

INSCRIPTION OF RIMMON-NIRARI I.

KING OF ASSYRIA (B.C. 1320).

 TRANSLATED BY

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THIS inscription is written on both sides of a stone tablet obtained by the late Mr. George Smith from Kaleh Sherghat, the ancient Assur and first capital of Assyria. It is an important historical document, since it throws light on a period which has left us but few remains. A translation of it is given by Mr. George Smith in his *Assyrian Discoveries*, pp. 243-246, and the original is copied in the *Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia*, Vol. IV., 44, 45. Assur-yuballidh, who is mentioned in the inscription, had married his daughter to one of the Cassite princes of Babylonia (see *Records of the Past*, Vol. III., p. 29), and the inscription would seem to show that he subsequently received divine honours. His son, Bel-nirari, restored the Babylonian crown to Curi-galzu,

the son of Burna-buryas, who had lost it by a revolution. Pudil built a palace in the capital city Assur, which is the earliest known royal residence in Assyria, but little else is recorded of him beyond the notice in the inscription translated below. The concluding line shows that the system of reckoning time by a succession of eponyms was already in existence, so that Assyrian chronology has a firm basis as far back, at all events, as the fourteenth century B.C.



INSCRIPTION OF RIMMON-NIRARI I.

OBVERSE.

- 1 RIMMON-NIRARI, the holy Prince, appointment of god,
 2 the holy *conqueror*, established by heaven (and) earth
 (and) the gods,
 3 establisher of fortresses (and) demolished buildings
 4 of the host of the Cassi,² Gutium,³ Lulumi,
 5 and 'Subari,⁴ destroyer of all
 6 enemies above and below, the trampler
 7 on their countries from Lubdi(?) and Rapiku⁵
 8 to the confines of Zabidadi and Nisi,
 9 the (remover) of boundaries and landmarks,
 10 the (overthrower) of Kings and Princes
 11 (whom) the gods ANU, ASSUR, SAMAS, RIMMON
 12 and ISTAR to his feet subjected;
 13 the supreme worshipper of BEL.
 14 The son of PUDIL, established by BEL,
 15 Vicegerent of ASSUR, the conqueror
 16 of the lands of Turuci and Nirkhi
 17 as far as the frontiers of his *furthest* castles,⁶
 18 ruling the mountains and the forests
 19 of the frontiers of wide Gutium,
 20 of the Gunukhlami and the 'Suti,⁷
 21 their streams and lands;

¹ Literally, "the ploughing down of buildings."

² The Cossæans who had conquered Babylonia.

³ The Goyim or "nations" of Gen. xiv.

⁴ Syria: literally, "the highlands."

⁵ Raphek.

⁶ Or, "of Carisugimenei."

⁷ The Bedouins.

22 the remover of boundaries and landmarks.
 23 The grandson of BEL-NIRARI,
 24 worshipper of ASSUR also, who on the army of the
 Cassi
 25 laid his yoke, and the spoil of his foes
 26 his hand captured, the remover of boundaries
 27 and landmarks. The great-grandson
 28 of ASSUR-YUBALLIDH, the powerful King,
 29 whom as a worshipper in Bit-Kurra I fixed.
 30 The restoration and peace of his kingdom
 31 to distant regions like a mountain he extended ;
 32 the sweeper away of the armies
 33 of the wide-spread 'Subari,
 34 the remover of boundaries and landmarks.
 35 At that time the ascent to the temple of ASSUR my
 Lord,
 36 which (was before) the gate of the men of my country

REVERSE.

1 and the gate of the stars (called) Judges,¹
 2 which existed in former times, was decayed, and
 3 was stopped up and was ruined ;
 4 this place I selected,
 5 its strength I took,
 6 with clay and sand 4 *gurs* I cemented,
 7 I made, to its place I restored,
 8 and my inscription I placed
 9 for future days. The future Prince

¹ According to Diodorus, 24 stars were called "Judges," and associated with the Zodiac, 12 being north and 12 south. Among these were the Pole-star, *Dayan-same* or "the judge of heaven," and *Dayan-esiru*, "the prospering judge," also called "the crown of heaven." "The divine days" or "lights of Assur" were *dayani* or "judges," and the names of the six "divine judges of the temple of Assur" are given as Samelā, Ismi-carabu, Nuscu, Ipada, Uzru-casunu and Sitamme-carabu.

- 10 at the time (when) this place
11 shall grow old and decay,
12 its ruins let him renew; my inscriptions (and) my
written name
13 to its place let him restore. The god ASSUR
14 his prayers heareth. Whoever my written name
15 shall erase and his own name shall write,
16 and the record of my inscription shall cause to wash out,
17 to destruction shall devote,
18 in the flood shall lay, in the fire
19 shall burn, in the water shall lay,
20 with the dust shall cover,
21 into a house underground, a place not seen,
22 shall cause to descend and place,
23 then I appoint these curses:
24 (even) the enemy, the stranger, the wicked one and the
injurer,
25 the hostile tongue, and whosoever
26 a rival shall urge on and excite,
27 and whatever he devises he shall accomplish.
28 ASSUR, the mighty god, who dwells in the temple of
Kharsak-kurra,
29 the gods ANU, BEL, HEA and TSIRU,
30 the great gods, the spirit of heaven,
31 (and) the spirit of earth, in their ministry,
32 mightily may they injure him, and
33 (with) a grievous curse quickly
34 may they curse him: his name, his seed, his forces
35 and his family in the land may they destroy;
36 the glory of his county, the duration of his people
37 and his landmarks, by their august mouth,
38 may it go forth, and may RIMMON in inundation
39 malign inundate (with) whirlwind,
40 may the wind dry up, and amongst his offspring

- 41 destruction, want of crops,
42 curse (and) famine in his country may he lay, (with)
rain his country like a whirlwind may he fill,
43 to a mound and ruins may he turn ; may RIMMON in his
evil devouring his country devour.
44 (Dated) the month Mukhur-ili,¹ the 20th day, during the
eponymy of SHALMAN-KARRADU.

¹ "Gift of the gods."



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