

## THE LATEST ASSYRIAN INSCRIPTION.

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 TRANSLATED BY

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IN 1870 I found, in the Museum of the Society of Antiquarians at Zurich, a little clay tablet, which struck me on account of the title of the king in the date of the tablet, "King of Persia." This title not having occurred in a single text of the Achæmenidæ, who assumed the name of "King of the Nations," I found after a long examination, that this tablet must belong to the Arsacidæ, and especially to King Pacorus II., who was contemporary with the emperors Titus and Domitian. This little inscription, the most modern of all known cuneiform texts, has been edited by myself in the *Mélanges d'Archéologie Égyptienne et Assyrienne* (Tom. I., p. 240, ff.), and in the *Documents juridiques*, which I published with M. Ménant; and lastly by Prof. Sayce in his *Lectures upon the Assyrian Language*, p. 41.

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### TEXT OF PACORUS II.

Owed 40 tetradrachma.

LARASSIB, son of BEL-AKHE-IRIB, will pay into the hands of ZIR-IDIN, son of HABLAI, in the month of Iyar, 40 tetradrachma, in the temple of the Sun, in Babylon.

Witnesses: URRAME, son of PUYA; ALLIT, son of AIRAD; KISTAR, son of SINAM; ZIR-IDIN, son of HABLAI, writer.

Babylon, in the month of Kislev, the 3rd day, in the 5th year of PIKHARIS, King of Persia.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The names of this curious little tablet are in part Babylonian, in part Persian, all the witnesses seem to bear even modern Persian names.

The only king who can be referred to is Pacorus II., who commenced his reign A.D. 77. The fifth year in the Kislev is therefore December, A.D. 81, that is, the time of the emperor Domitian, who commenced his reign September 13, A.D. 81.

I should have supposed to find in the name one of the independent Persian kings during the Arsacidae's reign, if these petty kings had ever had Babylon in their possession.

The word which we express by tetradrachm, is *bar sa*, of a very obscure form.

# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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