OLDEST FLOOD STORY

As Told by a Babylonian Brick of 2140 B. C.

AGES ERE MOSES LIVED

Was it the Origin of the Biblical Narrative?

New York, Feb. 12.—The Herald says: From the buried ruins of the ancient city of Sippara, in Babylonia, comes an inscribed clay tablet giving an entirely new version of the story of the flood. It is believed to antedate all other accounts by many centuries.

The text is written in the cuneiform characters, and is dated, according to the inscription, "the twenty-eighth day of the month Sebat, in the year when King Ammizaduga built the fortress of Ammizadugaki, at the mouth of the Euphrates." Professor Pere Scheil, the famous French Assyriologist, is the discoverer of the tablet. His description, together with a translation of the inscription, and also the opinion of Dr. William Hayes Ward, the well known Biblical scholar, on the discovery are given herewith.

Among the many ancient Biblical cities whose ruins dot the Babylonian plain and lie buried deeply in the sands of that historic soil is one that for years has been looked upon by scientists as probably holding within its depths many secrets of the past—secrets of the dawn mankind. It is the city of Sippara, of whose ruins nothing now remains but a few crumbling walls in the last stages of decay. In this city, so Berosus, the great ancient historian, tells us, Noah previous to the flood, buried the records of the world's antediluvian history. Ages have passed since then, but those records have not yet come to light.

Now, however, from the ruins of this very city comes a clay tablet telling a new story of the flood itself—a story which in many respects corroborates the Hebrew account as contained in the Bible, yet gives a fuller and much more detailed version than the modern world has ever had. The tablet is twenty-two centimetres inheight by twenty in breadth. According to its deciphered inscription, it was written about the year 2140 B. C., or shortly after the time Hebrew chronology says the deluge occurred.

The tablet was originally almost square and inscribed on each side, with four columns to a side. It has so crumbled with age that only portions of the first, second, seventh and eighth columns are left, but they are the most important part of the whole inscription.

Professor Pere Schiel, the discoverer and decipherer of the tablet, says:

"This fragment that is preserved to us shows that the tablet had four columns on each side, and in reading it one must pass from column four on the one side to column five on the other, so that the end is directly opposite the beginning. This end is the most important part of the whole writing, and very fortunately this part of the document has been preserved to us. Unlike the inscriptions on most of the ancient tablets that from time to time have been unearthed, the writing on this one appears to have been made with great care. It is for the most part exceedingly well written, and the signs, although a little worn, are still decipherable.

"The writing is in the cuneiform scrip and the characters are cut deeply into the clay. After each ten lines the writer lightly marked the sign for ten in the margin of the column and the total of the column at the foot, and finally the total number of lines at the end of the tablet—in all 430 lines. The tablet is dated in the reign of Ammizaduga, 'the twenty-eighth day of the month Sebat, in the year when King Ammizaduga built the fortress of Ammizadugaki, at the mouth of the Euphrates.' This gives us a definite epoch—about 2140 B. C."

Professor Schiel's discovery is of the utmost importance from the fact that some years ago George Smith, the great English Assyriologist, discovered a tablet in the ruins of Nineveh giving a full account of the deluge and dated 600 B. C. This was the oldest account of the flood that had ever been unearthed, but the closing paragraph of the tablet said that it was only a copy of a still older document that had been lost centuries before. Ever since then scientists and Biblical scholars the world over have been vainly searching for these older tablets. Professor Schiel has now recovered one of them and in it the original account of the great event from which the other versions are supposed to have been taken.

WHAT DR. WARD SAYS.

Dr. William Hayes Ward, the distinguished American assyriologist, says of the value of Pere Schell's discovery of the ancient Babylonian tablet:

"Pere Schell's discovery of a tablet containing a Babylonian account of the deluge much older than that of Moses is interesting not only to scholars but to all readers of the Bible. The Hebrew account of the deluge found in Genesis has so far been paralleled by two Babylonian accounts—one that of Berosus, a Babylonian historian, whose narrative has been handed down to us by early Greek Christian writers, and the other found on Assyrian tablets deciphered by George Smith. Both resemble and yet both differ from the Genesis story.

"Biblical critics have differed as to the age of the Biblical story, the more conservative holding that, being written by Moses, it is older than his time and was incorporated by him into the book of Genesis, while the newer school of critics generally believed that the story was borrowed from Nineveh or Babylon at the time of the captivity or not long before it, at which time the book of Genesis was written.

"The great thing lacking in the tablets found by George Smith in King Assurbanipal's library at Nineveh was that they have not assured us of the age of the deluge story among the inhabitants of the Euphrates valley. The inscription said that they were copied from still older tablets in Babylonian libraries, but we did not know how old these original tablets were. These original Babylonian tablets have therefore been much desired.

"Pere Scheil has now made this discovery. To be sure, the tablet is a very fragmentary bit, but it is large enough for us to make sure of the story that it contained, and most fortunately the most important part of all is preserved—the colophon, with the date. It is dated in the reign of Ammizaduga, king of Babylon, and we know that he reigned about 2140 B. C.

"We therefore have here a precious bit of clay on which was written a story of the deluge many centuries before Moses and about the time of Isaac or Jacob. That is enough to make the discovery one of great importance to Biblical science."

THE STORY OF THE BRICKS.

Here is the story of the deluge as the tablets tell it. The first column of the new tablet is in bad condition, but the portion of it that is decipherable states that a certain great action is being performed. There is some question about the human race, of its complaints, and of Ramman, the god of the tempests, who is about to produce a deluge to punish mankind. The second column goes on to tell of the maledictions of a deity uttered against the sinful human race, and says:

That .....
That he has.....
That he should kill; that he should destroy .....
In the morning that he should rain down the extermination .....
That during the night he should prolong
That he should rain down the inundation .....
The plain he will make its ruin great: the city .....
That which Ramman shall have accomplished in the city.....
He says he will overturn the land.....
He raises a cry .....
The gode will not fear .....

Then follow some lines too mutilated to read. The seventh column continues the story and says that a friendly god will be on hand at the destruction of the world, "who will stretch out a helping hand to men." Safety will be secured, for a prolongation of the seed of men, beasts and all living things, by means of a ship. This ship is to be built by a man (Noah), who, with hi sfamily and the animals he will take with him into it, are to be the sole survivors of the deluge that is to sweep the earth. The writing says:

Ea spake the word,
And said to me:
Why wilt thou make men to die.....
I will reach out my hand to men.....
The deluge of which thou speakest.....
Whatever it may be, I.....
I, shall I have produced in vain;
He shall be informed of it,
To the end that he build.....
And he shall beget .....
And they may enter into the ship.....
That Pirnaptism (Noah) take the oar.....
That he may come.....
That he may take .....
That he .....

Then come more mutilated lines. At this point George Smith's tablet takes up the story in the form of Noah's personal recital of all the wonderful circumstances of the flood after the great occurrence was over and he and his family were saved. Coming from Nineveh, it is a somewhat different version, but it carries the ancient account right along. Noah says:

"Let me reveal to thee the story of my preservation
And the hidden thing of the gods let me tell to thee.
The city of Surippak, which thou knowest is placed on the Euphrates,
That city was very ancient when the gods within it,
To make a deluge the great gods brought their hearts,
Their father and their king; their Counsellor the Warrior Bell; their Throne bearer, the god Ada, and
The god Ea, the lord of the underworld,
Repeated their decree
I this destiny hearing as he said to me
O man of Surippak! son of Ubarratutu,
Destroy the house and build a ship
For I will destroy the seed and the life
Cause them to go up into the ship all seed that hath life,
The ship which thou shalt make —— cubits its length in measure,
—— cubits the contents of its breadth and height
Above the deep; roof it over.
I understood and said to Ea, my lord,
The building of the ship which thou commandest
If it be made by me,
Then will laugh at me, the children of the people, and the old men.
Ea opened his mouth and spake to me his servant,
If they laugh at thee, thou shalt say to them,
Every one who has turned from thee
Shall be punished, for the protection of the gods is over me.
I will judge my judgment upon all above and below.
Close not the ship
Until the season when I shall send thee word saying:
"Enter the ship and close the door"
In the interior of it, thy grain, thy furniture, th ywealth, thy goods, thy man-servants and maid-servants and the young men,
The cattle of the field and the animals of the field, as many as I would preserve,
I will send to thee; then make firm thy door.
The reverent and holy one opened his mouth and spake to Ea, his lord:
No one has made such a ship
On the ground to hold all things
The form of the ship let me see,
And on the ground I will make the ship which thou commandest.
On the fifth day two sides were raised,
In its enclosure (hull) fourteen ribs,
Also fourteen they number above.
I placed its roof and enclosed it.
Sixthly, I made it firm; seventhly, I divided its passages;
Eighthly, its interior I examined.
Openings to the water I stopped;
I searched for cracks and the wanting parts I fixed;
Three sari of bitumen I poured over the outside;
Three sari of bitumen I poured over the interior;
Three sari of men bearers who carried chests on their heads.
I kept a saros of chests for my people to eat,
Two sari of chests I divided among the boatmen.
To the gods I caused oxen to be sacrificed.
I gathered like the waters of the river,
And food as the dust of the earth
In receptacles my hand placed
With the help of the Sun God the ship was completed;
All was made strong,
And above and gelow the tackling was fixed;
Then of my possessions I took two-thirds;
All I had of silver I gathered together.
All I had of gold I gathered together the whole.
All I had of the seed of life I gathered together,
I caused them all to be carried up into the ship....all my men-servants and maid servants,
The cattle of the field and the beasts of the field, and the young men, all of them, I caused to go up
The season the Sun god had fixed, and of which he spake saying:
"I will cause it to rain from heaven heavily;"
"Enter into the midst of the ship and close thy door."
That season fixed came round of which He spake, saying: "I will cause it to rain from heavily.
Of that day when I reached the twilight.
The day which I had watched for with fear,
I entered into my ship and closed the door,
That I might close my ship, to Buzur-Sadairabu,
The boatman, the great house, I gave with all its goods.
Then rose the water of dawn at daylight,
Like a black cloud on the horizon of heaven;
The Thunder God in the midst of it thundered.
Nebo and the Wind God marched in front
The throne bearers (storm clouds) go over the mountain and plain.
The Pestilence God brings with him affliction;
The War God goes in front and casts down;
The angels of earth carry the destruction;
In their glory they swept through the land.
The deluge of the Rain God reaches to heaven;
The darkened earth to waste is turned;
The surface of the earth like fire they sweep.
They destroyed all life from the face of the arth.
To battle against men they brought the deluge.
Brother saw not brother; men knew one another;
Even in heaven the gods feared the flood
And sought refuge. They ascended to the heaven of Anu.
The gods like dogs in kennels lay in heaps
Then cried Istar like a mother
And the great goddess does utter her speech
"All things to clay are turned,
And the evil which I proclaimed in the presence of the gods,
As I announced in the presence of the gods, is that evil;
As I announced, to evil are devoted all my people
And though I the mother have begotten my people,
Yet like the spawn of fishes they fill the sea"
Then the gods were weeping with her concerning the spirts;
The gods on their thrones were seated weeping;
Covered with their lips because of the coming evil.
Six days and nights
The wind, the deluge and the storm go on sweeping away.
The seventh day when it approached the rain subsided, and the great deluge
Which had assailed like a host
Was appeased.
The sea began to dry and the wind and flood ended
I watched the sea making a tossing,
And the whole of mankind had turned to clay;
Like reeds the corpses floated.
I opened the window and the light struck on my face.
I was sad at heart; I sat down; I wept;
Over my face flowed my tears.
I looked at the regions bounding the sea;
To the twelve points no land was seen.
To the country of Nizir floated the ship.
The mountain of Nizir stopped the ship and to pass over it was not able.
The first day, the second, the mountain of Nizir the same;
The third day and fourth day the mountain of Nizir the same;
The fifth and sixth day the mountain of Nizir the same;
On the seventh day in the course of it
I sent forth a dove. It left. The dove went and turned.
A resting place it saw not, it returned back.
I sent forth a swallow; it left and turned and
A resting place it could not see, and it returned back.
I sent forth a raven, and it left.
The raven went and the corpses (carrion) which were on the water it saw.
It did eat—it floated and was carried away—it returned not.
I sent the animals forth to the four winds of heaven.
Is sacrificed a sacrifice.
I built the altar on the peak of the mountain
Adgur. Jars by sevens I placed;
Below them I spread reeds, pine wood and spices
The gods smelled the odor.
The gods smelled the sweet odor.
The gods like flies over the master the master the sacrifice gathered.
Then from afar the great goddess in her approach
Raised up the great zones which Anu had created as his glory.
Those days I had thought of and never may I forget them
May the gods come to my altar
May Bel not come to my altar
Since he did not reflect and make a deluge,
And consigned my people to the deep
When thereupon Bel in his approach
Saw the ship stopped, his heart was filled with anger upon gods and spirits.
Let none come forth alive. Let no man escape the deep
Adar opened his mouth and spake. He says to the Warrior Bel:
Whosoever except Ea can make a design
Even Ea knows and all things he teaches.
Ea opened his mouth and spake. He says to the Warrior Bel:
Oh! thou counsellor of the gods, why, why didst thou reflect and didst make a deluge.
Let the doer of sin bear his sin and let the transgressor bear his transgression.
May the just prince not be cut off, may the faithful not perish
Instead of making a deluge, may lions increase and men decrease.
Instead of making a deluge, may jackals increase and men be decreased.
Instead of making a deluge, may famine happen and men be wasted.
Instead of making a deluge, may pestilence increase and men decrease.
I did not reveal the hidden things of the gods.
To the reverent and wise one a dream I sent him and the hidden thing he heard.
When Bel had reflected on his counsel he went up into the midst of the ship.
He took my hand and raised me up.
He caused me to raise up and placed my wife by my side.
He turned himself to us and established himself to us in a covenant.
Hitherto Sanas-Napisti (Noah) has been o mortal man;
Even now Sanas-Napisti and his wife are made unto gods and borne away as
Then shall dwell Sanas-Napisti (Noah) in a remote place at the mouth of the rivers.
They took us, and in a remote place at the mouth of the rivers they seated us.

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BELGIAN PRINCE COMING

King Menelik Will Take a Vacation in Europe.

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London, Feb. 12.—Anthony Hope has been talking freely regarding America since his return home. He says that he lieves half the population of the United States is composed of interviewers, "whose pre-eminent characteristics are conceit, as, while every one asked me innumerable questions as to m yopinion of the United States and its literature, past, present and future, no one asked me a single question regarding England or the English."

Hope also related many alleged gaucheries of American women to whom he was introduced, adding that they had many ways of expressing that they were frankly disappointed in their expectations concerning his personality.

BELGIAN PRINCE COMING.

Prince Albert of Belgium, the nephew of King Leopold, of Belgium and heir presumptve to the Belgian throne, will accompany his uncle to the Riviera on board the steam yacht Mayflower, formerly the property of the late Mr. Ogden Goelet of New York but recently purchased by his majesty. The prince will then start for the United States. From one of the aides-de-camp of the king a correspondent of the Associated Press learns that the program of the prince's tour is very long. He means to see almost every part of the United States from New York to California, New Orleans and Florida, and as far north as Seattle and Portland and back through Canada to St. Johns. The prince has already decided just what he will visit in each city. The prince will also visit Boston, Bar Harbor, Lenox, Niagara, Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth, St. Louis, Louisville, Cincinnati, Pittsburg, Oil City, Salt Lake City, Denver, Colorado Springs, the Yellowstone Park and other cities. The report that the prince intends to consult President McKinley regarding the Congo affairs is unfounded.

MENELIK'S VACATION.

Kink Menelik of Abysinnia is preparing for a journey to the European capitals, and is collecting all the objects of special artistic interest in Abyssinia, the most valuable of which he will take as gifts to the various rulers. His majesty intends to ge absent about eight months and the government of Abyssinia during that time will be entrusted to the queen.

DYNAMITERS FEARED.

Quite a sensation has been created in Dublin by the extraordinary precautions adopted for the safety of the castle. In addition to the regular police force and soldiers, a large guard fully armed and relieved every two hours is placed on the castle roof, over the chief secretary's library. The only surmise possible is that an attempt to dynamite the building is contemplated.

WALES HAS HIS WAY.

The list of members of the royal commission to represent Great Britain at the Paris exhibition of 1900 as published by the London Gazette last week, was drawn up by the Prince of Wales, the prince having rejected the government list on the ground that it was too cliquey and too Tory-Unionist and demanding that if he was to be president of the commission he should select his own associates. The government was aghast but acquiesced.

THE AMERICAN COUNTESSES.

The Riviera is a complete carnival. The battle of flowers at Cannes on Thursday brought out 25,000 people. There was a large contingent of English, including the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. Ten tons of flowers were thrown. The Count and Countess de Castellane participated in the festivities. They will stop ten days at the Villa Luynes, and thence will enjoy a two months' cruise on board the Valhalla in the Mediterranean, during which they will visit Tunis and Algiers.

The Duchess of Marlgorough has opened a bazaar at Hull in aid of the sailors' charities, and she intends repeating the Blenheim theatricals in London during the season, when the Marlboroughs will entertain lavishly ,especially in the direction of politics in which the duke is ambitious. The duchess is credted with a desire to revive the glories of the political salons, such as existed during the thirties.

At Tuesday's meeting of the Qurn hunt the duchess appeared driving with her sister-in-law, in an American buggy, yellow painted and drawn by a high-stepping American trotter. The turnout attracted much attention.

Denver, Col., Feb. 11.—The state board of arbitration rendered its decision tonight on the questions in dispute between the miners and operators of the northern Colorado district. The board found in favor of the striking miners in every particular. Early in January the miners employed in the Louisvile and Lafayette districts submitted demands to the operators for an increase in the schedule paid for labor in these districts. Later the miners of the Louisville district withdrew their demands and went to work. The Lafayette men went out and today the board of arbitration granted them each and every demand made by them.

Trenton, N. J., Feb. 11.—Chancellor McGill today appointed a receiver for the Edgemont and Union Hill Smelting company. This is one of the companies in which Francis C. Grable is interested. The receivership is in accordance with a determination made at a meeting of the company on Tuesday of last week. The liabilities are given as $250,000, of which amount $155,000 consists of overdue protested notes.

Christiana, Feb. 11.—The Shorthing was opened today. The king's speech referred to the unforgetable proofs of effection" received from a large section of the Nrweigian people in connection with the 25th anniversity of his coronaton.

Kingston, Jamca, Feb. 11.—The Italian warship are expected at Port au Prnce from St. Thomas, to enforce pending clams of the Italian government to the amount of $120,000. The fall of the ministry is imminent.

Key West, Fla., Feb. 11.—The torpedo boat Cushing sailed for Havanna this afternoon. Admiral Sicard, who was given a leave of absence several days ago, will assume command of the fleet again tomorrow.

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Correspondence solicited. Markets by Eagle and Drovers' News sent free. Make your consignments to us. Special inducements to feeders.

(Established 1876.)
FRED. W. ISRAEL. R. C. ISRAEL.
ISRAEL BROS.,
Real Estate and Rents
To buy Wichita city property or Sedgwick county land at present prices, means large returns on your money. Wichita, with her stock and other industries, is just in her infancy, and such bargains as we can now offer were never offered before. All having business in our line are invited to call or correspond.
The Wichita interests of non-residents property and faithfully cared for. Office second floor, 123 North Market, Israel Building.

Lafayette Hills. J. C. Kinkaid.
Reference, Kansas National Bank.
HILLIS & KINKAID
Rental and Collection Agents
Room 1, 143 N. Market St., Wichita, Kan. Houses rented, rents collected, repairs made economically. We solicit the care and sale of property for non-residents.

BANKS.

J. O. Davidson, Pres. C. H. Davidson, Cash. Chas. Testard, Ass't Cash. F. A. Russell, Teller

Kansas National Bank.
(Oldest Bank in the Arkansas Valley.)
Capital, $100,000. Surplus, $15,000.

L. E. Naftzger, Pres. E. R. Powell, V. Pres. J. M. Moore, Cash. J. N. Richardson, Ass't Cashier.
Fourth National Bank
Of Wichita.
Capital - - - $100,000.00
A General Banking Business Transacted.

A. C. Jones, Pres. C. W. Carey, Cash. J. H. Black, V. Pres.
Bank of Commerce
Directors—J. N. Roach, S. W. Cooper, Geo. P. Dole, A. C. Jones, C. W. Carey, J. H. Black and R. R. Vermilion.
Your Business Solicited.
Statement of condition Oct. 4, 1897:
RESOURCES.

Loans and discounts	$ 97,[illegible]
Furniture and fixtures	[illegible]
Stocks and bonds	[illegible]
Cash and sight exchange	176,027.43
Total	[illegible]

LIABILITIES.

Capital stock	$ 25,000.00
Net profits	[illegible]
Deposits	241,[illegible]
Total	[illegible]

J. H. LONGSTREET, President. CHAS. H. POOL, Cashier.
Sedgwick County Bank
New Business Solicited. Correspondence Invited.
Banking in All Its Branches