THE SECOND

INSCRIPTION OF ESARHADDON.

TRANSLATED BY

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THIS Inscription written on a hexagonal prism of baked clay, was found near Niniveh on the mound of Nebbi Yunus (prophet Jonah). It is now in the British Museum. It was first published by Layard, Inscriptions pl. 20–28, and next by Rawlinson, Inscriptions Vol. I. pl. 45–47. I have translated it several times,\(^1\) introducing gradual improvements as

\(^1\) First, in Assyrian Texts Translated, London, 1856; then in the Journal of Sacred Literature vol. 9 p. 68 (April 1859); and finally in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature, vol. 7, p. 551.
the meaning of words became better known; and I have again revised it for the present work.

This second Inscription is the one which I have denoted by the letter B in the preceding pages.
THE INSCRIPTION.

COLUMN I.

1 (Esarhaddon\(^1\) King of Sumir) and Accad,
2 (son of Sennacherib King of) Assyria,
3 (son of Sargon) King of Assyria,
4 (who in the name of Assur, Bel,) the Moon, the Sun,
5 Nabo, Marduk, Ishtar of Niniveh,
6 and Ishtar of Arbela, the great gods his lords
7 from the rising of the sun to the setting of the sun
8 marched victorious without a rival.

9 Conqueror of the city Sidon, which is on the sea,
10 sweeper away of all its villages,
11 its citadel and residence I rooted up,
12 and into the sea I flung them.
13 Its place of justice I destroyed.
14 Abdinilkutti its king
15 who away from my arms
16 into the middle of the sea had fled
17 like a fish from out of the sea
18 I caught him, and I cut off his head.
19 His treasure, his goods, gold and silver and precious stones
20 skins of elephants, teeth of elephants, dan wood, ku wood,
21 cloths, died purple and yellow, of every description
22 and the regalia of his palace
23 I carried off as my spoil.
24 Men and women without number

\(^1\) The words placed within parentheses in the first four lines are broken off, but the restoration may be considered almost certain.
oxen and sheep and mules
I swept them all off to Assyria.
I assembled the Kings of Syria
and the sea coast, all of them.¹
(The city of Sidon)² I built anew,
and I called it “The City of Esarhaddon.”
Men, captured by my arms, natives of the lands
and seas of the East
within it I placed to dwell
and I set my own officers in authority over them.

And Sanduarri
King of Kundu and Sitzu
an enemy and heretic, not honouring my majesty
who had abandoned the worship of the gods
trusted to his rocky stronghold
and Abdimilkutti King of Sidon
took for his ally.
The names of the great gods side by side he wrote³
and to their power he trusted;
but I trusted to Ashur my Lord.
Like a bird, from out of the mountains
I took him, and I cut off his head.
I wrought the judgment of Ashur my Lord
on the men who were criminals.
The heads of Sanduarri
and Abdimilkutti
by the side of those of their Chiefs I hung up:
and with captives young and old; male and female,
to the gate of Nineveh I marched.

¹ They were summoned to do homage to him and then apparently dismissed again.
² These words are broken off.
³ As a Talisman which he probably wore about his person written on a slip of parchment.
COLUMN II.

The first lines are broken off: it appears that the King had taken some prisoners, to whom he was resolved to show no mercy.

1 . . . I collected them:
2 to Assyria I carried them off:
3 and in front of the great entrance gate of Niniveh
4 along with bears, dogs, and . . . . .
5 I left them to stay for ever.

6 And Tiuspa the Cimmerian
7 a roving warrior, whose own country was remote
8 in the province of Khubusna
9 him and all his army I destroyed with the sword.

10 Trampler on the heads of the men of Khilakki
11 and Duhuka, who dwell in the mountains,
12 which front the land of Tabal,
13 who trusted to their mountains
14 and from days of old never submitted to my yoke:
15 twenty-one of their strong cities
16 and smaller towns in their neighbourhood
17 I attacked captured and carried off their spoil
18 I ruined destroyed and burnt them with fire.
19 The rest of the men, who crimes
20 and murders had not committed
21 I only placed the yoke of my empire heavily upon them.

22 Crusher of the people of Barnaki, enemies and heretics
23 who dwell in Telassar.

1 Telassar is mentioned in 2 Kings xix. 12 and Isaiah xxxvii. 12 as a city inhabited by the children of Eden, conquered by the Assyrians in the time of Sennacherib, or perhaps earlier.
which, in the language of the people,
Mikhran Pitan, its name is called.

Destroyer of the people of Manna
who worship not the host of heaven:
and the army of Isparaya
King of Ashguza, their ally who could not save himself
I slew with the sword.

Conqueror of Neb-o-zir-zisidi, son of Merodach Baladan
who trusted to the King of Elam
but did not thereby save his life.

Nahit-Marduk, his brother
I summoned to do homage to me.
From out of Elam he fled,
to Niniveh my royal city
he came and kissed my feet.
The province of the sea coast, the whole of it,
the inheritance of his brother, I gave to him.

Spoiler of the city of Beth-Dakkurri
which is in Chaldæa, but in enmity with Babylon;
burner of Shems-ibni, its king
a man sinister and tyrannical, who worshipped not the
name of the Lord of lords;
who the lands of the children of Babylon

\(^1\) The name Pitan is also capable of being pronounced Atan or Adan which has some resemblance to “Eden” in the Biblical passage.
\(^2\) The name may mean, “Nebo grant a happy life!”
\(^3\) Nahit is the name of a goddess, otherwise Anahit: the Anaitis of Greek authors.
\(^4\) This name signifies “The Sun created me.”
\(^5\) The god Marduk.
and Borsippa, had taken possession of.
Then I the worship of Bel and Nebo within
those lands restored,
and to the children of Babylon and Borsippa
I gave them back.
Nebo-shallim son of Balazu
I placed on his throne
and he became my servant.

The city of Edom, the stronghold of the Arabians
which Sennacherib King of Assyria
my father had conquered

(The rest of this column is broken off.)

COLUMN III.
The first three lines are very much broken. A king whose name is lost, but who was probably Hazael, comes to make his submission to Esarhaddon.

with great presents
to Niniveh my royal city
he came and kissed my feet:
then, holding forth his gods, he addressed me with supplications:
I had pity on him:
those gods, I repaired their injuries,
the emblem of Ashur my lord
and the writing of my own name I caused to be written upon them
and I restored them to him again.
Tabuwa, a young woman brought up in my palace
I appointed to be their Queen,

1 Probably some outlying districts claimed by Babylon and Borsippa.
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