INSCRIPTION OF ASSUR-IZIR-PAL(?).

TRANSLATED BY
W. BOOTH FINLAY.

THE first volume of the Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia, pl. 28, contains an inscription from a broken obelisk, attributed by Sir Henry Rawlinson to Sardanapalus (Assur-izir-pal). The learned General is of opinion that this obelisk, which was found in the ruins of Koyunjik, had been originally erected at Elassar (Kileh-Shergat), as the second column of the inscription treats principally of buildings belonging to this latter city.

There is however nothing in the inscription itself to identify the obelisk with Assur-izir-pal, whose early capital was Elassar, rather than with a later king, who reigned at Nineveh where the monument was found. Indeed, there are fair grounds for attributing it to a later monarch than Assur-izir-pal, as it seems strange
that buildings of his father and grandfather should have fallen into decay within so short a period.

In the uncertainty, and for sake of reference, I have left the designation as it stands in the volume of inscriptions. A translation was made by the late Mr. Fox Talbot in 1859, which was published in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, Vol. XIX. M. Oppert also translated the inscription in his Histoire des Empires de Chaldée et d'Assyrie, 1865, p. 132–135, which translation has been followed by M. Menant in the different fragments given by him in his Annales des Rois d'Assyrie.

The following translation differs slightly from the latter; that of the late Mr. Fox Talbot has been considerably amended by the progress made in Assyriology since 1859.¹

¹ The first column having been already translated by the Rev. William Houghton, see pp. 7-10, the continuation of the text only is here given.

W.R.C.
INSCRIPTION OF ASSUR-IZIR-PAL(?).

COLUMN II.

1 Bit-Abusate, the Palace of my lordship, had become too small,
2 the storehouses and all its buildings had decayed, and
3 from its foundations to its roof I rebuilt it.
4 Bit-Sahuri, which IRIB-BIN (had built), and its massive buildings
5 facing the North, which ASSUR-IDIN-AKHI, King of Assyria,
6 had erected, having fallen in ruins, I rebuilt. The moat
7 of my city Assur, which had been destroyed, and which
8 the earth had filled up,
9 from the great gate . . . to the gate of the Tigris I dug.
10 The fir posts of the great iron gate Sahu I removed,
11 excellent beams of shittim wood I made,
12 and with sheets of copper I joined them. The great citadel
13 of my city Assur completely
14 I built. Heaps of earth round about it
15 against the raised part I spread. A temple of cedar,
16 a temple of ivory, a temple of butni-wood, a temple of carved wood,
17 in my city Assur I made. For the castles 4 burhisi, and
18 4 lions of adamant, 2 sacred bulls and lions
19 of polished stone, 2 burhisi of fine white stone

1 Lacuna.
2 Probably a network of earthen fortifications rendering the access to the citadel difficult.
3 Oppert translates butni by "pistachier."
I made, and in their gates I set them up.
The canal which Assur-dan-il had dug,
for 30 years the water
within it
did not run; the head of that canal I dug over again,
and the water into its bed I brought; trees I planted
alongside.
The parapet which for the great dyke of the gate of the
Tigris
Bin-nirari, King of Assyria, had built, had gone to
decay
and had perished. On the water-courses cement
and brick for 5 measures I laid. The building
of the Palace Kumti, which before Kisalate
Tiglath-ninip, King of Assyria, had made,
for the length of 1 ns and 3 kumani-alib had gone to
decay
and had perished, from its foundation to its roof I built
it up.
The Palace in the city Iz... which rishuli, which of
the city Lib... The Palace Kumta in ma-a-qa
The Palace in the city Atki, which ...
I built... the fortress...
The Complete Text can be found on our CD: Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature which can be purchased on our Website: www.Brainfly.net
or by sending $64.95 in check or money order to: Brainfly Inc.
5100 Garfield Ave. #46
Sacramento CA 95841-3839

TEACHER’S DISCOUNT:
If you are a TEACHER you can take advantage of our teacher’s discount. Click on Teachers Discount on our website (www.Brainfly.net) or Send us $55.95 and we will send you a full copy of Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature AND our 5000 Classics CD (a collection of over 5000 classic works of literature in electronic format (.txt)) plus our Wholesale price list.

If you have any suggestions such as books you would like to see added to the collection or if you would like our wholesale prices list please send us an email to: webcomments@brainfly.net