

Writings Seven Thousand Years Ago.

In regard to the great discovery of the library at Nippur, the New York Journal says:

In ancient Nippur, a buried city of Mesopotamia, near the site of the famous Babylon, on the Euphrates river, has been found this summer the oldest library in the world.

Seventeen thousand tablets with cuneiform inscriptions have been unearthed containing a history of the ancient world dating back over 3,000 years beyond the earliest Biblical records.

Professor Hermann V. Hilprecht, director of the University of Pennsylvania's Babylonian expedition, made this remarkable discovery.

The antiquity of Nippur may be judged from the fact that under its former name of Carac, it is one of the first cities mentioned in the Bible.

In the tenth chapter of Genesis, where the first mention of any cities is made, is this allusion to it:

"And in the beginning of his (Nimrod's) kingdom were such as Accad and Carac, in the land of Shinar."

So it may be supposed that when the Bible had only begun to be written this history of Nippur was old. In fact, if the present calculations of scientific men be correct, Nippur's historical library reached almost as far back as Biblical times as we do at the present day are removed from Abraham's day.

Two thousand years before Christ as the date when Abraham, the founder of the Jewish nation, is supposed to have lived, while Nippur's new-found inscriptions on tablets of clay reach back 3,000 years beyond that date, perhaps to the very dawn of civilization upon the earth.

Prof. Hilprecht believes that this was the greatest library of the ancient world. He estimates that the tablets so far found are only one-sixth or one-eighth of the number that will be brought to light when the excavations at Nippur are carried still further.

So recently that these inscribed tablets been found that it has not yet been possible to make translations of them. Only a few dates have been deciphered which show their extreme antiquity.

These tablets, the oldest books in the world, are of hardened, unglazed, clay, on which are stamped the cuneiform characters of the Sumerian language, the tongue of the earliest inhabitants of the lower Babylonian region. It is radically different from the Hebrew tongue, and again to Syriac. The modern Assyriologists are able to decipher it with accuracy, so it may be assumed that in a short time this entire ancient history may be presented to the present day readers.

The tablets are in excellent condition and few are broken. They vary from three to six feet in length. Only a comparative few have been removed and will be brought to the United States. The others will be translated on the ruins of Nippur.

Professor Hilprecht, in whom the discovery is due, writes of the importance of his latest "find" in a recent letter to his friends in Philadelphia:

"The results obtained have fully real-

The Nippur "Find"

ized our expectations. A long wall of apparently important and very ancient structure, built of kiln-burned bricks, has been discovered, and traced a distance of nearly 500 feet by means of a series of open trenches and tunnels. On the level of the plain, 25 feet below the surface of the mounds, another arch of burned bricks and part of a water course were excavated.

"One hundred and ninety-five tombs have been opened. All the bones and articles which allow of transportation have been saved. Only such specimens of the sarcophagi will be removed as form an important link in the history of Babylon. In many cases rings, anklets, bangles, bracelets and beads of copper and stone were found in the tombs.

"The most important find, however, was the rescued cuneiform tablets and other inscribed objects. Apparently we have found another archive in the lower strata at a considerable depth below the present level of the plain. Among other remarkable objects are 17 seal cylinders, seven inscribed steles of burned clay and several fragments of a large burned clay cylinder. These are from a period 2,000 to 3,000 B. C.

"The number of workmen at present employed in the trenches is 208. A considerable gang of natives working on the temple hill on the eastern side of the Shatt-en-Nil, exploring the lower strata of the temple of Bel, found the important old Babylonian fragments, from which I was enabled to restore the important texts of King Lagal-zagzag and other powerful monarchs ruling in the fourth and fifth pre-Christian millennium.

"Concerning the ruins of the great temple of Nippur, Prof. Hilprecht writes: "As early as 11 years ago I pointed out that the extensive group of hills to the southwest of the temple of Bel must be regarded as the probable site of the temple library of ancient Nippur. About 250 hundred tablets were rescued from the trenches in this hill during our first campaign.

"Later excavations increased the number of tablets taken from these mounds. But it was only within the last six weeks that my old theory could be established beyond any reasonable doubt. During this brief period a series of rooms was exposed, which furnished not less than 3,000 cuneiform documents, forming part of the temple library during the latter half of the third millennium B. C. In long rows the tablets were lying on the shelves for those imperishable old Babylonian records.

"The total number of tablets rescued from different parts of the ruins during the present campaign amounts even now to more than 35,000 and is increasing rapidly by new finds every day.

"The contents of this extraordinary library are as varied as possible. Lists of Sumerian words and cuneiform alphabets, arranged according to different systems, and of fundamental value to our knowledge of the country, figure prominently in the new 'find'.

"As regards the portable antiquities of every description, and their archaeological value, the American expedition now stands readily first among the three ex-

peditions at present engaged in the exploration of ancient Babylonia and the restoration of its past history.

"The temple library, as indicated in my last report, has been definitely located at the precise spot which, in my judgment, is its most probable site. The cuneiform documents have been rescued this year from the shelves of a series of rooms in its southeastern and northwestern wings.

"In view, however, of other duties to be executed by this expedition before the present season, it is my hope that we can leave Nippur this year, and in consideration of the enormous amount of time and labor required for a methodical exploration of the whole mound in which it is concealed, I have recently ordered all the gangs of Arab laborers to be withdrawn from this section of ancient Nippur and to be sent to the eastern fortification line of the city, close to the temple complex proper.

"According to a fair estimate based upon actual finds, the unique history of the temple and topographical indications, there must be hidden at least from 100,000 to 150,000 tablets more in this ancient library, which was destroyed by the invading Elamites about the time of Abraham's emigration from Ur of the Chaldees. Only about the eighth of this library (all of Dr. Haynes' previous work included) has so far been excavated and examined.

"Professor Hilprecht is on his way to the United States, and he will arrive here early this fall. He will bring many of the new-found tablets and relics with him.

"Among the curious relics are bas-reliefs of religious ceremonies in the temple of Bel, a carving of an early king and queen of Nippur, and the remains of the pieces of sculpture in existence. There is also a bas-relief of a horse race that may have taken place 7,000 years ago.

"In addition to this group of carvings separate pieces of stone carving have been taken out of the ruins, images of their gods and goddesses, and one fragment of a lamb about to be sacrificed.

"The ruins of Nippur are along the embankments of the Euphrates—the Shatt-el-Hal and the Affer swamps of Central Babylonia. The expeditions which have been conducted for nearly 12 years have been attended by great hardships and dangers. The work has been excessive and at times it is impossible to carry on the work. Hostile Arabs interfere with the excavations, although in recent years the Arabs have become more friendly.

"The Turkish government is extremely jealous of the excavations being made, and an armed guard is constantly on the ground.

"Nippur was the center of the Babylonian empire over which Sargon and Naram Sin ruled, and there is the wonderful temple of Bel. The civilization which flourished there, is proved by the tablets and other relics to have paralleled that of the Greeks and Romans in certain respects. Much of the early Biblical narrative which critics have declared mythical, it is expected will be corroborated when the writing are fully translated.

"Professor Hilprecht places the building of the temple of Bel at 6,000 or 5,000 years ago, and the story of Genesis is most

Genesis of the Bible Confirmed.

startlingly substantiated. In the 11th chapter of Genesis is the story of the invasion of Palestine by four great eastern monarchs, of which there are hundreds of tablets on which are recorded the events of this campaign.

The magnificent temple building is the most important, for it contains the list of priests and kings, the imperial edicts which will throw much light on the neo-Babylonian civilization. The tablets are filled with Sumerian words and cuneiform signs of the non-Semitic language, proving the theory that the ancient Babylonians were a different people from the people of Palestine.

The cuneiform inscriptions found at Nippur lead Professor Hilprecht to the conclusion that civilization is 2,000 to 3,000 years older than previously supposed. One of the most surprising features in the excavations at Nippur is that the temples and buildings of different periods of its history have been built one on top of the other.

This is due to a peculiar superstition in the Orient. They have a firm belief that thousands of years have not affected the stones, and that a temple must ever be cleared. Vases on which were written the temple's history were kept for thousands of years, and only discarded when broken by accident.

The people also believed that no temple could find favor in the eyes of their gods unless it stood upon the exact outline of its former temple on that site. If the old temple was in ruins they did not clear away the fallen walls, but built upon them, using them as a foundation.

In the days when Noah built his ark the kings and priests of Babylonia, when making alterations in the temple, left such inscriptions as this:

"But previous kings have not kept the boundary of the temple; they have not searched its foundation stone and instructed their architects to lay out the lines on the true places of the former temple."

This seemed a serious error in the minds of the priests, which they set about to correct whenever it was possible. So they rebuilt their temples with a care and precision which they thought would find favor in the eyes of their deities.

If it had not been for this belief modern excavators would not have found such a rich field of prehistoric lore at Nippur.

For nearly 5,000 years before Christ the inscriptions of the world's history, scratched in clay and baked so hard that time and weather have had no effect, were placed there.

It was this spot which, above all other known places, promised the richest returns for research. The more famous city of Babylon had been despoiled by conqueror after conqueror of the Assyrians and other nations. Nippur, lying to the south of Babylon and being of less importance, came more nearly living out its natural existence.

The upper part of Nippur was found to be covered with 30 feet of sand and earth and from inscriptions found it is calculated that this part of the ruined city was built 4,000 years before Christ.

Woodmen of the World Events for Wednesday, September 5

6:10 to 12 a. m. Arrival of Trains

10 a. m. Delivery of Key to City

11 to 12 a. m. Reception by Sovereign Officers At Carey Hotel

1 p. m. Parade on Douglas And North Main Street

2 p. m. Speaking at Riverside

2:30 p. m. Drill Contest At Fair Grounds

7:30 p. m. Band Contest at Corner Douglas and Main

9 p. m. Exemplification of First Degree At Garfield Hall

Did You Go

To some general store for your last Dishes! If you did, the chances are that you are very much dissatisfied and wish that you hadn't. You can buy Dishes at almost any old store if you are not particular about the style, pattern or price. There's one thing certain, when you go to a store that carries a hand full of Dishes—they don't buy many, because they don't sell many—one lot lasts them two or three years—they sell old back number styles and patterns and charge more than a first class chinaware store sells up-to-date goods for. We carry an immense stock, do a large business and sell more Dishes than any house in the state and more than all general or mixed stores in the state combined, but

We Never

allow old styles, out-of-date patterns and ancient designs to accumulate. We have a fine line of handsome Dinner Sets and Chamber Sets, brand new designs, latest, up-to-date decorations. We think ours is by far the largest and finest stock in Wichita, and buying in as large quantities as we do, we know that our prices are bottom prices.

J. E. CALDWELL, China Hall, 130 N. Main.

More Special Rate Excursions To Colorado and Utah Points Via Santa Fe R'y.

September 4 and 18. One fare for round trip, plus \$2. The Santa Fe Route is the shortest line. Leave Wichita at 3:40 p. m., arrive Pueblo next morning at 5:40; Colorado Springs at 7:10. Chair cars and Pullman palace sleeping cars on all trains.

L. R. DELANEY, Passenger Agent, Wichita, Kansas.

Button! Button! Who's Got the Buttons For Sale?

We Have: Carey Hotel, Manhattan Hotel, J. P. Allen, Herman & Hess, Edw. Vail, Chas. Mosbacher, C. R. Fulton, Henry Ozanne, Ideal Pharmacy, M. Nevins, Miller & Hull, Archie McVicar, Geo. Van Warden, Henrich Drug Co., Golden Eagle, Dockum & Higginson, Stevens Clothing Co., John Braitsch, Rock Island Book Ex. Ph. Aherns, The Tornado, Morsman, Innes & Co., Goddard Gehring, Hocking Drug Co., Goldsmith Book & Stationery Co., Boston Store, Geo. Innes & Co., Giddy's Smoke House.

More Special Rate Excursions to Colorado and Utah Points Via the Missouri Pacific R'y

September 4 and 18. One Fare for Round Trip Plus \$2.00. The Missouri Pacific Railway is the shortest line. Leave Wichita 5:20 p. m.; arrive Pueblo next morning 7:50; Colorado Springs 9:30. Chair cars and Pullman palace sleeping cars on all trains.

City Ticket Office, 114 North Main, Phone 211 (3 rings)

The Daily Eagle Delivered 10c a Week

Famous Salamanca as It Is.

Salamanca, Spain, July 20.—How disappointing and yet how interesting, is this old city of song and story. For centuries the world has been accustomed to think of Salamanca, with its celebrated university and transiuring students, as the synonym of erudition—the Oxford, Yale, Harvard, Heidelberg, of Northern Europe, and most of the world has gone on thinking so to this day, though the melancholy fact is that the ancient seat of learning has been for many years little more than a heap of ruins, abandoned to rats and owls. From Avila to Salamanca is a tedious night journey, over an arid and treeless country which even "the hollowed, benediction of the moon" fails to beautify. You leave Avila at 11 p. m., guided by lanterns down the narrow, crooked streets from hotel to station, imperturbed every step of the way by whining beggars and lottery ticket sellers, who are as numerous and persistent as the flies of a summer day, and who are these peevish, so slowly jump the train that day is well advanced before you reach Salamanca—where you find a pale yellow in color, with the wide, blue river Tormes flowing close under its ancient walls.

THE RIVER FORMS. This mighty river, than which by the way, a finer one is nowhere to be found, does not exist, proves a dangerous acquaintance to the foreigner. Its waters hold in solution some unexplained mineral or organic matter, which not only plays havoc with the inner man of one unaccustomed to drinking it, but covers the body of the bathers with minute spots, resembling aggregated cases of "itchy heat." Salamancans keep the water in cisterns for several days before drinking it, in order to allow the injurious substance to deposit. The Tormes, rising somewhere in the northern mountains, flows more than a hundred miles through Spanish territory, to the junction with the Duero, the great river of Portugal. A lazy, shallow trout stream through the arid region where it is the most needed, it suddenly becomes very broad and imposing near Salamanca. Here it is crossed by a magnificent stone bridge of 25 arches.

THE RULE OF TWENTY-FIVE. The rule of twenty-five seems to prevail in the almost vast of learning—25 colleges, 25 convents, 25 churches, 25 professorships and 25 arches in the Roman bridge. But the real glory remains intact—the real being among the things of long ago. In the 15th century Salamanca boasted the most splendid collegiate buildings in Europe and 12,000 students in its great university alone. Its pride was first laid in the dust by the French in the summer of 1812, who wantonly destroyed 20 of the colleges and all the richest convents, together with private palaces worthy of the Great of Rome or the Grand Canal of Venice. They first looted the buildings of their valuables and then burned them for firewood. Later on the law of Queen Isabella II.—that no corporate body of Spain could hold any property, made especially for royal plunderers) completed the devastation of Salamanca. A few notable buildings remain to show what the city must once have been—the great cathedral, a dozen colleges and convents, the monastery of San Bartolome now used as a residence for the civil governor, and the Archbishop's palace, occupied by the Spanish minister, the celebrated Colegio de Nobles, the Franciscan, "College of Irish Noblemen," founded by Philip II. in 1596 to spite his sister-in-law, Elizabeth of England, and dedicated to St. Patrick. The beautiful walls of the larger buildings, was quarried close by the city, on the banks of the Tormes. Most of them were erected early in the 15th century, although of

Corpse of a City

course many are much older. And it is safe to say that nothing whatever has been built in Salamanca during the last 100 years.

A BIT FROM PLUTARCH. Purling up your ancient history, you remember that Plutarch relates how, 322 B. C., Heracles raised the siege of Salamanca, after the Spaniards had promised to pay 300 talents of silver and to hand over 300 hostages. It seems that the race was not famous for keeping its word, even at that early day, and having failed to comply with the terms agreed upon, the Greek chief returned and gave the place over to plunder. He ordered the male population to come out unarmed and, being afraid to trust them, demanded that they leave their cloaks behind. But he did not reckon on the women! The latter concealed swords under their sayas and when the Massedonian guard passed over the unhappy prisoners left their charge to join in the plunder and pillage, the women gave the swords to the men, who rushed back and killed hundreds of the plunderers. So much for Plutarch's contribution to the history of Salamanca, true or false.

LATER HISTORY. We know that under the Romans this city became the ninth military station on the Via Plata, "Silver Way"—the broad zone that led from Santander on the north coast of the peninsula, to Cadix on the south. At Salamanca the Goths culled their golden money, until the place was ravaged by the Moors; and Spaniards reconquered it in 1065. Although fully three-fourths of the city is now in ruins, it is still a wonderful mass of colleges, convents and churches. Indeed, nowhere in the world, upon such a small area, can be found such a wealth of sculpture, such pomp of architectural display, as in this corpse of a city whose population has dwindled from 20,000 to barely 5,000.

THE SALAMANCA OF TODAY. You get up at "La Burgalesa," the only hotel now open in the place, and are surprised to find it "not half bad," as the English say—considering the extreme poverty of the region and the general backwardness of the Spanish race. Close by is the Plaza Mayor, the great square, which for 200 years enjoyed the reputation of being the finest in Spain, capable of holding 20,000 people, where bull fights were held for the amusement of kings. On one side are the municipal buildings, the other three sides being occupied by grades of arches on Corinthian columns, the whole a marvelous example of Plateresque architecture. But its glory has long since departed. Behind these splendid arches are dark, dirty, poverty-stricken shops, and back of them are narrow, ill-paved alleys lined with tumble-down palaces and swarming with beggars.

THE STUDENTS. All this once proud plaza is deserted except for beggars, asleep in the sun, but in the evening the few remaining students congregate there, swarming up and down arm in arm, proudly wearing their ragged cloaks like royal ermine, puffing their interminable cigarettes and smoking their "Castilian" pipes. The old-time atmosphere which arises in the mind with strolling hands of musicians, escapades of balconies and the Spanish exploits so charmingly pictured in the pages of "The Bachelor of Salamanca" and Cervantes' "La Fuigade," is now almost extinct. The only black costume of the order is yet worn, but the barwood fork and upon stuck in the cocked hat are nowadays only for ornament, and are no longer used to hobnob with the children of the convent of Alcazar. Since the construction of railroads in this part of Spain the business

of the muleteers, and the rollicking fellows that formerly overran these provinces—clearing the larders of the ventos and rousing the ire of jealous husbands have entirely disappeared. There is an old Spanish proverb that compares a student without a guitar to a "civet with no tail" and truly, one is as noticeable as the other in Salamanca. Every student has more or less musical ability, and the performances of the experts would win applause from the "end men" of any minstrel show. Poor as they always are, and often hungry, his beloved guitar is the last possession the scholar will part with. His books go first, his cloak, his coat—but never his music! maker until reduced to the pangs of starvation.

The municipal authorities of Salamanca have no jurisdiction over the university, which has its own government and its own courts. The old-time benches, who were charged with preserving the peace, have a hard time of it to keep order in the ranks of the madcap students, whom another Castilian saying calls "The Bedouins of Guitar and Dagger." It is said that the university discipline is very lax, only a nominal attendance at the lectures being expected. The sole and indispensable requisite to graduation is a thorough knowledge of Latin, in which the candidate for a degree must be so proficient as to read and write it with the same facility as he does his native tongue. The doctors of the various faculties are distinguished by tassels upon their caps—red, silver, yellow, or white, each department of study having its peculiar color—and funny it looks to see a dried-up, leathery old gentleman strolling solemnly about with his cap perched rakishly on one side of his bald head, a gaudy bunch of silk dangling above his nose.

THE UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS. The university buildings cover a great deal of ground, but everything about indicates the decayed condition of the fortunes of the venerable institution. You enter by way of a library, whose facade alone—a triumph of the decorative and heraldic styles—is worth an architect's visit in Spain. It is of the richest period of the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella, the creamy stone having been as wax in the hands of the artists, who evaded a maze of scrolls and tracery and medallions and badges innumerable. The inscriptions are in Greek. "The Kings to the University and this to the Kings." The magnificent period which answers to "The Schools" of Oxford began in the year 1455, in the romantic age of Juan II., patron of literature and the troubadour, and a gorgeous plateresque front and a curious convocation house. Nowadays the students are lodged in private houses and come up here for "classes."

The little square behind it, surrounded by collegiate buildings, is much like any other college "quadr," only here they are immeasurably sturdier and more magnificent. In the center is a statue of the famous ecclesiastical poet, Fra Luis de Leon, who is numbered among the eminent students here, with Cervantes, Cardinal Ximenes, Starvedra and others of whom the world has heard, now long returned to mother earth. Over the door of each lecture room is a tablet denoting the particular science which is or was, or ought to be taught therein. Inside of each room is a pulpit for the lecturer, and rows of benches for the students, with a sort of ledge before them, on which to write their notes. The handsome library is lined with Louis XIV book cases and gallery, a smaller room being devoted to a vast and most interesting collection of illuminated manuscripts and books, mostly

How the Famous University Now Appears.

collected from confiscated monasteries. Among the most remarkable are, an illuminated manuscript of the Fifteenth century, "Libro de las Claras y Virtuosas mujeres" (Book of the Graces and Virtues of Women) by Don Alvaro de Luna; original letters to and manuscript books of Fra de Leon; a volume of the Lord's Prayer in 67 languages, ordered by the first Napoleon, and many rare works prohibited by the liber expurgatorio, all of which the librarian will show you with boundless pride and patience. Passing through several tapestry-draped, musty-smelling rooms, you come to the Sala de Lectura, a rather modern looking saloon in which the doctors and the heads of houses assemble in conclave. A student about to "wrangle" or "dispute" is shut up here 24 hours, with a sentinel guard at the door to give him time and opportunity to consider his subject.

Next of interest in the line of colleges is the old Colegio Mayor de Santiago Apostol, now called the "Irish College," founded more than four centuries ago. Here a score of Irish students are always in training for the priesthood. There are dozens of others, all built at incredible expense by the most skillful artisans of their age and all now comparatively untenanted, with empty courts and echoing corridors. Even more interesting in an historical point of view is the Dominican Monastery of San Esteban, in the Calle de la memoria of the great admiral, who once resided in it. When the wise doctors of the university found Columbus' scheme for discovering another continent "vain, impracticable, and resting upon grounds too weak to merit the support of the government," the friars of San Esteban, under Diego, approved and upheld the hopeless enterprise and entertained him several weeks with generous hospitality. In gratitude for the same, Columbus used the first virgin gold imported from the New World in gilding the entrance of the Dominican church, and most gorgeous it still is in appearance as seen under the dark elliptical arch of its door. The "Room of Columbus," where the conference took place, which subsequently had such great control over the destinies of the Western hemisphere, is an immense, bare, vaulted hall, 200 feet long by perhaps 25 feet wide.

The cathedral of brilliant yellow stone, has little appearance of antiquity, although begun in 1152. From its north side you pass into a second and older cathedral, built in 1182 by the famous Bishop Geromimo, confessor of the Cid, who fought by his side in all his battles and supported his dead body on his final journey from Valencia. The Bishop was buried here, and above his tomb four centuries hung "El Cristo de las Tablillas," the bronze crucifix of the Cid, and which he always carried by battle. It has long since disappeared, but it is said that the canon knew its hiding place. The tomb of Geromimo was opened in 1552, and a chronicle of the day affirms that "The body of the holy warrior smelted truly delicious."

PANNIE B. WARD. A schoolboy at a wise examination furnished the following biography of the patriarch Abraham: "He was the father of Lot, had two wives. One was called 'Himble,' and the other Hagar. He kept one at home, and he turned the other into the desert, where she became a pillar of salt in the daytime and a pillar of fire by night." The Populist machine in Kingman county is disgusted. I. L. Soley was nominated for county commissioner and he comes out and withdraws from the race, saying that he is no longer a Populist, because the Populists have gone over to the Democrats.