

TEXTS RELATING TO
THE FALL OF THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE.

TRANSLATED BY
REV. A. H. SAYCE, M.A.

THE following fragments seem to refer to the closing days of the Assyrian monarchy when Kyaxares the Mede, with the Kimmerians, the people of Minni, or Van, and the tribe of 'Saparda, or Sepharad (cf. *Od.*, 20), on the Black Sea, was threatening Nineveh. Esarhaddon II., the Sarakos of the Greek writers, had proclaimed a solemn assembly to the gods, in the hope of warding off the danger. But the bad writing of the tablets shows that they are merely the first rough text of the royal proclamation, and we may perhaps infer that the capture of Nineveh and the overthrow of the Empire

prevented a fair copy from ever being taken. In the fragments translated below, Kaztaritu, or Kyaxares, is called "King of Karukassu" (?Caucasus), but a detached fragment terms him "King of Media."

The fragments are numbered S 2005 and K 4668, and I have given a copy of the text (transliterated) in my *Babylonian Literature* (Bagster and Sons), pp. 79, 80.



THE FALL OF THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE.

FIRST FRAGMENT.

- 1 (O Sun-god), mighty (Lord), to whom I will pray, O god
of fixed destiny, remove (our sin).
- 2 (CAS)TARIT, Lord of the city of Car-cassi, who to
MAMITI-ARSU,
- 3 (Lord of the city) of the Medes had sent thus: With
one another we are established, with the country of . . .¹
(we are confederate).
- 4 (MAMI)TI-ARSU hears; he sets his hearing before him;
- 5¹ this year with ESAR-HADDON, King (of Assyria,
war he makes).
- 6¹ according to thy great divinity¹
- 7¹ of MAMITI-ARSU, Lord of the city of the
Medes¹
- 8¹ (ESAR-HADDON), King of Assyria in²

[The rest of the tablet is too broken to be legible, but mention is made of "the city 'Sandulitir," and of "the people of 'Saparda."]

¹ Lacunæ.

² Perhaps Babylonia has to be supplied here.

SECOND FRAGMENT.

- 1 O Sun-god, great Lord, I have prayed to thee; O god of fixed destiny, remove our sin.
- 2 From the current day the third day of this month Iyyar¹ to the 15th day of the month Ab of the current year,
- 3 for 100 days (and) 100 nights current, let the General among the ranks proclaim sacred rites (and) festivals;
- 4 since CASTARIT with his soldiers, and the soldiers of the Kimmerians,
- 5 and the soldiers of the Medes, and the soldiers of the Minni, and the enemy, all of them,
- 6 inundate (and) are multitudinous² since on the seventh (day)²
- 7 during the festival, by means of conflict and battle, and *battering engines* the revolted revolted.
- 8 Then with *machines of war*² and with famine
- 9 and with the oath of obedience to god and (King), and in addition²
- 10 and with the bond of a letter² (to) the cities, all of them

¹ Iyyar corresponds roughly to our Apri, Ab to our July.

² Lacunæ.

- 11 (belonging to) the city of the Cisaśśutians,¹
 the midst of the city Khartam, the city Cisaśśu they
 approached ;
- 12 the city Khartam, (and) the city Cisaśśu their hands
 captured.²
- 13 To their hands the Sun-god, the mighty eye (of heaven)
 numbered (them, along with)
- 14 five (villages) of the city of Khartam (and) the city
 Cisaśśu into the hands of the enemy, all of them.
- 15 From the current day to the day of the feast in the land
 before thy great divinity
- 16 I left¹ (in) the midst of them they devise, they
 turn and¹

[The next 8 lines are too mutilated for translation.]

- 26 Since that (from) the current day, the 3rd day of (this)
 month Iyyar to the 11th day of the month Ab of the
 current year,
- 27 CASTARIT with his soldiers (and) the forces of the
 Kimmerians, the soldiers of the Minni,
- 28 and the soldiers of the Medes, (and) the enemy, all of
 them,

¹ Lacunæ.

² These cities were probably situated on the northern frontier of Assyria.

29 the city of Khartam (and) the city of Cisaśśu approached; the city of Khartam (and) the city of the Cisaśśutians,

30 (even) the city of Khartam (and) the city of Cisaśśu their hands captured; to their hands they were measured.

.¹

¹ Lacuna.



END OF SAMPLE TEXT



The Complete Text can be found on our CD:
Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature
which can be purchased on our Website :
www.Brainfly.net

or

by sending **\$64.95** in check or money order to :
Brainfly Inc.
5100 Garfield Ave. #46
Sacramento CA 95841-3839

TEACHER'S DISCOUNT:

If you are a **TEACHER** you can take advantage of our teacher's discount. Click on **Teachers Discount** on our website (www.Brainfly.net) or **Send us \$55.95** and we will send you a full copy of *Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature* **AND** our *5000 Classics CD (a collection of over 5000 classic works of literature in electronic format (.txt))* plus our *Wholesale price list*.

If you have any suggestions such as books you would like to see added to the collection or if you would like our wholesale prices list please send us an email to:

webcomments@brainfly.net