SENKEREH

INSCRIPTION OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR.

TRANSLATED BY
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THIS text is inscribed on the cylinders which were found at Senkereh in the ruins of the temple of the Sun, which are now in the British Museum.

The original text of this inscription was published in Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia, Vol. I., pl. 51.

The inscriptions of Nebuchadnezzar relate chiefly to the repairs of temples, which are often given at great length.
If we possessed a single historical inscription of that monarch, it could not fail to cast a strong light on Babylonian history, and perhaps on that of the Jews also. But hitherto the researches of our explorers have been unsuccessful in finding any annals or civil records of his reign, unconnected with the public worship of the temples.
SENKEREH

INSCRIPTION OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR.

COLUMN I.

1 Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon
2 the monarch devout and pious
3 worshipper of the Lord of Lords\(^1\)
4 restorer of the temples of Saggathu and Zida
5 the noble son of Nabopolassar
6 King of Babylon, I am he.
7 When the great Lord Marduk
8 the renowned Chief of the gods
9 this land and people
10 gave unto my rule,
11 at that time the temple of Tara
12 which is the temple of the Sun at Senkereh\(^2\)
13 from extreme old age
14 had mouldered into ruin:
15 its interior had fallen, and lay scattered about:
16 its figures\(^3\) were no longer visible.
17 And during my reign the great Lord Marduk
18 that temple
19 shook with an earthquake.
20 Towards all the four quarters of the heavens it was
   thrown down
21 the earth of the interior had been dug up
22 in looking for the figures.
23 Then me Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon
24 his chief worshipper
25 to restore that temple

\(^1\) The god Marduk. \(^2\) Senkereh is the modern name of the city. \(^3\) Idols, or symbolic figures.
COLUMN II.

1 greatly he commanded me.
2 Of its ancient platform
3 I made a repair.\textsuperscript{2}
4 On its ancient platform
5 fine earth I broke small,
6 and flat bricks I placed thereon.
7 Then the temple of Tara, a noble temple,
8 the dwelling of the Sun my Lord
9 for the Sun dwelling in Tara
10 which is within the city of Senkerch,
11 the great Lord, my Lord, I built.
12 O Sun! great Lord!
13 into the temple of Tara, thy divine dwellingplace
14 in joy and gladness
15 when thou shalt enter
16 the pious works of my hands
17 regard with pleasure!
18 and a life of prolonged days
19 a firm throne
20 a long reign
21 may thy lips proclaim for me!
22 and may the gates and doors, and halls, and apartments
23 of the temple of Tara
24 which I have built
25 with no sparing of expense
26 remain recorded in thy book!\textsuperscript{3}

\textsuperscript{1} Or foundation of the old temple. \textsuperscript{2} Akkit.
\textsuperscript{3} The good deeds of the Babylonians were recorded in heaven.
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