

GREAT INSCRIPTION
 IN
 THE PALACE OF KHORSABAD.

TRANSLATED BY
 PROF. DR. JULIUS OPPERT.

THE document of which I publish a translation has been copied with admirable precision by M. Botta in his *Monuments de Ninive*. There are four specimens of this same text in the Assyrian palace, which bear the title of Inscriptions of the Halls, Nos. iv., vii., viii., and x.

There is another historical document in the palace of Khorsabad containing more minute particulars, and classed in a chronological order, which I translated in my *Dur-Sarkayan*, 1870, and in the *Records of the Past*, Vol. VII.

The several copies of this document have been united in one sole text in a work which I published in common with M. Menant in the *Journal Asiatique*, 1863.

I published my translation of the "Great Inscriptions of Khorsabad," in the *Annales de Philosophie Chrétienne*, July and August, 1862, Tom. V. (New Series), p. 62; then in my *Inscriptions des Sargonides*, p. 20, 1862. The same text was inserted in the work which I edited in communion with my friend M. Joachim Ménéant, entitled *La Grande Inscription des Salles de Khorsabad*, *Journal Asiatique*, 1863. Some passages have been since corrected by me in my *Dur-Sarkayan*, Paris, 1870, in the great work of M. Victor Place, and these corrections have been totally admitted by M. Ménéant in a translation which he has given in his book, *Annales des Rois d'Assyrie*, Paris, 1874, p. 180. As the reader may easily convince himself in collating it with my previous attempts, this present translation is now amended according to the exigencies of the progressing science of Assyriology, as it is now understood.



GREAT INSCRIPTION
OF
THE PALACE OF KHORSABAD.

- 1 PALACE of SARGON, the great King, the powerful King, King of the legions, King of Assyria, Viceroy of the gods at Babylon, King of the Sumers and of the Accads, favourite of the great gods.
- 2 The gods ASSUR, NĒBO, and MERODACH have conferred on me the royalty of the nations, and they have propagated the memory of my fortunate name to the ends of the earth. I have followed the reformed precepts of Sippara, Nipur, Babylon, and Borsippa; I have amended the imperfections which the men of all laws had admitted.
- 3 I have reunited the dominions of Kalu, Ur, Orchoé, Erikhi, Larsa,¹ Kullab, Kisik, the dwelling-place of the god LAGUDA; I have subdued their inhabitants. As to the laws of Sumer² and of the town of Harran, which had fallen into desuetude from the most ancient times, I have restored to fresh vigour their forgotten customs.
- 4 The great gods have made me happy by the constancy

¹ Orchoé, the Erech of the Bible, is certainly the Warka of the present day; Sippara, Sofeira; Nipur, Niffar; Larsam, Senkereh. Ur (the Ur of the Bible) is Mugheir; Kullab and Erikhi are unknown. (See *Expéd. en Mésopot.* I. p. 255, et. seq.)

² The old empire *Bal-bat-ki*. The syllabaries explain this ideogram by "Assur," but it is very awkward that in these texts, the identification with Assur occurs nowhere. I therefore transcribe Sumer, which was the true name of the people and the language named wrongly Accadian. The term of Sumerian is supported by MM. Menant, Eneberg, Gelzer, Prætorius, Delitzsch, Olshausen, and other scholars.

of their affection, they have granted me the exercise of my sovereignty over all Kings; they have re-established obedience upon them all. From the day of my accession there existed no princes who were my masters; I have not, in combats or battles, seen my victor. I have crushed the territories of the rebels like straws, and I have struck them with the plagues of the four elements. I have opened innumerable deep and very extensive forests, I have levelled their inequalities. I have traversed winding and thick valleys, which were impenetrable, like a needle, and I passed in digging tanks dug on my way.

5 By the grace and power of the great gods, my Masters, I have flung my arms; by my force I have defeated my enemies. I have ruled from Iatnan,¹ which is in the middle of the sea of the setting sun, to the frontiers of Egypt and of the country of the Moschians, over vast Phœnicia, the whole of Syria, the whole of *guti muski*² of distant Media, near the country of Bikni, to the country of Ellip, from Ras which borders upon Elam, to the banks of the Tigris, to the tribes of Itu, Rubu, Haril, Kaldud, Hauran, Ubul, Ruhua, of the Litaï who dwell on the borders of the Surappi and the Uknē, Gambul, Khindar, and Pukud.³ I have reigned over the *suti* hunters who are in the territory of Iatbur, in whatever it was as far as the towns of Samhun, Bab-Dur, Dur-Tilit, Khilikh, Pillat, Dumni-Samas, Bubi, Tell-Khumba, which are in the dependency of Elam,⁴ and

¹ *Itanus*, or Yatnan, in the Island of Crete, became afterwards the name of the Island of Cyprus.

² For the words in italics no satisfactory translation has as yet been found.

³ The *Pekod* of the Bible (Jer. i. 21; Ezek. xxiii. 23).

⁴ Which belongs to Elam.

Kar-duniyas¹ Upper and Lower, of the countries of Bit-Amukkan, Bit-Dakkur, Bit-Silan, Bit-Sa'alla, which together form Chaldea in its totality, over the country of Bit-Iakin, which is on the sea shore, as far as the frontier of Dilmun. I have received their tributes, I have established my Lieutenants over them as Governors, and I have reduced them under my suzerainty.

6 This is what I did from the beginning of my reign to my fifteenth year of reign :

I defeated KHUMBANIGAS, King of Elam, in the plains of Kalu.

7 I besieged and occupied the town of Samaria, and took 27,280 of its inhabitants captive. I took from them 50 chariots, but left them the rest of their belongings. I placed my Lieutenants over them ; I renewed the obligation imposed upon them by one of the Kings who preceded me.²

8 HANUN, King of Gaza, and SEBECH, Sultan³ of Egypt, allied themselves at Rapih⁴ to oppose me, and fight against me ; they came before me, I put them to flight. SEBECH yielded before my cohorts, he fled, and no one has ever seen any trace of him since. I took with my own hand HANUN, King of Gaza.

9 I imposed a tribute on PHARAOH, King of Egypt, SAMSIE, Queen of Arabia, IT-AMAR, the Sabean, of gold, sweet smelling herbs of the land, horses, and camels.

10 KIAKKU of Sinukhta had despised the god ASSUR, and refused submission to him. I took him prisoner, and seized his 30 chariots and 7350 of his soldiers. I gave

¹ Lower Chaldea. Nearly all the names of the Elamite towns are Semitic (see Gen. x. 22), but the Susian ones are not.

² Tiglatpileser, whom Sargon would not acknowledge.

³ This is the word *siltan*, the Hebrew *shilton*, "power," the Arabic *sultan*.

⁴ Raphia, near the frontiers of Egypt.

Sinuhta, the town of his royalty, to MATTI from the country of Tuna, I added some horses and asses to the former tribute and appointed MATTI as Governor.

11 AMRIS of Tabal, had been placed upon the throne of KHULLI his father; I gave to him a daughter and I gave him Cilicia¹ which had never submitted to his ancestors. But he did not keep the treaty and sent his ambassador to URZAHA, King of Armenia, and to MITA, King of the Moschians, who had seized my provinces. I transported AMRIS to Assyria, with his belongings, the members of his ancestors' families, and the magnates of the country, as well as 100 chariots; I established some Assyrians, devoted to my government, in their places. I appointed my Lieutenant Governor over them, and commanded tributes to be levied upon them.

12 JAUBID of Hamath, a smith,² was not the legitimate master of the throne, he was an infidel and an impious man, and he had coveted the royalty of Hamath. He incited the towns of Arpad, Simyra, Damascus, and Samaria to rise against me, took his precautions with each of them, and prepared for battle. I counted all the troops of the god ASSUR; in the town of Karkar which had declared itself for the rebel, I besieged him and his warriors, I occupied Karkar and reduced it to ashes. I took him, himself, and had him flayed, and I killed the chief of the rioters in each town, and reduced them to a heap of ruins. I recruited my forces with 200 chariots and 600 horsemen from among the inhabitants of the country of Hamath and added them to my empire.

13 Whilst IRANZU of Van³ lived, he was subservient and devoted to my rule, but fate removed him. His subjects

¹ Khilakku. It seems to be identical with the *Sparda* of Persian, the *Sepharad* of Obadiah.

² The condition of Jaubid before his accession.

³ Or Minni.

placed his son AZA on the throne. URZAHA the Armenian intrigued with the people of Mount Mildis, Zikirta, Misiandi, with the nobles of Van, and enticed them to rebellion; they threw the body of their Master AZA on the top of the mountains. ULLUSUN of Van, his brother, whom they had placed on his father's throne, did homage to URZAHA, and gave him 22 fortresses with their garrisons. In the anger of my heart I counted all the armies of the god ASSUR, I watched like a lion in ambush and advanced to attack these countries. ULLUSUN of Van saw my expedition approaching, he set out with his troops and took up a strong position in the ravines of the high mountains. I occupied Izirti the town of his royalty, and the towns of Izibia and Armit, his formidable fortresses, I reduced them to ashes. I killed all that belonged to URZAHA the Armenian, in these high mountains. I took with my own hand 250 royal members of his family. I occupied 55 royal towns of which 8 were ordinary towns and 11 impregnable fortresses. I reduced them to ashes. I incorporated the 22 strong towns, that ULLUSUN of Van had delivered to him with Assyria. I occupied 8 strong cities of the country of Tuaya and the districts of Tilusina of Andia; 4,200 men, with their belongings were carried away into slavery.

14 MITATTI, of Zikirta, had secured himself against my arms; he and the men of his country had fled into the forests; no trace of them was to be seen. I reduced Parada, the town of his royalty to ashes; I occupied twenty-three great towns in the environs, and I spoiled them. The cities of Suandakhul and Zurzukka, of the country of Van, took the part of MITATTI; I occupied and pillaged them. Then I took BAGADATTI of the Mount Mildis, and I had him flayed. I banished DAYAUKKU and his suite to Hamath, and I made them dwell there.

- 15 Then ULLUSUN heard in his high mountains of my glorious exploits; he departed in haste like a bird, and kissed my feet; I pardoned his innumerable misdeeds, and I blotted out his iniquities. I granted pardon to him; I replaced him upon the throne of his royalty. I gave him the two fortresses and the 22 great towns that I had taken away from URZAHA and MITATTI. I endeavoured to restore peace to his country. I made the image of my Majesty: I wrote on it the glory of the god ASSUR, my Master, I erected many fac-similes of it in Izirti, the town of his royalty.
- 16 I imposed a tribute of horses, oxen and lambs upon IANZU, King of the river country, in Hupuskia, the town of his power.
- 17 ASSURLIH, of Kar-Alla, ITTI, of Allapur, had sinned against ASSUR and despised his power. I had ASSURLIH flayed. I banished the men of Kar-Alla, whoever they were, and ITTI, with his suite, I placed them in Hamath.
- 18 I took the inhabitants of the towns of Sukkia, Bala, Ahitikna, Pappa,¹ Lallukni away from their homes; I made them dwell at Damascus in Syria.
- 19 I occupied the 6 towns of the country of Niksamma, I took with my own hand NIRISAR, Governor of the town of Surgadia; I added these towns to the satrapy of Parsuas.²
- 20 BEL-SAR-USUR³ was King of the town of Kisisim; I had him transported to Assyria with all that he possessed, his treasure, the contents of his palace; I put my Lieutenant in as Governor of the town, to which I gave the name of Kar-Marduk. I had an image made of my Majesty and erected it in the middle of the town.

¹ It seems not to be Paphos.

² Parthia.(?)

³ The same name as Belshazzar.

I occupied 6 towns in the neighbourhood and I added them to his government.

- 21 I attacked and conquered KIBABA, Prefect of the town of Kharkhar, I took him and the inhabitants of his country captive, I rebuilt this city and made the inhabitants of the provinces, that my arm had conquered, live there. I placed my Lieutenant as Governor over them. I named the town Kar-Sarkin; I established the worship of the god ASSUR, my Master, there. I erected an image of my Royal self. I occupied 6 towns in the environs, and added them to his government.
- 22 I besieged and took the towns of Tel-Akhi-tub, Khindau, Bagai, and Anzaria; I transported the inhabitants of them to Assyria. I rebuilt them; I gave them the names of Kar-Nabu, Kar-Sin, Kar-Ben, Kar-Istar.
- 23 To maintain my position in Media, I have erected fortifications in the neighbourhood of Kar-Sarkin. I occupied 34 towns in Media and annexed them to Assyria and I levied annual tributes of horses upon them.
- 24 I besieged and took the town of Eristana, and the surrounding towns in the country of Bait-Ili; I carried away the spoil.
- 25 The countries of Agag¹ and Ambanda,² in Media, opposite the Arabs of the East, had refused their tributes, I destroyed them, laid them waste, and burnt them by fire.
- 26 DALTA of Ellip, was subject to me, and devoted to the worship of ASSUR; 5 of his towns revolted and no longer recognized his dominion. I came to his aid, I besieged and occupied these towns, I carried the men and their goods away into Assyria with numberless horses.
- 27 URZANA, of the town of Musasir, had attached himself to URZAHA the Armenian, and had refused me his allegiance.

¹ This Agag is very possibly the country of Haman the Agagite, if we must not read Agaz. ² Ambanda is perhaps the Median *Kamṣanda*.

- With the multitude of my army, I covered the city of Musasir as if it were with ravens, and he to save his life, fled alone into the mountains.
- 28 I entered as a Ruler into Musasir. I seized as spoil URZANA's wife, sons and daughters, his money, his treasures, all the stores of his palace whatever they were, with 20,100 men and all that they possessed, the gods HALDIA and BAGABARTA, his gods, and their holy vessels in great numbers.
- 29 URZAHA, King of Armenia, heard of the defeat of Musasir and the carrying away of the god HALDIA¹ his god, he cut off his life by his own hands with a dagger of his girdle. I held a severe judgment over the whole of Armenia. I spread over the men, who inhabit this country, mourning and lamentation.
- 30 TARHUNAZI, of the town of Melid, sought for revenge. He sinned against the laws of the great gods, and refused his submission. In the anger of my heart, I crushed like briars Melid, which was the town of his kingdom, and the neighbouring towns. I made him, his wife, sons and daughters, the slaves of his palace whoever they were, with 5000 warriors, leave Tel-Garimmi; I treated them all as booty. I rebuilt Tel-Garimmi; I had it entirely occupied by some archers from the country of Khammanua, which my hand had conquered, and I added it to the boundaries of this country. I put it in the hands of my Lieutenant, and I restituted the surface of the dominion, as it had been in the time of GUNZINAN, the preceding King.
- 31 TARHULAR, of Gamgum, had a son MUTTALLU, who had murdered his father by the arms, and sat on the

¹ We find in the inscriptions of Van, the god *Haldi* as god of the Armenians, which proves more forcibly than ever that the syllabary of the Armenian inscriptions is the same as the Assyrian syllabary.

throne against my will, and to whom they had entrusted their country. In the anger of my heart, I hastily marched against the town of Markasi, with my chariots and horsemen, who followed on my steps. I treated MUTTALLU, his son and the families of the country of Bit-Pa'alla in its totality, as captives, and seized as booty the gold and silver and the numberless treasures of his palace. I reinstated the men of Gamgum and the neighbouring tribes, and placed my Lieutenant as Governor over them; I treated them like the Assyrians.

32 AZURI, King of Ashdod,¹ determined within himself to render no more tributes; he sent hostile messages against Assyria to the neighbouring Kings. I meditated vengeance for this, and I withdrew from him the government over his country. I put his brother AKHIMIT on his throne. But the people of Syria, eager for revolt, got tired of AKHIMIT's rule, and installed IAMAN, who like the former, was not the legitimate master of the throne. In the anger of my heart, I did not assemble the bulk of my army nor divide my baggage, but I marched against Ashdod with my warriors, who did not leave the trace of my feet.

33 IAMAN learnt from afar of the approach of my expedition; he fled beyond Egypt towards Libya (Meluhhi),² and no one ever saw any further trace of him. I besieged and took Ashdod and the town of Gimtu-Asdudim;³ I carried away captive IAMAN'S gods, his wife, his sons, his daughters, his money and the contents of his palace, together with the inhabitants of his country. I built these towns anew and placed in them the men that my arm had conquered.

¹ See Isaiah xx. 1.

² Meluhhi is not Méroe, but Libya, and especially the Marmarica. The name seems to be the Milyes of Herodotus.

³ *Asdudim* seems to be an Hebraic plural.

- 34 I placed my Lieutenant as Governor over them, and I treated them as Assyrians. They never again became guilty of impiety.
- 35 The King of Libya¹ lives in the middle of the desert, in an inaccessible place, at (a month's) journey. From the most remote times until the renewal of the lunar period² his fathers had sent no ambassadors to the Kings, my ancestors, to ask for peace and friendship and to acknowledge the power of MERODACH. But the immense terror inspired by my Majesty roused him, and fear changed his intentions. In fetters of iron he threw him (IAMAN), directed his steps towards Assyria and kissed my feet.
- 36 MUTTALLU, of Commagene, a fraudulent and hostile man, did not honour the memory of the gods, he plotted a conspiracy, and meditated defection. He trusted upon ARGISTI,³ King of Armenia, an helper who did not assist him, took upon himself the collection of the tributes and his part of the spoil, and refused me his submission. In the anger of my heart, I took the road to his country with the chariots of my power, and the horsemen who never left the traces of my feet. MUTTALLU saw the approach of my expedition, he withdrew his troops, and no one saw any further trace of him. I besieged and occupied his

¹ Meluhhi. This is the only passage, where small gaps occur.

² This is one of the most important passages of the text; the period is the Chaldæan eclipse period of 1805 years, and ended in 712 B.C. Instead of this passage, the Stele of Larnaca, now in Berlin, has: "from the remotest times, the beginning of Assyria, until now." The commencement of the period, 2517 B.C., coincided very nearly with the capture of Babylon by the Medes. This date commences the real history; previous to this time reigned the 86 princes during twelve lunar periods of 1805, and twelve solar periods of 1460 years, viz., 39,180 years. The very event may have happened 11 years afterward, 2506 B.C. The deluge happened, according to the Chaldæans, in 41,697 B.C.

³ This royal name is still found in the Armenian texts of Van.

capital and 62 large towns all together. I carried away his wife, his sons, his daughters, his money, his treasure, all precious things from his palace, together with the inhabitants of his country as spoil, I left none of them. I inaugurated this town afresh; I placed in it men from the country of Bit-Iakin, that my arm had conquered. I instituted my Lieutenant as Governor, and subdued them under my rule. I previously took from them 150 chariots, 1500 horsemen, 20,000 archers, 1000 men armed with shields and lances, and I confided the country to my Satrap.

37 Whilst DALTA, King of Ellip lived, he was submissive and devoted to my rule, the infirmities of age however came and he walked on the path of death. NIBIE and ISPABARA, the sons of his wives, claimed both the vacant throne of his royalty, the country and the taxes, and they fought a battle. NIBIE applied to SUTRUK-NAKHUNTI¹ King of Elam to support his claims, giving to him pledges for his alliance, and the other came as a helper. ISPABARA, on his side, implored me to maintain his cause, and to encourage him, at the same time bowing down, and humbling himself, and asking my alliance. I sent seven of my Lieutenants with their armies to support his claims, they put NIBIE and the army of the four rivers,² which had helped him, to flight, at the town of Mareobisti. I reinstated ISPABARA on the throne; I re-established peace in his country, and confided it to his care.

38 MERODACH-BALADAN, son of IAKIN,³ King of Chaldæa, the fallacious, the persistent in enmity, did not respect the memory of the gods, he trusted in the sea, and in the retreat of the marshes; he eluded the precepts of the

¹ The inscriptions of this prince are translated in the VIIth volume.

² Elam. We are now certain of this identification.

³ The same who occurs in the Ptolemaic canon (721-709)

great gods, and refused to send his tributes. He had supported as an ally KHUMBANIGAS, King of Elam. He had excited all the nomadic tribes of the desert against me. He prepared himself for battle, and advanced. During twelve years,¹ against the will of the gods of Babylon, the town of BEL which judges the gods, he had excited the country of the Sumers and Accads, and had sent ambassadors to them. In honour of the god ASSUR, the father of the gods, and of the great and august Lord MERODACH, I roused my courage I prepared my ranks for battle. I decreed an expedition against the Chaldeans, an impious and riotous people. MERODACH-BALADAN heard of the approach of my expedition, dreading the terror of his own warriors, he fled before it, and flew in the night time like an owl, falling back from Babylon, to the town of Ikbibel. He assembled together the towns possessing oracles, and the gods living in these towns he brought to save them to Dur-Iakin, fortifying its walls. He summoned the tribes of Gambul, Pukud, Tamun, Ruhua, and Khindar, put them in this place, and prepared for battle. He calculated the extent of a plethrum² in front of the great wall. He constructed a ditch 200 spans³ wide, and deep one fathom and a half.⁴ The conduits of water, coming from the Euphrates, flowed out into this ditch; he had cut off the course of the river, and divided it into canals, he had surrounded the town, the place of his revolt, with a dam, he had filled it with water, and cut off the conduits. MERODACH-BALADAN, with his allies and his soldiers had the insignia of his royalty kept as in an island on the banks of the river; he arranged his plan of battle. I stretched my combatants all along the river dividing them into bands; they con-

¹ From 721 to 709 B.C.

² 32^m91,39 yards.

54^m85,65 yards.

⁴ 4^m94,17½ feet.

quered the enemies. By the blood of the rebels the waters of these canals reddened like dyed wool. The nomadic tribes were terrified by this disaster which surprised him and fled; I completely separated his allies and the men of Marsan from him; I filled the ranks of the insurgents with mortal terror. He left in his tent the insignia of his royalty, the golden¹ the golden throne, the golden parasol, the golden sceptre, the silver chariot, the golden ornaments, and other effects of considerable weight; he fled alone, and disappeared like the ruined battlements of his fortress, and I entered into his retreat. I besieged and occupied the town of Dur-Iakin, I took as spoil and made captive, him, his wife, his sons, his daughters, the gold and silver and all that he possessed, the contents of his palace, whatever it was, with considerable booty from the town. I made each family and every man who had withdrawn himself from my arms, accountable for this sin. I reduced Dur-Iakin the town of his power to ashes. I undermined and destroyed its ancient forts. I dug up the foundation stone;² I made it like a thunder-stricken ruin. I allowed the people of Sippara, Nipur, Babylon, and Borsippa, who live in the middle of the towns to exercise their profession, to enjoy their belongings in peace, and I have watched upon them. I took away the possession of the fields which from remote times had been in the hand of the *Suti* Nomad, and restored them to their rightful owners. I placed the nomadic tribes of the desert again under my yoke, and I restored the forgotten land delimitations which had existed during the tranquillity of the land. I gave to each of the towns of Ur, Orchoé, Erikhi, Larsa, Kullab, and Kisik, the dwelling of the god LAGUDA, the god that resides in each, and I restored the

¹ Unexplained.

² *Timin*, not "cylinder."

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