



BY WILLIAM GEORGE INGLEY

AMONG THE MARVELOUS discoveries of Prof. Layard and Botta in the East the most interesting and important are those which have thrown light upon the literature of ancient Babylon and Assyria.

In the safe keeping of the British Museum are some 50,000 tablets of clay. Each of these tablets is covered with cuneiform characters so small as to require the aid of a powerful magnifying glass.

After the process of baking the tablets were taken out, and it is said were as fine as some of our best modern pottery. The tablets varied in size from one inch to a foot square, and were made in a variety of colors.

Another very important branch of their literature was formed by the magic tablets. It is said there were whole series of these in the libraries. These magic tablets appear to have formed an important part in their literature as fiction does in the literature of today.

The historical portion of their libraries is very interesting and valuable. A translation of these histories come to us, like the spirits of the departed, after ages of sleep, to prove to us that the Bible is not a book of fiction or a myth.

The first Assyrian library was that of Calah, established about 2300 years B. C. Of this library our knowledge at the present time is very imperfect. The great library of Assyria was that erected by King Assur-bani Pal at Nineveh, about the year 670 B. C.

The Assyrian librarians, whose duty it was to copy and write these histories, did in one extensive epic incorporate the story of the ark and flood. This epic covers 12 tablets, and is almost identical with the Biblical account of same.

William Mohr, of New Holland, whose Post-office address was Mount Wolf, Pa., was a private in Co. C, 186th Pa., who after his discharge from the army in 1865, went home, got married, and as a day-laborer applied himself to hard work, and with thrift and strict economy acquired a humble home.

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little ones of Scott's Emulsion, a preparation of cod-liver oil almost as palatable as milk. Many mothers have grateful knowledge of its benefits to weak, sickly children.

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religious hymns were collected and formed into a prayer-book and used at religious services. This library was the work of a married couple, the oldest code of laws in the world is the Acedian, a part of which is preserved in the British Museum.

The Assyrians themselves did very little composing, but instead made use of their predecessors' works. Many of our modern ideas and customs have been derived from these wonderful people, who possessed a civilization which in many of its details resembled that of our own times and country.

It seems hardly ascertained that the oldest hieroglyphic writings now extant date some centuries prior to 2,000 years B. C. Among the national antiquities of Great Britain is a papyrus manuscript which dates some 1,600 years B. C., and is so good as to admit of a much earlier invention.

An important part of their literature was a religious work known as the "Sacred Books of Thoth." These numbered 42 volumes. These papyrus books constituted a complete encyclopedia of religion and science. But, as the purpose of taxing.

A BABYLONIAN BRICK. The contents of these volumes did not forbid speculation or a wider development of their principles, there arose a great mass of literature in the shape of exposition and commentary. And to such an extent did this increase, that, at the time of the Greek conquest in Egypt, the Thoth literature is said to have amounted to nearly 37,000 volumes.

Books were also collected in the tombs of the most famous dates from the 14th century B. C. The occupant of this tomb was identified as the great King Rameses I. The seat of the library is supposed to have been in Memphis, the magnificent temple of Thebes.

When the Persians invaded Egypt, the libraries and literature of the Egyptians suffered a very heavy blow; for the conquerors carried away into their own country a large number of these books.

Some Who Have Lost Their Dues by Action of the Pension Bureau. George Sherrick, of Selma, O., an ex-Union soldier, who had spent 19 months in Andersonville, was ordered to pay \$12 a month for the suspension of his pension of \$12 a month.

George Long, a crippled soldier of two wars, over 70 years of age, had his pension stopped. He was a member of the 4th U. S. Inf., during the whole of the Mexican war, and participated in the battles of Matamoros, Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, Monterey, Contreras, Churubusco, Molino del Rey, Chapultepec, and the City of Mexico.

Card W. Bolt, of Piqua, O., who enlisted in the first company raised in that city, in April, 1861, at the age of 15 years, and who served throughout the entire rebellion in the famous 11th Ohio, and who never missed a scout, skirmish, or a battle the regiment was engaged with, and whose claim was highly indorsed by the War Department, was ordered to pay \$12 a month for the suspension of his pension of \$12 a month.

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CONGRESS.

Abstract of the More Important Proceedings of Both Houses.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13. In the Senate, the principal business of the morning was the approval of the assignments of Senators to committees to fill vacancies as agreed to by the Democratic caucus.

Mr. Dolph thought that those who were urging the passage of the bill were doing so under false interpretation. They were principally those members of the Senate who favored the free coinage of silver. The bill was in direct conflict with the declaration of Congress made a few months ago, when the purchasing clause of the Sherman law was repealed, that it was the policy of the Government to maintain the parity of gold and silver.

In the House, a bill to pension John Phipps and other minor heirs of Charles Phipps, Co. A, 12th Md., was passed on motion of Mr. Talbot (Md., R.). The House, on motion of Chairman Sayers (Tex., D.), went into Committee of the Whole, for the consideration of the sundry civil appropriation bill. The bill carries \$22,300,302, \$5,074,620 less than the estimates and \$9,438,928 less than the last sundry civil bill.

Mr. Cogswell, the leader of the minority on the committee, took the first opportunity to give the bill his indorsement. It was, he declared, a liberal bill under the circumstances. The committee had been fairly liberal toward every interest of vital importance.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14. In the Senate, Mr. Caffery (La., D.) asked to be excused from further service on the Committee on Pensions, and the request was granted. At 12:35 p. m. Mr. Harris, having handed the gavel over to Mr. Gallinger, asked that the Senate take up the consideration of the unfinished business, the sequestration bill, as a vote was taken at 2 o'clock on the motion of Mr. Allison to reconsider the vote by which the bill was ordered to be read a third time, and possibly after that on the motion of Mr. Manderson, to commit the bill to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Teller characterized the debate on this bill as having been most unfair, as it always was on the part of the men who advocated the gold standard. The statement so frequently made of late that the country was in danger of being placed on a silver basis he characterized as untrue.

GEN. BINGHAM. as untrue, "but," he added, "we are on a gold basis now, and does anyone think that the condition of the United States is now a happy one? If we do get to a silver basis, we cannot be worse off than we are now, and it is a serious risk that the countries which are on a silver basis are much better off than we are."

The hour of 2 o'clock having arrived, Mr. Harris demanded that in accordance with the previous agreement the vote should be taken on Mr. Allison's motion to reconsider the motion by which the bill was ordered to be read a third time. The result of an agreement to this motion would be to open the bill to amendments. The vote was taken, there being 28 in the affirmative and 45 in the negative.

According to prior agreement Mr. Manderson was then permitted to move that the bill be recommitted to the Finance Committee, where it would be examined and perfected. This was also defeated by relatively the same vote as the preceding question, there being 27 yeas to 44 nays.

In the House, a bill for the relief of Gen. John R. Brooke, United States Army, called up by Mr. Bingham, encountered opposition from Mr. Pendleton (W. Va.), who thought Gen. Brooke had not exercised due diligence in defending a suit, from the judgment of which he sought the relief of Congress; but the bill was passed.

Mr. Wilson (Ohio, R.) asked unanimous consent for the consideration of a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to loan the National Red Cross Society, for the period of one year, the

Columbian Spanish and the Pinta and Santa Maria. The Red-Cross Society desired these caravels for the purpose of exhibiting along the American coast, with a view to using the proceeds for the improvement of the property of that corporation. Without objection, the bill was passed.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15. In the Senate, the consideration of the sequestration bill was resumed, and Mr. Carey took the floor in opposition to the measure. Mr. Dubois (Idaho) asserted that he would like to vote for free coinage now and that he took but little comfort in voting for the bill, as it was not a kind of silver legislation which pleased him.

Mr. Mitchell (Ore., R.) was the next speaker, and he delivered a strong and earnest plea for the bill. Mr. Talbot, Mr. Chairman, I say in a spirit of fairness and justice, in reply to what the gentleman has just said, that I happened to be one of those men who wore the gray—

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THE HOUSE WENT INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, and the consideration of the sundry civil appropriation bill was resumed. Mr. Allison moved the point of order on the paragraph of the bill relating to the manner in which the disbursing officers of Soldiers' Homes should render their accounts.

Mr. Cannon maintained that the Homes should in no wise be interfered with, but that the disbursing officers of the Homes should be placed under the same regulations as their accounts should go regularly through the Treasury Department, as all other accounts did.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16. In the House, consideration of the civil appropriation bill was resumed, and debate continued on the Enloe amendment. The amendment was then defeated on a vote of 107 yeas to 107 nays.

At the night session about 60 members were present. The only incident of note was a verbal passage of arms between Mr. McKelighan, of Nebraska, and Mr. Talbot, of North Carolina. A bill was introduced by Mr. W. H. Cohn, from the charge of desertion, which the Committee on Military Affairs reported against him.

SENATOR MILLS. sent to the rear, and the comrades of his company having no knowledge of his whereabouts, that night he is reported as absent without leave, and a few more days of such reports and he is marked on the rolls of his company as a deserter.

WORK OF THE PENSION OFFICE. Certificates Issued During the Week Ending March 10, 1894.

Table with columns: Original, Increase and additional, Release, Restoration, Accrued, Total, Act June 27, 1890, Total issues Act June 27, 1890.

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Mr. Talbot could not do, except to declare, in the face of the proof to the contrary, that Cohn was a deserter. Mr. Talbot personally applied the remarks of Mr. McKelighan to himself, and defended himself warmly, to the amusement of the House.

Mr. McKelighan, I made no such charge against the gentleman personally, and it is very cheap bravado that I myself in florid oratory on the floor of this House because I have asserted that Congress has been liberal. I want to say here and now that I have never turned back on a friend or a foe, and I do not intend to do it now.

Mr. Talbot, I want to say that I deny any such charge; and if the gentleman means to say I have "stabbed" any old soldier or any other man, I will be glad to meet him on the floor of this House to assail every old soldier, man, or woman, who has been requested to have the stain of desertion removed.

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