TEXTS RELATING TO

THE FALL OF THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE.

TRANSLATED BY
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THE following fragments seem to refer to the closing days of the Assyrian monarchy when Kyaxares the Mede, with the Kimmerians, the people of Minni, or Van, and the tribe of 'Saparda, or Sepharad (cf. Od., 20), on the Black Sea, was threatening Nineveh. Esarhaddon II., the Sarakos of the Greek writers, had proclaimed a solemn assembly to the gods, in the hope of warding off the danger. But the bad writing of the tablets shows that they are merely the first rough text of the royal proclamation, and we may perhaps infer that the capture of Nineveh and the overthrow of the Empire
prevented a fair copy from ever being taken. In the fragments translated below, Kaztaritu, or Kyaxares, is called "King of Karukassu" (?Caucasus), but a detached fragment terms him "King of Media."

The fragments are numbered S 2005 and K 4668, and I have given a copy of the text (transliterated) in my *Babylonian Literature* (Bagster and Sons), pp. 79, 80.
THE FALL OF THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE.

FIRST FRAGMENT.

1 (O Sun-god), mighty (Lord), to whom I will pray, O god of fixed destiny, remove (our sin).

2 (Cas)tarit, Lord of the city of Car-cassi, who to Mamiti-ar
e.

3 (Lord of the city) of the Medes had sent thus: With one another we are established, with the country of . . .

(we are confederate).

4 (Mam)ti-ar
e; he sets his hearing before him;

5 . . . .1 this year with Esar-haddon, King (of Assyria, war he makes).

6 . . . .1 according to thy great divinity . . . .1

7 . . . .1 of Mamiti-ar
e, Lord of the city of the Medes . . . .1

8 . . . .1 (Esar-haddon), King of Assyria in . . . .2

[The rest of the tablet is too broken to be legible, but mention is made of "the city 'Sandalitir,' and of "the people of 'Saparda.']

1 Lacunae.

2 Perhaps Babylonia has to be supplied here.

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SECOND FRAGMENT.

1 O Sun-god, great Lord, I have prayed to thee; O god of fixed destiny, remove our sin.

2 From the current day the third day of this month Iyyar\(^1\) to the 15th day of the month Ab of the current year,

3 for 100 days (and) 100 nights current, let the General among the ranks proclaim sacred rites (and) festivals;

4 since Castarit with his soldiers, and the soldiers of the Kimmerians,

5 and the soldiers of the Medes, and the soldiers of the Minni, and the enemy, all of them,

6 inundate (and) are multitudinous . . . . \(^2\) since on the seventh (day) . . . . \(^3\)

7 during the festival, by means of conflict and battle, and battering engines the revolters revolted.

8 Then with machines of war . . . . \(^2\) and with famine

9 and with the oath of obedience to god and (King), and in addition . . . . \(^2\)

10 and with the bond of a letter . . . . \(^2\) (to) the cities, all of them

\(^1\) Iyyar corresponds roughly to our April, Ab to our July.

\(^2\) Lacunae.
11 (belonging to) the city of the Cisaštians, . . . . t
the midst of the city Khartam, the city Cisaššu they
approached;
12 the city Khartam, (and) the city Cisaššu their hands
captured. 2
13 To their hands the Sun-god, the mighty eye (of heaven)
numbered (them, along with)
14 five (villages) of the city of Khartam (and) the city
Cisaššu into the hands of the enemy, all of them.
15 From the current day to the day of the feast in the land
before thy great divinity
16 I, left . . . . t (in) the midst of them they devise, they
turn and . . . . 1

[The next 8 lines are too mutilated for translation.]

26 Since that (from) the current day, the 3rd day of (this)
month Iyyar to the 11th day of the month Ab of the
current year,
27 CASTARIT with his soldiers (and) the forces of the
Kimmerians, the soldiers of the Minni,
28 and the soldiers of the Medes, (and) the enemy, all of
them,

1 Lacunae.

2 These cities were probably situated on the northern frontier of
Assyria.
29 the city of Khartam (and) the city of Cisaššu approached; the city of Khartam (and) the city of the Cisaššutians,

30 (even) the city of Khartam (and) the city of Cisaššu their hands captured; to their hands they were measured.

\[\text{Lacuna.}\]
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