

BULL INSCRIPTION OF SENNACHERIB.

B.C. 705-681.

 TRANSLATED BY

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THE following translation is part of the history of Sennacherib, found on slab I, belonging to the Koyunjik bulls in the British Museum, and published in the *Western Asiatic Inscriptions*, p. 12. It has not been thought desirable to encumber these pages with the text of the three remaining slabs, as they are in a very fragmentary state, and have reference mainly to the buildings erected at Nineveh, consisting chiefly of uninteresting lists of material (wood and stone) and of architectural terms for which it is always difficult, and often impossible, to find modern equivalents.

The perusal of this inscription will present many important points of contact with the Books of Kings and the prophecies of Isaiah, and should be compared with a different text recently translated by the late Mr. G. Smith, at p. 295 of his *Assyrian Discoveries*, and of which the text here given is obviously an abbreviated copy. It need not be remarked that the Sennacherib inscriptions are a remarkable confirmation of the scriptural accounts of the same events.



INSCRIPTION OF SENNACHERIB.

- 1 The palace of SENNACHERIB, great Prince, powerful Prince, Prince of legions, King of the land of Assyria, King of the four regions, worshipped of the great gods *irsu* valiant, the manly, the brave, Chief of the Kings
- 2 of disobedient people, subverter of evil designs. The god ASSUR, the mighty god whose rule hath no equal, hath established me, and over all the inhabitants of realms hath amplified my sway
- 3 from the upper sea towards the sunset to the lower sea of the sunrise, all the Kings of the four regions have I subjugated¹ . . .¹ In my first
- 4 expedition, of MERODACH-BALADAN King of Kardunias together with many warriors of Syria his allies, in the vicinity of the town Kiski I effected the overthrow. For the preservation of his life, by himself
- 5 he fled away : his chariots, his horses, his goats and oxen, and beautiful woollens my hands captured ; I went up to his palace in the heart of Babylon ; I opened it, and
- 6 his treasure house, with gold and silver, vessels of gold and silver, the precious stones, the choice spoils (kept in) that palace, I plundered ; his strong cities, the castles of the land of the Chaldees together with the wide-spread cities of their territory
- 7 I captured and spoiled (together with) their women. On my return I captured and despoiled the Aramæans on the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates with their women. In the course of my expedition

¹ Lacunæ.

8 from the Governor of Hararati I received abundant tribute ; I cut off the hostile population of the city of Hirimmi and destroyed them with the sword ; but few were there whom I left : that city I took
 9 together with its oxen, sheep and goats and all its principal possessions I took possession of for the land of Assyria.

In my second expedition to the lands of Bisiya and Yasibi with my forces I went. Through forests
 10 and difficult places I rode on horseback to a remote spot : to my yoke I subjected it : the cities of Kilamzah, Hardispi, Bit-Kubili, their cities, their fortresses
 11 I captured and despoiled : their women and their cities their sons without number, I destroyed and cut off : the palace I burned with fire : I then returned and Bit-Kalamzah
 12 to Birtutu I annexed : the inhabitants of these lands, the acquisition of my hands, I settled in it ; and reckoned them to the city of Arbuha in the hands of a Viceroy : I turned and to the land of Illipi
 13 the road I took : before me ISPABARA its King his strong city evacuated and to a distance fled : the city Marugarti, the city Akupardu, cities of his sovereignty,
 14 together with the cities of their territory I captured and plundered : their spoil I laid waste, cut off, and burned with fire ; the city Umumirta, the city Hapumah, fortified cities as well as smaller cities
 15 within their territory I captured : the land of Bit-Parua I formed into a complete province and annexed it to the borders of Assyria : the city Ilinzas for the protection of that province I took

- 16 its name I changed, and gave it the title of Kar-Sennacherib : the men of the land the acquisition of my hands I caused to dwell in its midst, and in the hands of the Governor of the city Harhar
- 17 I placed them. On my return I received through my prowess the tribute of the remote land of Media of which the Kings my fathers had not even heard, and subjected them to my yoke.
- 18 In my third expedition I proceeded to the land of (Hatti)¹ : fear at my approach overwhelmed ELULAU (LULI) the King of Zidon, and from the midst of the land of (Aharri)² to (Yatnana)³
- 19 which is in the midst of the sea he fled and quitted his country : I placed TUBALU on the throne of his kingdom : I established over them a tribute for My Majesty : the Kings of the West country, all of them, their abundant tribute
- 20 as a gift, each for his own city, to my presence brought, and ZIDQA King of Ascalon who had not submitted to my yoke. The gods of his fathers' house together with his family
- 21 I removed and deported to Assyria. SARLUDARI the son of RUKIPTI the former King I appointed of the people of Ascalon, and ordained for him the tribute due to my dominion.
- 22 In the course of my expedition I captured and took the spoil of his cities which had not submitted to my yoke. The Governors and the population of the city (Amgaruna)⁴ who PADI their King
- 23 an ally of Assyria with a chain of iron had bound and to

¹ Syria.

² Phœnicia. The Assyrian word *Ahirra* implies that Phœnicia was a land which stood far back, *i.e.* westward.

³ Cyprus. *Yatnana* has reference to the mercantile transactions.

⁴ Ekron.

- HEZEKIAH King of Judah had delivered him, the shadows of death overwhelmed them. The Kings of Egypt gathered archers
- 24 chariots and horses of the King of Meröe,¹ a force without number. Under the walls of Albaku I fought with them, and effected their overthrow. The Commander of the chariots
- 25 the sons of the Egyptian Kings together with the Commanders of the chariots of the King of Meröe alive my hand captured. To Ekron I approached; and the Princes who rebellion
- 26 had brought about, I slew with the sword; the sons of the city who had thus behaved to me I treated as prey; the rest of them who had done nothing (amiss) I proclaimed as innocent. PADI their King
- 27 I brought forth from the midst of Jerusalem and on the throne I set over them, and fixed upon him the tribute due to my dominion. HEZEKIAH King of Judah did not submit to my yoke;
- 28 46 of his cities, strong fortresses and cities of their territory which were without number, I besieged, I captured, I plundered, and counted as spoil. Himself I made like a caged bird in the midst
- 29 of Jerusalem the city of his royalty: garrison-towers over against him I raised: his cities which I had plundered, from the midst of his country I separated, and to the Kings of Ashdod, Askelon
- 30 Ekron and Gaza I made them over, and diminished his land. In addition to previous taxes, I imposed upon them a donation from their own resources as tribute. HEZEKIAH himself the fear of the approach
- 31 of My Majesty overwhelmed, and the *urbi* and his own soldiers and the (other) soldiers whom he had caused to

¹ Æthiopia.

- enter Jerusalem his royal city. He consented to the payment of tribute : 30 talents of gold, 800 talents of silver :
- 32 the bullion the treasure of his palace, his daughters the women of his palace, male musicians and female musicians to within Nineveh the city of my power he caused to carry and for the payment of the tribute he sent his messenger.
- 33 In my fourth expedition to the land of Bit-Yakin I proceeded. In the course of the expedition against SUZUB a Chaldean dwelling in the midst of marshes, at the city Bit-but I effected
- 34 his overthrow. My arms he avoided and fled alone, and his place was not discovered. I then faced about and to the land of Bit-Yakin took the road. He,
- 35 MERODACH-BALADAN¹ whose overthrow I had accomplished in the course of my former campaign, avoided the blows of my powerful arms, and to the city of Nagiti which is in the midst of the sea he fled.
- 36 His brothers the seed of his father's house whom he had left on the sea coast and the rest of the people of his land, from Bit-Yakin in the midst of the marshes and swamps, I took as spoil. I returned, and his cities
- 37 I laid waste and burned with fire. On my return, I seated ASSUR-NADIN-SUM my son on the throne of his dominion, and entrusted him with authority. In my fifth expedition,
- 38 against the people of Tukharri, whose abode like nests of birds upon the rugged mountain tops over Nipur was established, but who had not submitted to my yoke.
- 39 I got ready my chariots at the foot of Nipur, and with my soldiers I, like in their front with an attack that turned not back ; hollows, streams, mountain crags, in a palanquin I passed over

¹ Merodach Baladan. This name may also be written Marduk Bel-Adon, and is obviously Semitic.

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