

INSCRIPTION OF ASSUR-IZIR-PAL(?).

TRANSLATED BY
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THE first volume of the *Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia*, pl. 28, contains an inscription from a broken obelisk, attributed by Sir Henry Rawlinson to Sardanapalus (Assur-izir-pal). The learned General is of opinion that this obelisk, which was found in the ruins of Koyunjik, had been originally erected at Elassar (Kileh-Shergat), as the second column of the inscription treats principally of buildings belonging to this latter city.

There is however nothing in the inscription itself to identify the obelisk with Assur-izir-pal, whose early capital was Elassar, rather than with a later king, who reigned at Nineveh where the monument was found. Indeed, there are fair grounds for attributing it to a later monarch than Assur-izir-pal, as it seems strange

that buildings of his father and grandfather should have fallen into decay within so short a period.

In the uncertainty, and for sake of reference, I have left the designation as it stands in the volume of inscriptions. A translation was made by the late Mr. Fox Talbot in 1859, which was published in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, Vol. XIX. M. Oppert also translated the inscription in his *Histoire des Empires de Chaldée et d'Assyrie*, 1865, p. 132-135, which translation has been followed by M. Menant in the different fragments given by him in his *Annales des Rois d'Assyrie*.

The following translation differs slightly from the latter; that of the late Mr. Fox Talbot has been considerably amended by the progress made in Assyriology since 1859.¹

¹ The first column having been already translated by the Rev. William Houghton, see pp. 7-10, the continuation of the text only is here given.

INSCRIPTION OF ASSUR-IZIR-PAL(?).

COLUMN II.

- 1 Bit-Abusate, the Palace of my lordship, had become too
 small,
 2 the storehouses and all its buildings had decayed, and
 3 from its foundations to its roof I rebuilt it.
 4 Bit-Sahuri, which IRIB-BIN (had built), and its massive
 buildings
 5 facing the North, which ASSUR-IDIN-AKHI, King of
 Assyria,
 6 had erected, having fallen in ruins, I rebuilt. The moat
 7 of my city Assur, which had been destroyed, and which
 the earth had filled up,
 8 from the great gate . . .¹ to the gate of the Tigris I dug.
 9 The fir posts of the great iron gate Sahu I removed,
 10 excellent beams of shittim wood I made,
 11 and with sheets of copper I joined them. The great
 citadel
 12 of my city Assur completely
 13 I built. Heaps of earth round about it
 14 against the raised part I spread.² A temple of cedar,
 15 a temple of ivory, a temple of *butni*-wood,³ a temple of
 carved wood,
 16 in my city Assur I made. For the castles 4 *burhisi*, and
 17 4 lions of adamant, 2 sacred bulls and lions
 18 of polished stone, 2 *burhis* of fine white stone

¹ Lacuna.

² Probably a network of earthen fortifications rendering the access to the citadel difficult.

³ Oppert translates *butni* by "pistachier."

- 19 I made, and in their gates I set them up.
 20 The canal which ASSUR-DAN-IL had dug,
 21 its head was destroyed, and for 30 years the water
 within it
 22 did not run; the head of that canal I dug over again,
 23 and the water into its bed I brought; trees I planted
 alongside.
 24 The parapet which for the great dyke of the gate of the
 Tigris
 25 BIN-NIRARI, King of Assyria, had built, had gone to
 decay
 26 and had perished. On the water-courses cement
 27 and brick for 5 measures I laid. The building
 28 of the Palace Kumti, which before Kisalate
 29 TIGLATH-NINIP,¹ King of Assyria, had made,
 30 for the length of 1 *us* and 3 *kumani-alib* had gone to
 decay
 31 and had perished, from its foundation to its roof I built
 it up.
 32 The Palace in the city Iz . . .² which *rishuli*, which of
 the city Lib³ . . .²
 33 The Palace Kumta in *ma-a-qa*
 34 The Palace in the city Atki, which . . .²
 35 I built²
 36 the fortress²

¹ Tiglath-Ninip II. was the father, and Bin-Nirari II, the grandfather, of Assur-izir-pal.

² Lacunæ.

³ Probably Libzu, *i.e.*, Assur. T.G.P.

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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