like a mountain goat.

23 The city of Beth-Kilamzakh, their great city, I attacked and took. The inhabitants, small and great, horses, mules, asses, oxen, and sheep, I carried off from it and distributed them as spoil.

24 Their smaller towns without number I overthrew, and reduced them to heaps of rubbish. A vast building, which was their Hall of Assembly, I burnt with fire, and left it in ruins.

25 I rebuilt that city of Beth-Kilamzakh, and I made it into a strong fortress. Beyond former times I strengthened it and fortified it. People drawn from lands subdued by my arms I placed to dwell within it.

26 The people of Kassi and Yatsubi-galla, who had fled away from my arms, I brought down from the mountains, and in the cities of Kar-Thisbe and Beth-Kubitti I caused them to dwell.

<sup>1</sup> Into the conquered country he introduced the Assyrian worship, and of course made due provision for the support of the priests, and sacrifices to the gods.

<sup>2</sup> *I.e.*, 'Men of great stature.'—Name of a tribe.

27 In the hands of my General, the Prefect of Arrapkha, I placed them. A stone tablet I made : I wrote on it the victories which I had gained over them, and within the city I set it up.

28 Then I turned round the front of my chariot, and I took the road to the land of Illipi. Before me ISPABARA their King abandoned his strong cities, and his treasures, and fled to a distance.

29 All his broad country I swept like a mighty whirlwind. The city Marupishti, and the city Akkudu, his royal residences, and 34 great cities, with numberless smaller towns in their neighbourhood,

30 I ravaged, destroyed, and burnt them with fire. I cut down their woods. Over their corn fields I sowed thistles. In every direction I left the land of Illipi a desert.

31 The inhabitants, small and great, male and female, horses, mules, asses, oxen, and sheep beyond number, I carried off, and sent them away until none were left.

32 The strong cities of Sisirta and Kummakhli, and the smaller towns in their neighbourhood, together with the whole province of Beth-Barrua, I cut off from his land, and added them to the empire of Assyria.

33 I established the city of Ilinzash, to be the royal city and metropolis of that province. I abolished its former name, and I gave it the name of the city of Sennacherib.

34 During my return I received a great tribute from the distant Medians, who, in the days of the Kings, my fathers, no one had ever heard even the name of their country; and I made them bow down to the yoke of my Majesty.

35 In those days, Niniveh, the exalted city, the city beloved by ISHTAR : within which dwells the worship of all the gods and goddesses,

36 The ancient *timin*<sup>1</sup> of its palace, those of old time had stamped its clay with *sacred* writing, and repeated it in the companion-tablets.

37 A splendid place, a storehouse of every kind, and a treasury for all their jewels and regalia, they erected within it.

38 Of all the Kings of former days, my fathers who went before me, who reigned before me over Assyria, and governed the city of BEL,<sup>2</sup>

39 And every year without fail augmented its interior rooms, and treasured up in them all their revenues which they received from the four countries,

40 Not one among them all, though the central palace was too small to be their royal residence, had the knowledge, nor the wish to improve it.

41 As to caring for the health of the city, by bringing streams of water into it, and the finding of new springs, none turned his thought to it, nor brought his heart to it.

42 Then I, SENNACHERIB, King of Assyria, by command of the gods, resolved in my mind to complete this work, and I brought my heart to it.

43 Men of Chaldæa, Aram, Manna, Kue, and Cilicia, who had not bowed down to my yoke, I brought away as captives, and I compelled them to make bricks.

44 In baskets made of reeds which I cut in the land of Chaldæa, I made the foreign workmen bring their appointed tale of bricks, in order to complete this work.

45 The former palace, of 360 measures long, adjoining the gardens of the Great Tower: 80 measures wide, adjoining

<sup>1</sup> The *timin* was the clay tablet or cylinder deposited in the foundation stone, or sometimes at the four corners of a building. It was regarded with peculiar reverence. So the Hebrews appear to have regarded the "corner stone." It was intended to remain for ever. If found by a subsequent king, it was to be read with reverence, and restored to its former place.

<sup>2</sup> Ninivch.

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