

INSCRIPTION OF TIGLATH PILESER I,
KING OF ASSYRIA.

TRANSLATED BY

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THIS inscription of Tiglath Pileser I, is found on an octagonal prism and on some other clay fragments discovered at Kalah-Shergat and at present in the British Museum. The text is published in the *Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia*, Vol. I, p. ix-xvi. Four translations of this inscription made simultaneously in 1857 by Sir H. Rawlinson, Mr. Fox Talbot, Dr. Hincks and Dr. Oppert were published in that year under the title of *Inscription of Tiglath Pileser I, King of Assyria, B.C. 1150*. 8vo., Lond., 1857. Dr. Oppert has also given a revised translation in his *Histoire de l'Empire de Chaldée et d'Assyrie*, 8vo., Versailles, 1865, extracted from the *Annales de la Philosophie Chrétienne* of the same year 5e Series, p. 44 and foll. The translations simultaneously published were submitted to the Asiatic

Society in that year as a test of the advance made in Assyrian interpretations and the close approximation made by scholars in their interpretation of Assyrian texts. The notes contain some of the different readings of the other Assyrian scholars at that time and give a few of the principal varieties of reading some of the words. It was generally considered a very triumphant demonstration of the sound basis on which the then comparatively recent Assyrian researches were placed and a confutation of certain opinions then prevalent, that no certain or accurate advance had been made in the decipherment of Assyrian inscriptions. On the whole for its extent and historical information relating to the early history of Assyria this inscription is one of the most important of the series showing the gradual advance and rise of Assyria, while as one of the first interpreted it presents considerable literary interest in respect to the details of the progress of Assyrian interpretation. It is also nearly the oldest Assyrian text of any length which has been hitherto discovered and is very interesting from its account of the construction of the temples and palaces made by the king in the early part of his reign.

S. B.

INSCRIPTION OF TIGLATH PILESER I.

I THE BEGINNING.

Ashur, the great Lord, ruling supreme over the gods; the giver of sceptres and crowns; the appointer of sovereignty. BEL, the Lord; *King of the circle of constellations*;¹ Father of the gods; Lord of the world. SIN;² the leader the *Lord of Empire* the *powerful* the *auspicious* god; *Shamas*;³ the establisher of the heavens and the earth;;⁴ the vanquisher of enemies; the dissolver of cold. *Vul*;⁵ he who causes the tempest to rage over hostile lands and *wicked* countries. *Abnil*⁶ HERCULES; the champion who subdues *heretics* and enemies, and who strengthens the heart. *Ishtar*, the eldest⁷ of the gods; the Queen of *Victory*; she who arranges battles.

II.

The great gods, ruling over the heavens and the earth, whose attributes I have recorded and whom I have *named*; the guardians of the kingdom of TIGLATH PILESER, the Prince inspiring your hearts with *joy*; the proud Chief whom in the strength of your hearts ye have made firm, (to whom) ye have confided the supreme crown, (whom) ye have appointed in might to the sovereignty of the country of BEL, to whom ye have granted pre-eminence, exaltation, and warlike power. May the duration of his empire continue for ever to his royal posterity, lasting as the great temple of BEL!

¹ Aratnaki. Fox Talbot.² The moon.³ The sun.⁴ Lacuna.⁵ Ninev. Fox Talbot. Ao. Dr. Oppert.⁶ Ninip-Sumdan. Dr. Oppert.⁷ Or source.

III.

TIGLATH PILESER the powerful king ; supreme King of Lashanan;¹ King of the four regions ; King of all Kings ; Lord of Lords ; the *supreme* ; Monarch of Monarchs ; the illustrious Chief who under the auspices of the SUN GOD, being armed with the sceptre and girt with the girdle of power over mankind, rules over all the people of BEL ; the mighty Prince whose praise is blazoned forth among the Kings : the exalted sovereign, whose servants ASHUR has appointed to the government of the country of the four regions (and) has made his name celebrated to posterity ; the conqueror of many plains and mountains of the Upper and Lower Country ; the conquering hero, the terror of whose name has overwhelmed all regions ; the bright constellation who, according to his power² has warred against foreign countries (and) under the auspices of BEL, there being no equal to him, has subdued the enemies of ASHUR.³

IV.

ASHUR (and) the great gods, the guardians of my kingdom, who gave government and laws to my dominions, and ordered an enlarged frontier to their territory, having committed to (my) hand their valiant and warlike servants, I have subdued the lands and the peoples and the strong places, and the Kings who were hostile to ASHUR ; and I have reduced all that was contained in them. With a host⁴ of kings I have fought . . .⁵ and have imposed on them the bond of *servitude*. There is not to me a second in war, nor an equal in battle. I have added territory to Assyria and peoples to her people. I have enlarged the frontier of my territories, and subdued all the lands contained in them.⁶

¹ "Various tongues." Talbot.

² Or "as he wished."

³ Or "has made them obedient to Ashur."

⁴ The Preamble concludes here.

⁵ Lacuna.

⁶ Literally, "a sixty."

V.

In the beginning of my reign 20,000 of the *Muskayans*¹ and their 5 kings, who for 50 years had held the countries of Alza and Perukhuz, without paying tribute and offerings to ASHUR my Lord, and whom a King of Assyria had never ventured to meet in battle betook themselves to their strength, and went and seized the country of Comukha. In the service of ASHUR my Lord my chariots and warriors I assembled after me . . .² the country of *Kasiyaia*,³ a difficult country, I passed through. With their 20,000 fighting men and their 5 kings in the country of Comukha I engaged. I defeated them. The ranks of their warriors in fighting the battle were beaten down as if by the tempest. Their carcases covered the valleys and the tops of the mountains. I cut off their heads. The battlements of their cities I made heaps of, like mounds of *earth*, their movables, their wealth, and their valuables I plundered to a countless amount. 6000 of their common soldiers who fled before my servants and accepted my yoke, I took them, and gave them over to the men of my own territory.⁴

VI.

Then I went into the country of *Comukha*,⁵ which was disobedient and withheld the tribute and offerings due to ASHUR my Lord: I conquered the whole country of Comukha. I plundered their moveables, their wealth, and their valuables. Their cities I burnt with fire, I destroyed and ruined. The common people of Comukha, who fled before the face of my servants, crossed over to the city of *Sherisha*,⁶ which was on the further banks of the Tigris, and made this city into their stronghold. I assembled my chariots and warriors. I betook myself to *carts of iron*⁷

¹ Sirki citizens. Fox Talbot. ² Lacuna. ³ Mount Kasiyaia. Dr. Hincks.

⁴ As slaves.

⁵ Dummuk. Dr. Oppert.

⁶ Sharisha. Fox Talbot. Siris. Dr. Hincks. ⁷ Bridge. Fox Talbot.

in order to overcome the rough mountains and their difficult marches. I made the wilderness (thus) practicable for the passage of my chariots and warriors. I crossed the Tigris and took the city of Sherisha their stronghold. Their fighting men, in the middle of the forests, like wild beasts, I smote. Their carcases filled the Tigris, and the tops of the mountains. At this time the troops of the *Akhe*,¹ who came to the deliverance and assistance of Comukha, together with the troops of Comukha, like chaff I scattered. The carcases of their fighting men I piled up like heaps on the tops of the mountains. The bodies of their warriors, the *roaring*² waters carried down to the Tigris. KILI TERU son of KALI TERU, son of ZARUPIN ZIHUSUN, their King,³ in the course of their fighting fell into my power. His wives and his children, the delight of his heart I dispossessed him of. 180⁴ iron vessels and 5 trays of copper, together with the gods of the people in gold and silver, and their beds and furniture I brought away. Their moveables and their wealth I plundered. This city and its palace I burnt with fire, I destroyed and ruined.

VII.

The city of *Urrakluiras* their stronghold which was in the country of Panari, I went towards. The exceeding fear of the power of ASHUR, my Lord, overwhelmed them. To save their lives they took their gods, and fled like birds to the tops of the lofty mountains. I collected my chariots and warriors, and crossed the Tigris. *Shedi Teru*⁵ the son of *Khasutkh*,⁶ King of *Urrakluiras* on my arriving in his

¹ Aliens. Dr. Hincks.

² Nami River. Fox Talbot. Blood River. Dr. Hincks.

³ Tirikali fil Tirikali. Fox Talbot. Kiliantiru eldest son of Campineiyusan. Dr. Hincks.

⁴ Literally, "three sixties."

⁵ Sadiyantim. Dr. Hincks. Tiridates. Fox Talbot.

⁶ Kuthakin. Fox Talbot. Khathukhi. Dr. Hincks.

country submitted to my yoke. His sons, the delight of his heart, and his favourites, I condemned to the service of the gods: 60 vessels of iron; *trays*¹ and *bars* of copper . . .² with 120 cattle, and flocks he brought as tribute and offerings. I accepted (them) and spared him. I gave him his life, but imposed upon him the yoke of my empire heavily for ever. The wide spreading country of Comukha I entirely conquered, and subjected to my yoke. At this time one tray of copper and one bar of copper from among the service offerings and tribute of Comukha I dedicated to ASHUR my Lord, and 60 iron vessels with their gods I offered to my guardian god, *Vul*.³

VIII.

From amongst my valiant servants, to whom ASHUR the Lord gave strength and power, in 30 of my chariots, select companies of my troops and bands of my warriors who were expert in battle, I gathered together. I proceeded to the extensive country of *Miltis*³ which did not obey me; it consisted of strong mountains and a difficult land. Where it was easy I traversed it in my chariots: where it was difficult I went on foot. In the country of Aruma, which was a difficult land, and impracticable to the passage of my chariots, I left the chariots and marched in front of my troops. Like . . .² on the peak of the rugged mountains, I marched victoriously. The country of *Miltis*,⁴ like heaps of stubble, I swept. Their fighting men in the course of the battle like chaff I scattered. Their moveables, their wealth and their valuables I plundered. Many of their cities I burned with fire. I imposed on them *religious service*,⁵ and offerings and tribute.

¹ *Nirmah mamkhar*. Dr. Hincks.

² Lacuna.

³ *Yem*. Fox Talbot.

⁴ *Eshtish*. Fox Talbot.

⁵ *Hostages*. Fox Talbot. For further and subsequent various readings, see the Edition of 1857.

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