THE

LEGEND OF THE TOWER OF BABEL.

TRANSLATED BY

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This legend is found on a tablet marked K 3657, in the British Museum. The story which the tablet contains appears to be the building of some great temple tower, apparently by command of a king. The gods are angry at the work, and so to put an end to it they confuse the speech of the builders. The tablet is in a very broken condition, only a few lines being in any way complete.
The late Mr. George Smith has given a translation of the legend in his work on Chaldean Genesis, and I have published the text and translation in the fifth volume of Transactions of the Society of Biblical Archaeology.
LEGEND OF THE TOWER OF BABEL.

COLUMN I.

1 . . . .  they the father.
2 (The thoughts) of his heart were evil
3 . . . .  the father of all the gods he turned from.
4 (The thoughts) of his heart were evil
5 . . . . Babylon corruptly to sin went and
6 small and great mingled on the mound.
7 . . . . Babylon corruptly to sin went and
8 small and great mingled on the mound.

COLUMN II.

1 The King of the holy mound
2 In front and Anu lifted up
3 to the good god his father
4 Then his heart also
5 which carried a command
6 At that time also
7 he lifted it up
8 Davkina.
9 Their (work) all day they founded

1 Lacunae.
2 A title of Anu.
3 Refers to the king who caused the people to sin.
4 The verb used here is the same as in Gen. xi. 7, 22.
5 A title of Anu.
6 All these broken lines relate to council of gods?
to their stronghold in the night.
entirely an end he made.
In his anger also the secret counsel he poured out
to scatter (abroad) his face he set
he gave a command to make strange their speech
their progress he impeded
the altar

[Column III is so broken, only a few words remain, so I have omitted it.]

COLUMN IV.

In (that day)
he blew and
For future time the mountain
Nu-nam-nir went
Like heaven and earth he spake
His ways they went
Violently they fronted against him
He saw them and to the earth (descended)
When a stop he did not make
of the gods
Against the gods they revolted
violence
Violently they wept for Babylon
very much they wept.
And in the midst

[The rest is wanting.]

1 The tower.
2 Ullazir-ra-nem-i-su-um, "make hostile their council."
3 Lacune. 4 Relates to the destruction of the tower by a storm.
5 The god of "no rule" or lawlessness.
6 The builders continued to build.
7 Lamentations of the gods for the Babylonians.
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