

INSCRIPTION OF SENNACHERIB.

CONTAINING

THE ANNALS OF THE FIRST EIGHT
YEARS OF HIS REIGN.

FROM

AN HEXAGONAL CLAY PRISM FOUND AT NINIVEH IN 1830,
AND NOW IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

TRANSLATED BY

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PUBLISHED in the first volume of Sir H.

Rawlinson's *British Museum Inscriptions*, plates 37 to 42. I presented a translation of it to the Royal Asiatic Society in October 1859, which was published in their *Journal*, Vol. XIX, p. 135. I have understood that a translation has since been published in France by M. Oppert, but I have not seen it.

I commence the present translation with the *Third Campaign*, the war with Hezekiah, because the history of the first two campaigns is the same as on the Bellino Cylinder which I have already translated in this volume. It is for the most part a *verbatim* copy of it, which therefore I need not give again. But since these two inscriptions were written at an interval

of several years, and by different scribes, we see that yearly Annals must have been published by Authority, to which the scribes were expected closely to adhere.

One remarkable deviation however occurs. In the Bellino Cylinder we read that Belibus, a young nobleman, was made King of Babylonia, but in the later Annals this is struck out. It is evident that Belibus had proved a failure.

This interesting inscription is usually called the Taylor Cylinder, from the name of its former possessor.

The chief point of interest in the following Annals, is the siege of Jerusalem. I will therefore make a few observations upon it. It is said (iii. 22) that Hezekiah "had given command to strengthen the bulwarks of the great gate of the city."

Compare with this the account in the book of Chronicles, xxxii. 5, "Hezekiah strengthened himself and built up all the wall that was broken and raised it up to the towers, and another wall without;" or as the Septuagint translate the passage, "he built up all the wall that was broken, *and the towers*, and on the outside of them another *pro-teichisma* (or advanced work)." This seems to be the "bulwark" described in iii. 22. The city in fact was so strong that the king of Assyria refrained from assaulting it, and contented himself with bargaining for a considerable tribute. The sum agreed upon, according to the book

of Kings, x. 14, was 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold. Compare the account of this tribute in the Annals, iii. 34, which agrees most accurately with respect to the gold, but differs as to the silver, saying, "800 talents of silver." Most likely this is merely an error in the manuscripts.

The Annals however say nothing about the siege of Lachish, which the book of Kings, ch. xviii. lines 14 and 17, and ch. xix. 8; and the book of Chronicles, xxxii. 9, and Isaiah xxxvi. 2 represent as one of the most important events of the war. But this omission is merely owing to the brevity of the Assyrian narrative; for there are some sculptured slabs in the British Museum representing the siege of a large city, of which Layard gives an animated account, *Niniveh and Babylon*, p. 149: "*The city was defended by double walls, with battlements and towers, and by fortified outworks.*" To capture this stronghold Sennacherib brought up his whole army, and "*raised against the fortifications as many as ten banks or mounts compactly built of stones, bricks, earth and branches of trees.*"

These seem to be the "siege towers" which the Annals speak of, iii. 21.

"*The besieged defended themselves with great determination.*" No doubt this gallant defence contributed to save Jerusalem by delaying Sennacherib and exhausting a portion of his strength. The defenders of

the city "*thronged the battlements and towers, showering arrows, javelins, stones, and blazing torches upon the assailants,*" while the Assyrians below "*poured water with large ladles upon the flaming brands which threatened to destroy their engines.*" This is very important as showing that the Orientals employed fire in their battles. In col. v. line 64 of these Annals describing the great battle of Khaluli, the king himself throws Greek fire or some similar compound into the broken ranks of the enemy.

Another bas-relief represents the king seated on a magnificent chair of state, figured in Mr. Layard's book, p. 150, and "*from a gateway issued a procession of captives, reaching to the presence of the king, who gorgeously arrayed received them seated on his throne. Amongst the spoil were furniture, arms, shields, chariots, vases of metal, etc.*"

Above the head of the king is seen the following most important inscription.

"*SENNACHERIB King of nations, King of Assyria, sitting on his throne, causes the spoils of the city of LACHISH to pass before him.*"

Thus we have a full corroboration of this important event in accordance with the narrative in the books of Kings and Chronicles.

TRANSLATION OF THE INSCRIPTION,

BEGINNING WITH THE THIRD CAMPAIGN.

COLUMN II.

- 34 IN my Third Campaign to the land of Syria I went.
 35 LULIAH¹ King of Sidon (for the fearful splendour
 36 of my Majesty had overwhelmed him) to a distant spot
 37 in the midst of the sea fled. His land I entered.
 38 Sidon the greater, Sidon the lesser,
 39 Beth-Zitti,² Sarepta, Makalliba,
 40 Usu, Akziba,³ Akku,⁴
 41 his strong cities, and castles, walled
 42 and fenced ; and his finest towns (for the flash of the
 weapons
 43 of ASHUR my Lord had overcome them) made sub-
 mission
 44 at my feet. TUBAAL upon the throne
 45 over them I seated. A fixed tribute to my Majesty,
 46 paid yearly without fail, I imposed upon him.
 47 Then MENAHEM King of Ussimiruna
 48 TUBAAL King of Sidon
 49 ABD-ILIUT King of Arvad
 50 URU-MILKI King of Gubal
 51 MITINTI King of Ashdod
 52 BUDUEL King of Beth-Ammon
 53 KAMMUZ⁵-NATBI King of Moab
 54 AIRAMMU⁶ King of Edom.

¹ Elulæus of classical authors.

² *I.e.*, the city of Olives.

³ Achzib of Joshua xix. 29. Ecdippa of classical authors.

⁴ Accho of the book of Judges i. 31. Akka of the Arabs. The modern St. Jean d'Acre.

⁵ Kammuz (or Chemosh) was the chief god of the Moabites.

⁶ Perhaps the same name as Hiram.

- 55 the Kings of the west country, all of them
 56 their great presents and wealth
 57 to my presence brought, and kissed my feet.
 58 And ZEDEK King of Ascalon
 59 who had not bowed down to my yoke, the gods of his
 father's house, himself,
 60 his wife, his sons, his daughters, his brothers, the race
 of his father's house
 61 I carried off and brought them to Assyria.
 62 SARLUDARI son of their former King RUKIPTI
 63 over the men of Ascalon I placed; a fixed gift
 64 of offerings to my Majesty I imposed on him
 65 In the course of my expedition, the cities of Beth-
 Dagon¹
 66 Joppa, Banai-barka² and Hazor,³
 67 cities of ZEDEK, which to my feet
 68 homage had not rendered, I attacked, captured, and
 carried off their spoils.
 69 The chief priests, noblemen, and people of Ekron
 70 who PADIAH their King (holding the faith and worship
 71 of Assyria) had placed in chains of iron, and unto
 HEZEKIAH
 72 King of Judah had delivered him, and had acted
 towards the deity with hostility:
 73 these men now were terrified in their hearts. The
 Kings of Egypt
 74 and the soldiers, archers, chariots, and horses of
 Ethiopia,
 75 forces innumerable, gathered together and came

¹ Beth-Dagon in Judah is probably meant. Josh. xv. 41.

² Named in Joshua xix. 45.

³ Hazor in Naphtali, Josh. xix. 36, seems too far north: perhaps Hazar Shual is meant.

76 to their assistance. In the plains of Altaku¹

77 in front of me they placed their battle array: they discharged

78 their arrows: with the weapons of ASHUR my Lord, with them

79 I fought, and I defeated them.

80 The chief of the chariots and the sons of the King of Egypt,

81 and the chief of the chariots of the King of Ethiopia, alive

82 in the midst of the battle my hands captured. The city of Altaku

83 and the city of Tamna² I attacked captured and carried off their spoil.—

(Continued on Column III.)

¹ Eltekon of Josh. xv. 59.

² Timnah was in Judah near Ekron. Joshua xv. 10. Its name signifies "The South": it was near the south border of Palestine.

COLUMN III.

- 1 THEN I drew nigh to the city of Ekron. The chief
priests
2 and noblemen, who had committed these crimes, I
put to death ;
3 on stakes all round the city I hung their bodies :
4 the people of the city who had committed sins and
crimes
5 to slavery I gave. The rest of them
6 who had not been guilty of faults and crimes, and who
sinful things against the deity
7 had not done, to spare them I gave command.
8 PADIAH their King from the midst of Jerusalem
9 I brought out, and on a throne of royalty over them
10 I seated. Tribute payable to my Majesty
11 I fixed upon him. And HEZEKIAH
12 King of Judah, who had not bowed down at my feet
13 Forty six of his strong cities, his castles, and the
smaller towns
14 in their neighbourhood beyond number
15 with warlike engines¹
16
17 I attacked and captured. 200,150 people small and
great, male and female,
18 horses, mares, asses, camels, oxen
19 and sheep beyond number, from the midst of them I
carried off
20 and distributed them as a spoil. He himself, like a
bird in a cage, inside Jerusalem

¹ Several of these are named, but they cannot at present be identified.

21 his royal city I shut him up : siege-towers against him
 22 I constructed, (for he had given command to renew
 the bulwarks

23 of the great gate of his city.) His cities which I
 plundered, from his kingdom

24 I cut off, and to MITINTI King of Ashdod

25 PADIAH King of Ekron, and ZILLI-BEL¹

26 King of Gaza I gave them. I diminished his kingdom.

27 Beyond the former scale of their yearly gifts

28 their tribute and gifts to my Majesty I augmented

29 and imposed them upon them. He himself HEZEKIAH

30 the fearful splendour of my Majesty had overwhelmed
 him.

31 The workmen, soldiers, and builders

32 whom for the fortification of Jerusalem his royal city

33 he had collected within it, now carried tribute

34 and with thirty talents of gold, 800 talents of silver ;
 woven cloth,

35 scarlet, embroidered ; precious stones of large size ;

36 couches of ivory, moveable thrones of ivory, skins of
buffaloes,

37 *teeth of buffaloes,* dan wood, ku wood, a great treasure
 of every kind,

38 and his daughters, and the male and female inmates
 of his palace, male *slaves*

39 and female *slaves,* unto Niniveh my royal city

40 after me he sent ; and to pay tribute

41 and do homage he sent his envoy.

42 IN my Fourth Campaign, ASHUR my Lord gave me
 confidence.

¹ This name means "Bel is my protector."

- 43 I assembled my numerous army : to the city of Beth-Yakina
 44 to advance I gave command. At the commencement of my expedition
 45 of SUZUBI the Chaldean, dwelling within the marshes,
 46 in the city Bittutu I accomplished the defeat.
 47 He himself, for the fury of my attack overwhelmed him,
 48 lost heart, and like a bird fled away alone
 49 and his place of refuge could not be found. I turned round the front of my chariot
 50 and took the road to Beth-Yakina.
 51 He himself, MERODACH-BALADAN whom in the course
 52 of my first campaign I had defeated
 53 and had cut to pieces his army, the noise of my powerful arms
 54 and the shock of my fiery battle he now fled from ;
 55 the gods, rulers of his land, in their Arks he collected, and in ships
 56 he transported them, and to the city of Nagiti-Rakkin
 57 which is on the opposite sea coast, like a bird he flew. His brothers, the seed of his father's house
 58 whom he had left on the seashore, and the rest of the people of his land
 59 from Beth-Yakina within the marshes and morasses
 60 I brought away and distributed them as slaves. Once more his cities I destroyed
 61 overthrew them and left them in heaps of ruins. To his protector
 62 the King of Elam I caused terror.
 63 On my return, ASHUR-NADIN-MU my eldest son,
 64 brought up at my knees, I seated upon the throne of his kingdom :

65 all the land of Leshan and Akkad I entrusted to him.

66 IN my Fifth Campaign the people of Tocharri
 67 Sharum, Ezama, Kipsu, Kalbuda,
 68 Kua and Kana, who like the nests of eagles
 69 on the highest summits and wild crags of the Nipur
 mountains

70 had fixed their dwellings, refused to bow down to my
 yoke.

71 At the foot of mount Nipur I pitched my camp :

72 with native guides who had kissed my feet (submitted)

73 and a band of my soldiers who were irregulars,

74 I, like the leader Bull, took the front of them.

75 In the , in the mountain vallies, and through
 flooded lands

76 I travelled in my chariot : but in places which for my
 chariot were dangerous

77 I alighted on my feet ; and like a mountain goat
 among the lofty cliffs

78 I clambered up them. Where my knees

79 took rest, upon a mountain rock I sat down,

80 and water, cold even to freezing, to assuage my thirst
 I drank.

81 To the tops of the mountains I pursued them

82 and completely defeated them. Their cities I captured ;

(Continued on Column IV.)

COLUMN IV.

1 I CARRIED off their spoils; I ravaged, destroyed, and burnt them with fire.

2 Then I turned round the front of my chariot, and against MANIAH

3 King of Ukku, chief of the rebellious Dahæ, I marched

4 by ways which had never been opened, lofty summits, where by reason of

5 the rocky mountains, no former King

6 had ever penetrated, of all those who reigned before me.

7 At the foot of Anara¹ and Uppa, fortified hills,

8 I pitched my camp; but I myself in my travelling Chair

9 together with my light soldiery

10 into their narrow gorges with precaution I entered

11 and laboriously I climbed up to the tops of the high mountains.

12 He himself, MANIAH, the multitude of my army

13 saw, and abandoned Ukku his royal city

14 and fled to a distance. I besieged Ukku and captured it:

15 I carried off its spoils: every kind of goods and wealth,

16 the treasures of his palace, from the midst of it

17 I brought out and distributed them as a spoil. And 33 cities

18 belonging to that province I captured. Men, cattle,

19 oxen and sheep, from the midst of them

20 I carried off: and I ravaged, destroyed and burnt them with fire.

21 IN my Sixth Campaign, the rest of the men of Beth-Yakina

¹ Probably the Aornos of the Greeks, besieged long afterwards by Alexander the Great.

- 22 who from before my powerful arms like birds
 23 had fled away, the gods who rule over their lands into
 their Arks
 24 had collected, the great sea of the Rising Sun [†]
 25 had crossed over, and in a city just opposite, in the
 land of Elam had placed
 26 their dwellings. In Syrian ships I crossed the sea :
 27 the cities of Nagitu, Nagitu-Dihubina, Khilmu,
 28 Billatu, and Reshpan, cities of
 29 Elam, I captured. The men of Beth-Yakina and
 their gods
 30 and the men of Elam I carried away. Not even a
 remnant of them was left.
 31 In ships I embarked them : to the other side
 32 I caused them to cross : and I made them take the
 road to Assyria.
 33 The cities in those provinces I ravaged, destroyed
 34 and burnt with fire. I reduced them to ruins and
 rubbish.
 35 In my return, SUZUB the Babylonian
 36 who to the sovereignty of the lands of Leshan and
 Akkad
 37 had restored himself, in a great battle
 38 I defeated him, I captured him alive
 39 strong chains of iron I placed on him : and to Assyria
 40 I carried him off. The King of Elam who had en-
 couraged him
 41 and come to his assistance, I defeated
 42 I dispersed his expedition and cut to pieces his army

 43 IN my Seventh Campaign, ASHUR the Lord gave me
 courage.
 44 I advanced against Elam. The cities of Beth-Khairi

[†] The Persian Gulf.

- 45 and Raza, cities of the Assyrian empire
 46 which, in the days of my father, the Elamite had seized by violence
 47 in the course of my advance I captured and carried off their spoils :
 48 soldiers devoted to me I placed within them
 49 and restored them to the Assyrian empire.
 50 In the hands of the governor of the fortress of Dur-el-ki I placed them.
 51 Then I destroyed the cities of Bubi, Dunni-Shemesh, Beth-Ritsiah
 52 Beth-Aklami, Duru, Kaltitsulaya,
 53 Silibta, Beth-Assutsi, Kar-Mibasha,
 54 Beth-Gitsi, Beth-Katpalani, Beth-Imbiah
 55 Kamanu, Beth-Arrabi, Buruta,
 56 Dinta-sha-Zuliah, Dinta-
 57 sha-Antarbit-Karsa, Karrislaki, Rabaya,
 58 Rassu, Akkabarina, Til-Ukhuri,
 59 Kamran, Naditu, with the other cities of the gate (or entrance)
 60 of Beth-Bunaki. Til-Khumbi, Dinta-
 61 sha-Dumian, Beth-Ubiah, Balti-lishir,
 62 Tagab-lishir which is the city of the Nakindati,
 63 Massut the lower, Sarkudiri, Zalisha-tarbit,
 64 Beth-Akhi-adanna, and Iltimarba. All these large cities, thirty-four in number
 65 and smaller towns in their neighbourhood
 66 beyond number, I attacked and captured, and carried off their spoils,
 67 I ravaged, destroyed them, and burnt them with fire.
 68 The smoke of their burning like a mighty cloud
 69 obscured the face of high heaven. When he heard of the capture
 72 of his cities, SHADU-NAKHUNDA King of Elam was struck

71 with terror; into the rest of his cities he threw
garrisons:

72 he himself abandoned Madakta his royal city

73 and towards Khaidala which is among high mountains

74 he took the road. To the city Madakta, his royal
city,

75 "Advance!" I commanded. In the month of De-
cember a terrible storm

76 arrived, a vast cataract poured down,

77 rains upon rains, and snow, caused the torrents to burst
forth.

78 Then I quitted the mountains. I turned round the
front of my chariot

79 and I took the road to Niniveh. In those same days

80 by the will of ASHUR my Lord, SHADU-NAKHUNDA

(Continued on Column V.)

COLUMN V.

1 King of Elam, did not complete three months [*more of life*]

2 on a day which was not fated for him¹ he was violently put to death.

3 After him UMMAN-MINAN who was no friend to religion and law,

4 his brother *illegitimate*, sat upon his throne.

5 IN my Eighth Campaign, after SUZUB had escaped,
6 the children of Babylon, wicked devils,² the great gates of their city

7 barred strongly, and hardened their hearts to make war.

8 SUZUB the Chaldæan, LIDUNNAMU

9 a man who had no education, KILPAN Prefect

10 of Lakhiri a refugee from Arrapkha,

11 and a band of wicked men around him he assembled.

12 He entered among the marshes, and made there a hiding place :

13 then, to collect more men, he went back by himself

14 and passed into Elam, over the bounds and frontiers,

15 then, with the band of criminals who were with him

16 from Elam he returned rapidly, and entered the city of Suanna.³

17 The men of Babylon, even before he wished it,⁴ upon the throne

¹ *Viz.*, in the course of nature.

² This is a literal translation.

³ Suanna was the most sacred part of Babylon.

⁴ *Ana la sibati-su.*

18 had seated him, and the crown of Leshan and Akkad had bestowed upon him.

19 The treasury of the Great Temple they opened. The gold and silver

20 of BEL and ZARPANITA and the wealth of their temples they brought out

21 and to UMMAN-MINAN King of Elam who had

22 no right to it, they sent it as a bribe :

23 (saying) "Collect thy army ! strike thy camp !

24 "make haste to Babylon ! stand by our side !

25 "thou art our guardian King!" Then he, the Elamite,

26 whom in the course of my former campaign into Elam

27 I had captured his cities and reduced them to ruins,

28 showed that he had no sense : he accepted the bribe.

29 He assembled his army in his camp. His chariots and waggons

30 he collected. Horses and mares he harnessed to their yokes :

31 the nations Parzush, Anzan, Pasiru, Illipi,

32 and the men of Yashan, Lakabri, Karzun,

33 Dummuku, Zulai, and the city of SAMUNA

34 (who was the son of MERODACH BALADAN) ; and the cities Beth-Adini, Beth-Amukkan,

35 Beth-Kutlan, Beth-Salatakki, Lakhiru,

36 Bukudu, Gambuli, Kalatu, Ruhua,

37 Ubuli, Malaku, Rapiku,

38 Khindaru and Damunu, a vast host of allies

39 he led along with him. They assembled themselves, and the road

40 to Babylonia they took. They rushed upon Babylon.

41 Unto SUZUB the Chaldæan, King of Babylon

42 they approached and met him. They united their armies.

43 Then, as a mighty swarm of locusts¹ covers the face
of the earth

44 in destroying multitudes they rushed

45 against me. The dust of their feet like a mighty
cloud

46 as they drew nigh to me, the face of heaven

47 darkened before me. In the city of Khaluli²

48 which is on the bank of the Tigris they drew out their
battle array.

49 The front of my fenced camp they seized, and dis-
charged their arrows.

50 Then I to ASHUR, the MOON, the SUN, BEL, NEBO,
NERGAL,

51 ISHTAR of Niniveh, and ISHTAR of Arbela, the gods
my protectors

52 that I might conquer my powerful enemies I prayed
unto them.

53 My earnest prayers they heard, and came

54 to my assistance. From my heart I vowed a thank-
offering for it.

55

56 In my great War Chariot

57 (named) "Sweeper away of enemies," in the fury of
my heart

58 I drove rapidly: my great Bow

59 which ASHUR gave me, in my hand I took:

60 with greaves of showy workmanship I enclosed my
legs;

61 and rushing on the whole army of those wicked
enemies

¹ See chapter 2 of the prophet Joel, where this fine simile of a destroying
army is also found.

² This account of the battle of Khaluli is the most elaborate that has
yet been found in the Assyrian annals.

62 in crowded confusion I crushed them together, and
like the god IM¹ I thundered.

63 By command of ASHUR the great Lord, my Lord, both
to my side and front

64 as it were fiery darts² against my enemies I hurled.

65 In the arms of ASHUR my Lord, and the shock of my
battle

66 furious, I

67 The hostile troops with the revolving blades³

68 I cut to pieces : their dead bodies I rolled over

69 in the mire. KHUMBAN-UNDASH an *engineer*

70 whom the King of Elam had made General of his
army,

71 I captured his great *Chain of Honour*. His chief
officers,

72 who wore gold handled daggers, and with crowded

73 rings of bright gold encircled their legs,

74 like a herd of sleek oxen of abundant fatness

75 eagerly I attacked and defeated them.

76 Their heads I cut off, like victims,

77 their highly worked decorations I tore off with
derision.

78 Like the fall of a great shower, their rings and
bracelets

79 I cast down upon the earth in a lofty heap.

80 My faultless horses yoked to my chariot

81 through the deep pools of blood stepped slowly.

¹ Im was the god of the sky. He wielded the thunderbolt, like the Jupiter Tonans of the Latins.

² Frequently spoken of. Some composition like Greek fire was employed in war.

³ His chariot wheels were armed with iron scythes—so I understand the passage—See 2 Maccabees xiii. 2, and Xenophon's Anabasis.

82 Of my chariot, as it swept away the slain and the fallen,

83 with blood and flesh its wheels were clogged.

84 The heads of their soldiers, like *wrkiti*

85 I salted, and into great wicker baskets I stuffed them.¹

(Continued on Column VI.)

¹ To be sent to Niniveh, doubtless, and there exposed on the walls as trophies of his victory.

COLUMN VI.

- 1
- 2 The bracelets I cut off from their hands.
- 3 The rings *heavy* of gold, of beautiful workmanship, I
took off from their feet
- 4
- 5 the gold and silver handled daggers from their girdles
I took.
- 6 The rest of the Chiefs, and NEBO-ZIKIR-ISKUN
7 son of MERODACH-BALADAN who from my battle
8 had fled, but had rallied their forces, alive
9 in the battle my hands seized them. The chariots
10 and horses, whose drivers in the great battle
11 had been killed,
- 12 ran away by themselves, in multitudes.
- 13 I returned when the fourth hour of the night was past,
14 and stopped the slaughter. He himself UMMAN-
MINAN
- 15 King of Elam, and the Kings of Babylon, and the
Princes
- 16 of Chaldæa who had come with him, overwhelmed by
the tumult of my battle,
- 17 grew as feeble as children: they abandoned their
tents
- 18 and to save their lives, the dead bodies of their own
soldiers they trampled underfoot
- 19 and fled *like frightened birds* who had lost all heart.
- 20 In double numbers they crowded into their chariots,
21 set off, and fled away to their own dominions.
- 22 My chariots and horses I despatched after them,
23 and those fugitives who fled for their lives

24 wherever they came up with them, they put them to the sword.

25 In the course of those days, after that the Central palace of Niniveh

26 for my royal residence I had finished,

27 and had filled it with beauties to the admiration of mankind,

28 (I turned to) the Kurili palace, which for the lodging of a garrison,

29 the care of horses, and for other needs of every kind

30 the Kings my fathers, who went before me, had made.

31 Its mound had never been finished; of its small building

32 the fabric had never been repaired: for a long time

33 its *timin* had been lost: its foundations were laid bare: its summits had fallen down.

34 That palace I pulled down the whole of it.

35 A great quantity of earth from the low lying fields

36 and outskirts of the city, in baskets I took, and upon it

37 I added what was left of the ruins of the former palace:

38 then with the earth of the low grounds which I took from the river side,

39 I completed the mound. Two hundred fathoms

40 altogether, I extended its wall. In a prosperous month

41 and on a lucky day, upon that mound, with the skilfulness of my mind

42 a Palace of stone and cedar wood in the building style

43 of the land of Syria, and a palace of the lofty architecture of Assyria

44 which beyond the former one was much finer, larger,

45 and more beautiful, in the year of the eponymy of my great Bow Bearer

46 the Master of my arms, for my royal dwelling I began to build.

47 Long beams of cedar wood, the growth of the land of Khamanu

48 and its lofty mountains, I laid as a roof over them.

49 doors of *liari* wood, inlaid with shining brass

50 I framed, and I fitted them to the gates.

51 Of the white stone which in the district

52 of Balada is found, great bulls and lions

53 I made, and I placed them right and left

54 of the gates. For the reception of royal guests¹ (*I destined it*), and also for the care

55 of horses, *mules, cattle, flocks,*

56 chariots, *wine presses to make wine,*

57 bows and arrows, and every kind of implement of war,

58 harness of horses and *mules*

59 which had great strength, and were trained to the yoke.

60 The courts of the building I enlarged greatly.

61 That palace from its foundations to its summit

62 I built and finished. The written records of my name

63 I placed within it. In future days,

64 under the Kings my sons, whom ASHUR and ISHTAR

65 unto the sovereignty of this land and people shall call

66 their names; when this Palace shall grow old

¹ In fact, another inscription (R. 44, 68), says that all the kings of Phœnicia came there *at the same time*.

67 and decay, the future King who shall repair its injuries

68 who shall see the written record of my name,

69 who shall pour a libation on the altar, sacrifice a victim, and replace it in its place,

70 ASHUR and ISHTAR will receive his prayers.

71 The destroyer of my writings and my name

72 may ASHUR, the great Lord, the father of the gods, deliver him to his enemies,

73 his sceptre and his throne take away from him, and destroy his life !

74 In the month of Adar, day the twentieth, in the eponymy of BEL-SILAL-ANI

75 Prefect of Karkamish.



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