THE

ANNALS OF ASSURBANIPAL,

THE SARDANAPALUS OF THE GREEKS.

BY GEORGE SMITH.

CYLINDER A.

THE text of Cylinder A of Assurbanipal is compiled from a terra cotta cylinder found by Mr. Loftus in the North Palace, Kouyunjik, and the fragments of several duplicate cylinders from the same place. All these inscriptions are now in the British Museum.

A copy of this text was published in the Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia, Vol. III, p. 17 to 26.

Translations of parts of the Egyptian campaigns were published by Sir H. Rawlinson, in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature, Vol. VII. 137; and by M. Oppert, in his Mémoire sur les
rapports de l’Égypte et l’Assyrie, dans l’antiquité éclairés par l’étude des texts Cunéiformes; and the complete text of the cylinder, accompanied by an interlinear transcription and translation, was published by Mr. G. Smith in his History of Assurbanipal.

1 Accompanied by parts of the texts.
TRANSLATION OF THE INSCRIPTION.

COLUMN I.

1 I AM ASSURANIPAL, the progeny of ASSUR and BELTIS,
2 son of the great King of Riduti,
3 whom ASSUR and SIN the Lord of crowns, from days remote,
4 prophesying his name, have raised to the kingdom.
5 and in the womb of his mother, have created him to rule Assyria.
6 SHAMAS, VUL, and ISHTAR, in their supreme power,
7 commanded the making of his kingdom.
8 ESARHADDON, King of Assyria, the father my begetter,
9 the will of ASSUR and BELTIS the gods his protectors praised,
10 who commanded him to make my kingdom.
11 In the month Iyyar the month of HEA, Lord of mankind,
12 on the 12th day, a fortunate day, the festival of BEL;
13 in performance of the important message which ASSUR,
14 BELTIS, SIN, SHAMAS, VUL, BEL, NEBO,
15 ISHTAR of Nineveh, SARRAT-KITMURI,7
16 ISHTAR of Arbela, NINIP, NERGAL, and NUSKU had spoken,
17 he gathered the people of Assyria, small and great,

1 Riduti is the name of the North palace Kouryunjik.
2 Kitmuri was a temple at Nineveh.
18 and of the upper and lower sea;
19 to the consecration of my royal sonship,
20 and afterwards the kingdom of Assyria I ruled.
21 The worship of the great gods I caused to be offered
to them,
22 I confirmed the covenants.
23 With joy and shouting
24 I entered into Riduti the palace,
25 the royal property of Sennacherib, the grandfather
my begetter,
26 the son of the great King, who ruled the kingdom
within it,
27 the place where Esarhaddon, the father my begetter,
28 within it grew up, and ruled the dominion of Assyria.
29 . . . . . . and the family increased
30 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
31 I Assurbanipal within it, preserved
32 the wisdom of Nebo, all the royal tablets,
33 the whole of the clay tablets, all there were, their
subjects I studied.
34 I collected arrows, bows, carriages, horses,
35 chariots, their furniture and fittings. By the will of
the great gods
36 who . . . . . I proclaimed their laws,
37 they commanded the making of my kingdom,
38 the embellishment of their temples they entrusted to me,
39 for me they exalted my dominion, and destroyed my
enemies.
40 The man of war, the delight of Assur and Ishtar,
41 the royal offspring am I.
42 When Assur, Sin, Shamas, Vul, Bel, Nebo, Ishtar
of Nineveh,
43 Sarrat-Kitmuri, Ishtar of Arbela, Ninip, Nergal,
and Nusku
44 firmly seated me on the throne of the father my begetter,
45 the seed bore in its ear,
46 the surplus grain was two-thirds, the crops were excellent
47 the corn abundant, my face was pleased with the raising of the harvest,
48 ... ... the cattle were good in multiplying,
49 in my seasons there was plenty, in my years famine was ended.

51 In my first expedition to Makan
52 and Milukha I went. Tirhakah King of Egypt and Ethiopia,
53 of whom, Esarhaddon King of Assyria, the father my begetter, his overthrow had accomplished;
54 and had taken possession of his country; he Tirhakah,
55 the power of Assur, Ishtar, and the great gods my Lords
56 despised, and trusted to his own might.
57 Of the Kings and Governors, whom in the midst of Egypt,
58 the father my begetter had appointed; to slay, plunder,
59 and to capture Egypt, he came against them;
60 he entered, and sat in Memphis, the city which the father my begetter had taken, and to the boundaries
62 of Assyria had added. I was going in state in the midst of Nineveh,

1 Variant reading: fourfold. 2 Makan supposed to be Egypt.
3 Milukha supposed to be Merne.
and one came and repeated this to me;
over these things
my heart was bitter and much afflicted;
by the command of Assur and the goddess Assuritū,
I gathered my powerful forces,
which Assur and Ishtar had placed in my hands,
to Egypt and Ethiopia I directed the march.
In the course of my expedition, 22 Kings
of the side of the sea and the middle of the sea, all
tributaries dependent on me,
to my presence came and kissed my feet.
Those Kings . . . .
on sea and land their roads I took,
the level path . . . .
for the restoration of the Kings and Governors
who in the midst of Egypt were tributaries dependent
on me;
quickly I descended and went to Karbanit.
Tirhakah King of Egypt and Ethiopia, in the midst
of Memphis,
of the progress of my expedition heard; and to
make war,
fighting and battle, to my presence he gathered the
men of his army.
In the service of Assur, Ishtar, and the great gods,
my Lords,
on the wide battle field I accomplished the overthrow
of his army.
Tirhakah in the midst of Memphis, heard of the
defeat of his army;
the terror of Assur and Ishtar overcame him, and
he went forward; fear of my kingdom
overwhelmed him, and his gods glorified me before
my camp.
89 Memphis he abandoned, and to save his life
90 he fled into Thebes. That city I took,
91 my army I caused to enter, and rest in the midst of it.

92 Necho' King of Memphis and Sais.
93 Sarludari King of Pelusium.
94 Pisan-hor King of Natho.
95 Paqruru King of Pisupt.²
96 Pukkunanni-hapi King of Athribis.
97 Nech-ke King of Henins.
98 Petubastes King of Tanis.
99 Unamunu King of Nathy.
100 Horsiesis King of Sebennytus.
101 Buaiuva King of Mendes.
102 Sheshonk King of Busiris.
103 Tnephachthus King of Bunubu.³
104 Pukkunanni-happi King of Akhni.
105 Iptikhardesu King of Pizatti-hurunpiku.
106 Necht-hor-ansini King of Pisabdinut.
107 Bukur-ninip King of Pachnut.
108 Zikha King of Siyout.
109 Lamintu King of Chemmis.
110 Ispimathu King of Abydos.
111 Munti-mi-anche King of Thebes.
112 These Kings, Prefects, and Governors,
113 whom in the midst of Egypt, the father my begetter had appointed;

114 who before the advance of Tirhakah
115 their appointments had left, and fled to the desert,
116 I restored; and the places of their appointments

¹ Necho was father of Psammitichus I.
² Mentioned in the stele of Mt. Barkal.
³ See Penub the modern Badaub in the "Inscription of Pianchi," by Canon Cook, p. 17.
117 in their possessions, I appointed them.
118 Egypt and Ethiopia, which the father my begetter had captured,
119 again I took, the bonds more than in former days
120 I strengthened, and I made covenants.
121 With abundant plunder and much spoil
122 in peace I returned to Nineveh.
123 Afterwards all those Kings whom I had appointed,
124 sinned against me; they did not keep the oath of the great gods,

(Continued on Column II.)
COLUMN II.

1 the good I did to them they despised,
2 and their hearts devised evil;
3 seditious words they spoke, and
4 evil council they counselled among themselves;
5 thus: "Tirhakah from the midst of Egypt
6 is cut off, and to us our seats are numbered."
7 Unto Tirhakah King of Ethiopia
8 to make agreement and alliance
9 they directed their messengers,
10 thus: "May an alliance by this treaty be established, and
11 we will help each other;
12 the country on the other side we will strengthen, and
13 may there not be in this treaty any other Lord."
14 Against the army of Assyria the force of my dominion,
15 which to their aid had been raised, they devised
16 a wicked plot. My Generals of this plot
17 heard; their messengers
18 and their despatches they captured, and saw
19 their seditious work. These Kings
20 they took; and in bonds of iron and fetters of iron,
21 bound their hands and feet. The oath of Assur
King of the gods
22 took them who sinned
23 against the great (gods); who had sought the good of
their hands, and
24 who had given them favours;
25 and the people of Sais, Mendes, Zoon,
26 and the rest of the cities, all with them revolted
27 devised an evil design. Small and great with the
sword they caused to be destroyed
28 one they did not leave in the midst.
Their corpses they threw down in the dust,
they destroyed the towers of the cities.
These Kings, who had devised evil
against the army of Assyria, alive to Nineveh
into my presence they brought.
To Necho . . . . . . of them,
favour I granted him, and a covenant . . .
ObservANCES stronger than before I caused to be restored, and with him I sent.
Costly garments I placed upon him, ornaments of gold,
his royal image I made for him, rings of gold I fastened on his feet,
a steel sword its sheath of gold,
in the glory of my name more than I write I gave him.
Chariots, horses, and mules
for his kingdom I appointed;
my Generals as Governors,
to Egypt with him I sent.
The place where the father my begetter, in Sais to the kingdom had appointed him,
to his district I restored him;
(and) Neboshazban his son in Athribes.
Benefits and favours, beyond those of the father my begetter;
I caused to restore, and gave to him.
Tirhakah to Ethiopia fled;
the might of the soldiers of Assur my Lord overwhelmed him, and
he went to his place of night.¹
Afterwards Rudammon, son of his sister,
sat on his royal throne.
Thebes his fortified city he made, and
he gathered his forces
¹ *i.e.*, he died.
57 to fight my army, the sons of Assyria;
58 who within Memphis gathered in the midst of it.
59 . . . and besieged and took the whole of them.
60 . . . . . . . came and told me.

61 In my second expedition to Egypt and Ethiopia
62 I directed the march. Rudamon of
63 the progress of my expedition heard, and that I had
crossed over
64 the borders of Egypt. Memphis he abandoned, and
65 to save his life he fled into Thebes.
66 The Kings, Prefects, and Governors, whom in Egypt
I had set up,
67 to my presence came, and kissed my feet.
68 After Rudamon the road I took;
69 I went to Thebes, the strong city;
70 the approach of my powerful army he saw, and
Thebes he abandoned,
71 and fled to Kipkip. That city
72 the whole of it, in the service of Assur and Ishtar
my hands took;
73 silver, gold, precious stones, the furniture of his
palace, all there was;
74 garments costly and beautiful, great horses,
75 people male and female,
76 two lofty obelisks covered with beautiful carving,
77 . . hundred talents their weight, set up before the
gate of a temple,
78 with them I removed, and brought to Assyria.
79 Its spoils unnumbered I carried off. From the midst
of Thebes,
80 over Egypt and Ethiopia;

1 Thebes.
81 my servants I caused to march, and
82 I acquired glory. With the tributes
83 peacefully I returned to Nineveh, the city of my
dominion.

84 In my third expedition against Bahal King of Tyre
85 . . . I went; who my royal will
86 disregarded, and did not hear the words of my lips;
87 towers round him I raised;
88 on sea and land; his roads I took;
89 their spirits I humbled and caused to melt away;
90 to my yoke I made them submissive. The
91 daughter proceeding from his body, and the daugh-
ters of his brothers
92 for concubines he brought to my presence.
93 Yahimelek his son, the glory of the country, of
unsurpassed renown
94 at once he sent forward, to make obeisance to me.
95 His daughter and the daughters of his brothers,
96 with their great dowries I received.
97 Favour I granted him, and the son proceeding from
his body
98 I restored and gave him. Yakinlu
99 King of Arvad, dwelling in the midst of the sea,
100 who to the Kings my fathers was not submissive,
101 submitted to my yoke, his daughter
102 with many gifts, for a concubine
103 to Nineveh he brought and kissed my feet.
104 Mugallu King of Tubal, who against the Kings my
fathers
105 made attacks, the daughter proceeding from his
body,
106 and her great dowry, for a concubine
to Nineveh he brought, and kissed my feet.
Over MUGALLU great horses
an annual tribute I fixed upon him.
SANDASARMI of Cilicia,
who to the Kings my fathers did not submit,
and did not perform their pleasure,
the daughter proceeding from his body, with many
gifts, for a concubine
to Nineveh he brought, and kissed my feet.
When YAKINLU King of Arvad,
had met his death. AZIBAHAL, ABIBAHAL,
ADONIBAHAL, SAPADIBAHAL, PUDIBAHAL,
BAHALYASUP, BAHALHANUN,
BAHALMALUK, ABIMELEK, and AHIMELEK,
sons of YAKINLU, dwelling in the midst
of the sea, from the midst of the sea arose, and
with their numerous presents
came and kissed my feet.
AZIBAHAL gladly I received, and
to the kingdom of Arvad appointed.
ABIBAHAL, ADONIBAHAL, SAPADIBAHAL,
(Continued on Column III.)
COLUMN III.

1 Pudibahal, Bahalvasup, Bahalhanon,
2 Bahalmelek, Abimelek, and Ahimelek;
3 costly clothing . . . . rings . . . .
4 in my presence . . . .
5 Gyges King of Lydia,
6 a district which is across the sea, a remote place,
7 of which the Kings my fathers had not heard speak of its name;
8 the account of my grand kingdom in a dream was related to him by Assur, the god my creator,
9 thus: "The yoke . . . . . .
10 (when) in remembrance . . . .
11 the day he saw that dream,
12 his messenger he sent, to pray for my friendship.
13 That dream which he saw,
14 by the hand of his Envoy he sent, and repeated to me.
15 From the midst of the day when he took the yoke of my kingdom,
16 the Cimmerians, wasters of his people,
17 who did not fear my fathers
18 and me, and did not take the yoke of my kingdom, he captured,
19 in the service of Assur and Ishtar the gods my Lords.
20 From the midst of the Chiefs of the Cimmerians, whom he had taken,
21 two Chiefs in strong fetters of iron, and bonds of iron,
22 he bound, and with numerous presents,
23 he caused to bring to my presence.
24 His Messengers whom, to pray for my friendship
25 he was constantly sending, he wilfully discontinued
26 as the will of Assur, the god my creator, he had disregarded;
to his own power he trusted and hardened his heart.
28 His forces to the aid of Psammitichus (King) of Egypt.
29 who had thrown off the yoke of my dominion, he sent; and
30 I heard of it, and prayed to Assur and Ishtar.
31 Thus: “Before his enemies his corpse may they cast, and
32 may they carry captive his attendants.” When thus to Assur
33 I had prayed, he requited me. Before his enemies his corpse
34 was thrown down, and they carried captive his attendants.
35 The Cimmerians whom by the glory of my name he had trodden under him;
36 conquered and swept the whole of his country after him his son.
37 sat on his throne, that evil work at the lifting up of my hands,
38 the gods my protectors in the time of the father his begetter had destroyed.
39 By the hand of his envoy he sent and took the
40 yoke of my kingdom thus: “The King whom god has blessed art thou;
41 my father from thee departed, and evil was done in his time;
42 I am thy devoted servant, and my people all perform thy pleasure.”

43 In my fourth expedition, I gathered my army;
44 against Akhseri King of Minni.  

\* Minni bordered on Armenia.
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