

# SAYS HILPRECHT TABLET IS FRAUD

U. of P. Professor Denounced  
as a Fakir.

SCIENTISTS DISCUSS FIND

Professor Barton Declares Tablet Upholding Biblical Story of the Deluge is a Fabrication For Sensational Purposes.

The tablet that Professor Herman V. Hilprecht, of the department of archaeology of the University of Pennsylvania, announced two weeks ago he had discovered in an expedition to Palestine, and which he said upheld the Biblical story of the deluge, was denounced at a meeting of the American Oriental Society at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md., as a fabrication and as an exploitation of an archaeological fraud for purely sensational purposes. The paper, which was on the "latest addition to the Babylonian literature of the deluge story," was presented by Professor George A. Barton, of Bryn Mawr College. He took up in detail the contentions of Professor Hilprecht and showed that they were fallacious in every particular.

"To those who know Professor Hilprecht," said Professor Barton, "an elaborate refutation of his theories will be unnecessary. Nevertheless, I hope to show that his statements about the tablet are not only incorrect as regards interpretation, absolutely wrong as regards the alleged age to which he attributes them and totally of no significance from a Biblical standpoint."

Dr. Barton said that the scholarship which Professor Hilprecht manifested in his translation of the text of the tablet was hardly worthy of a first year student in Hebrew, and that the restorations which he made in the case of filling in broken lines were purely conjectural amendments and that the chances of his interpretations being correct, were only about one in a hundred.

"While occasionally his translation of a line is sound," continued Dr. Barton, "his drawing upon his imagination in filling out the broken lines was entirely too free."

"In the second place, Dr. Hilprecht claims that the tablet was written some time between 2127 and 2005 B. C. Any student of the Oriental languages could tell from even a casual examination that the dialect in which the tablet is written belongs to a wholly later period, and that instead of the real date of the tablet being that of the time alleged, it really belongs several centuries later. Thus, even if the interpretation had been correct, the tablet is of no scientific value, since it belongs to a period several centuries after that on which it is alleged to throw historical light."

"At the time of the exploitation of this wonderful discovery in the public press and its acceptance by an unsuspecting public, Biblical scholars were eager to see the tablet, and their desire was readily gratified by Professor Hilprecht, who willingly furnished copies both of the tablet and the pamphlet which he based upon it to all who desired. All who have examined the tablet, I think, will agree with me in my contention that it is purely a fraud. A valid indictment of it could be based upon any one of the three counts which I have enumerated."

## Maryland Negroes Disfranchised.

The Maryland legislature has disfranchised over 45,000 negroes so far as state and municipal elections are concerned by the passage of the bills of Delegate W. Mitchell Digges, of Charles county. It is the most sweeping method of disfranchisement ever attempted in any state, and even leading statesmen of the far southern states have expressed a doubt as to its constitutionality. But the scheme is so ingeniously worked out that no real test can be made in the courts until after the next state election.

The bills were passed by both the houses and will be sent to the governor.

There are four bills in all. The first repeals the existing registration laws; the second enacts a new registration measure providing that none but white men shall be registered in the future as voters; the third carries the constitutional amendment designed to restrict registration for all time to the white persons of the state, as it prohibits any future legislature from extending the registration privilege to negroes, except those owning \$500 worth of property.

This amendment will be voted upon in the fall of 1911 by white men only. A provision has been inserted which will permit the white voters, if they so desire, to extend the privilege of registration and the ballot box to negroes owning and paying taxes on \$500 worth of property. It was thought best to insert this provision, as the Democratic leaders desire to shut out only the thriftless and ignorant negroes and are willing to admit to the ballot box those who have sufficient thrift to accumulate \$500 worth of property.

This property qualification is thought preferable to an educational qualification, because it is believed that the negro who has accumulated property will prove better worthy of the franchise than the educated negro, who may be weighted with all the shiftlessness of his race.

The fourth bill extends the terms of the mayor and other municipal officers

of Baltimore city — that their successors will be chosen at the November state election, spring elections being abolished. The bills are based upon the assumption that the Fifteenth amendment is void, and it is declared in the preamble that the exercise of the elective franchise by the negro is not consistent with his own best interests as the welfare of the white race.

## Railroads Raise Wages.

Employees of the Philadelphia & Reading railway were notified that, beginning April 1, their wages would be increased 6 per cent. The announcement, made in Philadelphia, says that the increase will be general among all permanent employes receiving less than \$300 a month whose pay has not been adjusted within the last ninety days.

Coming within twenty-four hours after the announcement by the Pennsylvania Railroad company of its wage boost and the increase being alike, has given rise to a report that there has been a slip-up in the announcement and that it was intended that the raises were intended to be published simultaneously. In railroad circles it was recalled that the last general increase in wages, made by the two companies in 1906, were announced at the same time. The increase at that time was 10 per cent.

The Reading's increase will affect about 27,000 employes. As the average pay is about \$60 a month, the addition will cost the company about \$97,800 a month, or \$1,168,400 annually. The total number of employes, including those in the general offices, is 27,500. Not including the general offices, the number of employes is given as 26,700.

## King Menelik Dies of Apoplexy.

Menelik II, king of Abyssinia, is dead, at the age of sixty-six years, and in the twenty-first year of his reign. Prince Lidj Jeassu, grandson of the late monarch, is heir to the throne.

The empress has been imprisoned by the followers of the crown prince.

The king was stricken with apoplexy last fall and never recovered his health. For many weeks his death has been expected, and was falsely reported several times.

When he was able no longer to carry on the affairs of state, Ras Tseama, the regent, with the approval of the principal chiefs, took over the reins of government. At the same time Ras Taitou was deprived of all his power of interference in the government, and her appointments made among her favorites were annulled.

Prince Yidj Jeassu was proclaimed heir to the throne on May 18 last. He is fourteen years of age, and little less than a year ago was married to the granddaughter, aged seven years, of the late Emperor John and niece of Empress Taitou.

## Cripple Walks Before Dying.

Miss Anna Causey, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah W. Causey, died suddenly at the home of her parents, in White Haven, Md., of heart failure, superinduced by a curvature of the spine, aged sixteen years.

Miss Causey had been afflicted with spinal trouble since early childhood and had not walked a step since she was six years old until the day preceding her death when, it is said, she surprised everyone by suddenly jumping to her feet and walking around the room just as any child with good use of its limbs would do. For nearly ten years the afflicted girl had moved about the room by crawling. She had never been able to sit up, except for a few minutes at a time since she had her first illness, and was a dwarf physically.

## No More Prison Stripes.

There are now so many "gentlemen convicts" among the 700 prisoners in the western penitentiary at Pittsburg that Warden John Francis announced that the stripes are to be practically abandoned at that institution. Neat suits of blue with class letters on them are to be substituted gradually for the stripes, and only the very worst behaved men are to be punished by uniforms of the "zebra" type.

## Fruit From a Rose.

Hugo Lilenthal, a Berkeley, Cal., horticulturist, announces the discovery of an edible fruit from the climbing rose. He declares that this fruit will in course of time take the place of the Loganberry, to which it is allied.

Lilenthal succeeded in obtaining the fruit by cross grafting. The fruit, which he says is quite nutritious and has a flavor like a pineapple, may be eaten either raw or cooked.

## Gives \$14,000 to College.

A gift of \$14,000 to Muhlenberg college, at Allentown, Pa., was announced by Rev. W. D. C. Keiter, secretary of the board of trustees.

The donor is Charles Mosser, a prominent citizen of Allentown. The money will be devoted to the purchase of the land adjoining the college, upon which it is proposed in the near future to erect a new preparatory school.

## Boy, Tread by 'Gators, Starves.

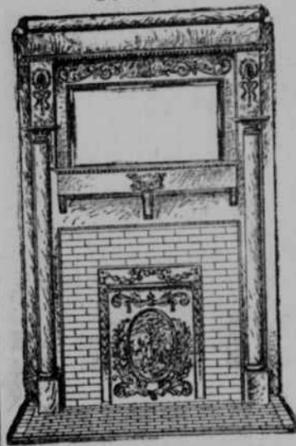
After searching for a week, the body of Ernest Johnson was found in the top branches of a tree in a swamp near Palmetto, Fla. A note in his hat said that his boat was attacked by alligators while he was fishing, and he climbed the tree, which the alligators guarded day and night.

## Convict Dies of Beri Beri.

Sam Laborde, one of the twenty-one convicts sent up from the county chain gang of Charleston, suffering with beri beri, died at the state penitentiary at Columbia, S. C., from the disease. An autopsy disclosed that the diagnosis as beri beri was correct. Several prominent physicians attended the autopsy.

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