THE ELEVENTH TABLET
OF
THE IZDUBAR LEGENDS.

The Chaldean Account of the Deluge.

BY GEORGE SMITH.

The tablet describing the deluge is the eleventh in a series of twelve tablets describing the adventures of a hero whose name I provisionally call Izdubar, and whom I identify with the Nimrod of Genesis.

These tablets describe the early life and hunting exploits of the hero; his friendship with a faun or satyr named Heabani; his conquest of Humbaba, a tyrant who ruled over the country; the love of Ishtar or Venus for him; his illness; the death of Heabani; and the wanderings to Izdubar, to find his translated ancestor, Hasisadra or Xisuthrus, who for his piety was said to have been taken into the company of the gods,
Izdubar is supposed to reach Hasisadra, and asks him how he became immortal, in answer to which, in this tablet, Xisuthrus tells him the story of the flood.

The principal fragments of this story I found in the autumn of 1872, in the Museum collection of Cuneiform tablets.

Since my paper on the Deluge Tablets, read before the Society 3rd December, 1872, I have found several new fragments in the Museum Collection; and in my two journeys to the site of Nineveh I have procured about a dozen other fragments of these legends. This accession of new material enables me to supply many of the wanting portions of the legend, and to correct other portions where from the mutilation or obscurity of the text the translation was doubtful. This translation is extracted from the interlinear translation published in the *Transactions of the Society of Biblical Archaeology*, Vol. III., p. 530.

**NOTE.**—The death of the learned author of this paper, at Aleppo, on the 19th of August, while these sheets were passing through the press, adds a melancholy interest to a text, the first of a series which he fondly hoped to have completed on his return.
TRANSLATION OF THE ELEVENTH TABLET
OF THE IZDUBAR SERIES.

COLUMN I.

1 Izdubar to him also said to Hasisadra the remote:
2 I am burdened with the matter Hasisadra
3 why thou repeatest not to me from thee
4 and thou repeatest not to me from thee
5 thy ceasing, my heart to make war.
6 presses, of thee, I come up after thee
7 . . . . . .¹ how thou hast done and in the assembly of
8 the gods alive thou art placed.
9
10 Hasisadra to him also said to Izdubar:
11 be revealed to thee Izdubar the concealed story
12 and the judgment of the gods relate to thee
13 the city Surippak the city where thou standest
14 . . . . . .¹ placed
15 that city is ancient . . . .¹ the gods within it
16 . . . . . . .¹ their servant the great gods
17 . . . . . . .¹ the god Anu
18 . . . . . . .¹ the god Elu
19 . . . . . . .¹ the god Ninip
20 and the god . . . . . . .¹ Lord of Hades
21 their will he revealed in the midst . . . . . . .¹ and
22 (I) his will was hearing and he spake (to me)
23 Surippakite son of Ubaratutu
24 . . . . . .¹ make a ship after this . . . . .¹
25 . . . . . .¹ I destroy the sinner and life . . . . .¹
26 cause to ascend in the seed of life all of it, to the
27 midst of the ship
28 the ship which thou shalt make

¹ Lacunæ.
25 . . . . . . . . cubits shall be the measure of its length, and
26 . . . . . . . . cubits the amount of its breadth and its height.
27 . . . . . . . . Into the deep launch it.
28 I perceived and said to Hea my Lord:
29 Hea my Lord this that thou commandest me
30 . . . . . . . . I will perform, it shall be done.
31 (I shall be derided by) young men and old men.
32 Hea opened his mouth and spake, and said to me his servant,
33 . . . . . . . . thou shalt say unto them,
34 . . . . . . . . he has turned from me and
35 . . . . . . . . fixed . . . . . . . .
36 . . . . . . . . like caves . . . . . . .
37 . . . . . . . . above and below . . . .
38 . . . . . . . . close the ship . . . .
39 . . . . . . . . the flood which I will send to you
40 enter and the door of the ship turn
41 into the midst of it thy grain thy furniture and thy goods
42 thy wealth, thy women-servants, thy female slaves and the young men,
43 the beasts of the field, the animals of the field, all I will gather and
44 I will send to thee and they shall be enclosed in thy door.

45 Adrahasis his mouth opened and spake and . . . . .
46 said to Hea his Lord
47 Any one the ship will not make . . . . .
48 . . . . . on the earth fixed . . . . .
49 . . . . . I may see also the ship . . . .
50 . . . . . on the ground the ship . . . .
51 the ship making which thou commandest me . . . . .
52 which in . . . . .

1 Lacunae.  2 The transposition is of the text in this line.
COLUMN II.

1 strong . . . . .
2 on the fifth day . . . . . it
3 in its circuit fourteen measures . . . . its frame
4 fourteen measures it measured . . . . over it
5 I placed its roof, it . . . . I enclosed it.
6 I rode in it on the sixth time examined its exterior on
7 the seventh time
8 its interior I examined on the eighth time
9 planks against the waters within it I placed
10 I saw rents and the wanting parts I added
11 three measures of bitumen I poured over the outside
12 three . . . men carrying its baskets they constructed
13 boxes
14 I gave the boxes which they had sacrificed an offering
15 two measures of boxes I had distributed to the boatmen
16 . . . . . . . . . . were sacrificed oxen
17 . . . . . . . . for every day
18 in . . . . . . . . wine in receptacles and wine
19 (I collected) like the waters of a river, also
20 (food) like the dust of the earth, also
21 . . . . . . . . Shamas . . . . material of the ship completed
22 . . . . . . . . strong and
23 the reed oars of the ship I caused to bring above and
24 below.
25 . . . . . . . . they went in two thirds of it
25 all I possessed the strength of it, all I possessed the
26 strength of it silver,

1 Lacunae.
all I possessed the strength of it gold,
all I possessed the strength of it, the seed of life, the whole
I caused to go up into the ship all my male servants
and my female servants,
the beast of the field, the animal of the field, the sons
of the people all of them I caused to go up;
a flood SHAMAS made and
he spake saying: In the night I will cause it to rain from heaven.
Enter to the midst of the ship and shut thy door (viz.
the ship).
A flood he raised and
he spake saying in the night: I will cause it to rain¹
from heaven heavily.
In the day I celebrated his festival
the day of watching fear I had.
I entered to the midst of the ship and shut my door.
To close the ship to BUZUR-SADIRABI the boatman
the palace I gave with its goods.
The raging of a storm in the morning
arose, from the horizon of heaven extending and wide.
VUL in the midst of it thundered, and
NEBO and SARU went in front,
the throne bearers went over mountains and plains,
the destroyer NERGAL overturned,
NINIP went in front and cast down,
the spirits carried destruction,
in their glory they swept the earth;
of VUL the flood reached to heaven.
The bright earth to a waste was turned,

¹ Or "it will rain."
COLUMN III.

1 the surface of the earth like ... \( ^1 \) it swept,
2 it destroyed all life from the face of the earth ... \( ^1 \)
3 the strong deluge over the people, reached to heaven.
4 Brother saw not his brother, it did not spare the people.
   In heaven
5 the gods feared the tempest and
6 sought refuge; they ascended to the heaven of Anu.
7 The gods like dogs fixed in droves prostrate.
8 Spake Ishtar like a child,
9 uttered the great goddess her speech:
10 All to corruption are turned and
11 then I in the presence of the gods prophesied evil.
12 As I prophesied in the presence of the gods evil,
13 to evil were devoted all my people and I prophesied
14 I the mother have begotten my people and
15 like the young of the fishes they fill the sea.
16 The gods concerning the spirits were weeping with
   me (\( ^2 \), her,
17 the gods in seats seated in lamentation,
18 covered with their lips for the coming evil.
19 Six days and nights
20 passed, the wind, deluge, and storm, overwhelmed.
21 On the seventh day in its course, was calmed the
   storm, and all the deluge
22 which had destroyed like an earthquake,
23 quieted. The sea he caused to dry, and the wind and
   deluge ended
24 I perceived the sea making a tossing;

\( ^1 \) Lacunae.
and the whole of mankind turned to corruption.

like reeds the corpses floated.

I opened the window, and the light broke over my face,
it passed. I sat down and wept,
over my face flowed my tears.

I perceived the shore at the boundary of the sea,
for twelve measures the land rose.

To the country of Nizir went the ship;
the mountain of Nizir stopped the ship, and to pass over it it was not able.

The first day, and the second day, the mountain of Nizir the same.

The third day, and the fourth day, the mountain of Nizir the same.

The fifth, and sixth, the mountain of Nizir the same.

On the seventh day in the course of it
I sent forth a dove and it left. The dove went and turned, and

a resting-place it did not find, and it returned.

I sent forth a swallow and it left. The swallow went and turned, and

a resting-place it did not find, and it returned.

I sent forth a raven and it left.
The raven went, and the corpses on the water it saw,
and it did eat, it swam, and wandered away, and did not return.

I sent the animals forth to the four winds, I poured out a libation,

I built an altar on the peak of the mountain,
by seven jugs of wine I took
at the bottom of them I placed reeds, pines, and spices.
The gods collected at its burning, the gods collected at its good burning;
the gods like sumbe over the sacrifice gathered.
From of old also the great god in his course
the great brightness of ANU had created. When the
 glory . . . . .
of those gods the charm round my neck would not repel.

1 Lacuna.
REVERSE—COLUMN IV.

1 in those days I desired that for ever I might not leave them.

2 May the gods come to my altar,

3 may Bel not come to my altar,

4 for he did not consider and had made a deluge,

5 and my people he had consigned to the deep.

6 From of old also Bel in his course

7 saw the ship, and went Bel with anger filled to the gods and spirits:

8 Let not anyone come out alive, let not a man be saved from the deep.

9 Ninip his mouth opened, and spake and said to the warrior Bel:

10 Who then will be saved? Hea the words understood . . . . '

11 and Hea knew all things. . . . . . '

12 Hea opened his mouth and spake and said to the warrior Bel:

13 Thou Prince of the gods warrior, . . . . '

14 when thou art angry a deluge thou makest;

15 the doer of sin did his sin, the doer of evil did his evil.

16 May the exalted not be broken, may the captive not be delivered.

17 Instead of thee making a deluge, may lions increase and men be reduced;

18 instead of thee making a deluge, may leopards increase and men be reduced;

1 Lacuna.
instead of thee making a deluge, may famine happen
and the country be destroyed;
instead of thee making a deluge, may pestilence
increase and men be destroyed.
I did not peer into the judgment of the gods.
Adrahasis a dream they sent, and the judgment of
the gods he heard.
When his judgment was accomplished, Bel went up
to the midst of the ship.
He took my hand and raised me up,
he caused to raise and to bring my wife to my side;
he purified the country, he established a covenant and
took the people,
in the presence of Hasisadra and the people.
When Hasisadra and his wife, and the people, to be
like the gods were carried away,
then dwelt Hasisadra in a remote place at the mouth
of the rivers.
They took me and in a remote place at the mouth of
the rivers they seated me.
When to thee whom the gods have chosen also,
for the health which thou seest and askest,
this do six days and seven nights,
like in a seat also in bonds bind him,
the way like a storm shall be laid upon him.
Hasisadra after this manner also said to his wife,
I announce that the chief who grasps at health
the way like a storm shall be laid upon him.
His wife after this manner also said to Hasisadra
afar off,
Purify him, and let the man be sent away;
the road that he came may he return in peace,
the great gate open and may he return to his country,
Hasisadra after this manner also said to his wife:
The cry of a man alarms thee,
this do his kurummat place on his head.
And the day when he ascended the side of the ship,
she did, his kurummat she placed on his head.
And the day when he ascended the side of the ship,
first the sabusat of his kurummat,
second the mussukat, third the radbat, fourth she
opened his zikaman,
fifth the cloak she placed, sixth the bassat,
COLUMN V.

1 seventh in the opening she purified him and let the man go free.

2 IZDUBAR after this manner also said to HASISADRA afar off:

3 In this way thou was compassionate over me,

4 joyfully thou hast made me, and thou hast restored me.

5 HASISADRA after this manner also said to IZDUBAR,

6 . . . . . . . . . thy kurummat,

7 . . . . . . . . . separated thee,

8 . . . . . . . . . thy kurummat,

9 second the mussakat, third the radbat,

10 fourth she opened the zikaman,

11 fifth the cloak she placed, sixth the bassat,

12 seventh in the opening I purified thee and let thee go free.

13 IZDUBAR after this manner also said to HASISADRA afar off:

14 . . . . . . . . . HASISADRA to thee may we not come

15 . . . . . . . . . collected

16 . . . . . . . . . dwelling in death,

17 . . . . . . . . . his back(?) dies also.

18 HASISADRA after this manner also said to URHAMI the boatman:

19 URHAMI . . . . . . to thee we cross to preserve thee.

20 Who is beside the . . . . . . of support;

\* Lacunæ.
The man whom thou comest before, disease has filled his body; illness has destroyed the strength of his limbs.
Carry him Urhamsi, to cleanse take him, his disease in the water to beauty may it turn, may he cast off his illness, and the sea carry it away, may health cover his skin,
may it restore the hair of his head, hanging to cover the cloak of his body.
That he may go to his country, that he may take his road, the hanging cloak may he not cast off, but alone may he leave.

Urhamsi carried him, to cleanse he took him, his disease in the water to beauty turned, he cast off his illness, and the sea carried it away, and health covered his skin.
He restored the hair of his head, hanging down to cover the cloak of his body.
That he might go to his country, that he might take his road, the hanging cloak he did not cast off, but alone he left.

Izdubar and Urhamsi rode in the ship, where they placed them they rode.
His wife after this manner also said to Hasisadra afar off:
Izdubar goes away, he is satisfied, he performs that which thou hast given him, and returns to his country.

And he carried away the breaches of Izdubar, and the ship touched the shore.
Hasisadra after this manner also said to Izdubar:
Izdubar thou goest away, thou art satisfied, thou performest
that which I have given thee, and thou returnest to thy country.

46 Be revealed to thee IZDUBAR the concealed story;
47 and the judgment of the gods be related to thee.
48 This account like bitumen . . . .
49 its renown like the sight of . . . .
50 when the account a hand shall take . . . .
51 IZDUBAR, this in his hearing heard, and . . . .
52 he collected great stones . . . . .

1 Lacunæ.
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