

NIPPUR'S GREAT LIBRARY

Estimated That One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Tablets of Third Millennium B. C. Will be Taken Out.

Some of the most important archaeological material that ever came to America has just arrived at the University of Pennsylvania, says the New York Tribune. A library of which every volume or tablet was written prior to Abraham's leaving Ur of the Chaldees was excavated in the recent campaign in Nippur. These treasures were brought to this country in 22 large cases, containing from six to eight boxes each. More than a year ago Prof. Hilprecht left Philadelphia for Constantinople, expecting to continue his work of organizing the new Semitic section of the Imperial Ottoman museum, which occupies the third new building recently erected at the sultan's order, and at the same time examine and study the immense results of the last expedition to Nippur, which had arrived at Constantinople. As Prof. Hilprecht was about to leave Constantinople the sultan, who had theretofore on a number of occasions manifested his appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Prof. Hilprecht, presented to him, among other important antiquities, the larger part of the famous temple library which was excavated by the expedition of the University of Pennsylvania. Prof. Hilprecht in turn presented this magnificent collection of tablets to the institution which has represented.

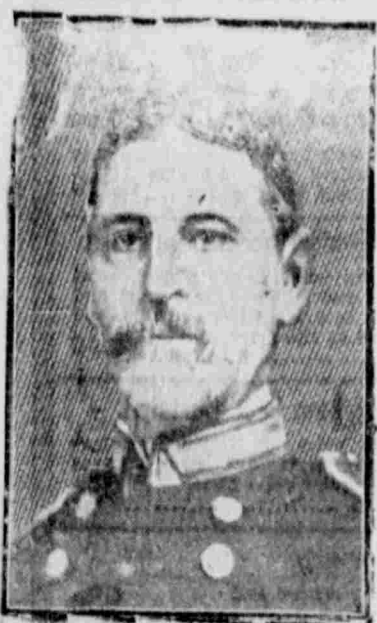
A little over 25 years ago the intellectual world was startled by the announcement that Ashurbanipal's library had been discovered by the English explorers Layard and Smith, and that among the clay volumes there were accounts of the creation and deluge which much resembled the Biblical stories. It was then ascertained that these legends were copies of older tablets which belonged to Babylonian libraries in the southern part of the valley. For some time scholars have assumed that every important Babylonian city had its library, and that if they could be found most important data for the reconstruction of the early history of man would be forthcoming. Without detracting therefore from the importance of the discovery of this ancient Assyrian library at Nineveh, the announcement that the library of the Great Temple of Bel, the most famous sanctuary of the early Babylonians, has been found anew must be regarded as being of even greater importance. The tablets of Ashurbanipal made no copies of tablets from this library, for it had been thrown into ruin over 1,800 years prior to his time. The tablets were under the ruins of the palace of Nebuchadnezzar, who destroyed nearly every city of Babylon, threw into ruins at the same time the temple library at Nippur, in which condition it remained for centuries. This fact determines that every tablet found in its ruins belongs to the period prior to this invasion, or, in other words, was written before or about the time Abraham left southern Babylonia for the Promised Land.

About 12 years ago, when Prof. Hilprecht first rode over the mounds at Nippur, he pointed out an extensive group of mounds south of the temple hill, which he regarded as the probable site of the temple library. About 2,500 tablets were recovered from this mound in the first campaign. The mound was called Tablet Hill. Later excavations revealed many additional inscriptions, but on the recent campaign Prof. Hilprecht was able to establish definitely that his old theory was correct. In the brief space of about eight weeks a series of "book stacks" or rooms, were cleared by his field director, Dr. Haynes, and a rich harvest of nearly 20,000 tablets was gathered.

In the uppermost stratum of this mound the excavators found coffins which had been buried in the early centuries of our Christian era. A great many antiquities were also gathered which belonged to the Jews who continued to live at Nippur after the return of Ezra and Nehemiah. Prominent among them were terra cotta bowls containing incantations and charms inscribed in Hebrew and Aramaean. Down the excavators went, through 25 feet of accumulations of debris, representing several millenniums of history, when they finally came to the library. Here they found a series of rooms, a number of which contained ledges or shelves built out from the wall, for the purpose of laying out the tablets in rows. The library seems to have been divided into two parts. There was a business section for keeping accounts, and the educational quarters, with a vast library of a literary character. Only the southeastern and northwestern wings of the immense edifice have thus far been cleared. In all about one-twentieth part of the entire library. Prof. Hilprecht estimates, on a basis of the discoveries already made, on the topographical appearance of the mound and the history of the temple with which the library was connected, that when the entire mound has been completely excavated it will have yielded at least 150,000 tablets, every one of which belongs to the third millennium before Christ.

The clearing of the library was continued a few weeks after Prof. Hilprecht's arrival at Nippur, when he withdrew the Arabic workmen from its ruins, owing to the shortness of the time at his disposal, and set them at work on the eastern fortifications of the city, at the same time having one of the architects make a ground plan of the rooms exposed. The complete excavation of this most important structure, with its precious literature of a long forgotten past, will require several years of continuous labor. While the destruction of temples, palaces, libraries and works of art which the Elamites then accomplished must be regarded as gross vandalism, in this particular instance, so far as the people

COMMANDER McLEAN.

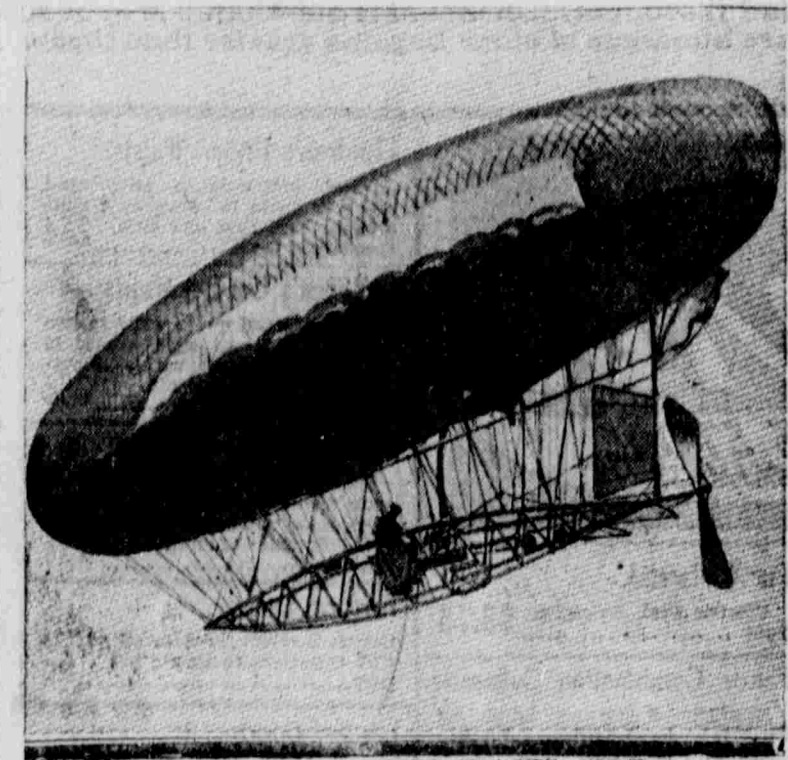


Full confidence is expressed in Commander McLean, the gallant United States naval officer in charge of the squadron protecting our interests in Venezuelan waters. This is the latest photograph of Commander McLean.

of this day are concerned, it was most fortunate, for doubtless the tablets, being mostly unbroken, would have been destroyed long ago and their contents entirely lost if the Elamites had not destroyed the library building. When the roof collapsed, the tablets, which had been laid in rows, classified doubtless according to their contents, fell from the shelves to the floor in heaps, in which condition they were found. It was a glorious sight for the excavators. They had found inscriptions and other valuable antiquities in various parts of the mounds during the previous 12 years, but no discovery could be compared to this in extent and importance. One by one the tablets were carefully removed from their resting places by trained workmen. It was necessary to handle them tenderly, owing to the fact that they were moist from being buried for several millenniums in the earth. As they were taken from their resting places, they were carried to the castle, which had been built by the excavators to house themselves and also the antiquities. After the tablets were thoroughly dried they were packed, ready to be shipped to Constantinople.

The contents of the library, so far as examined by Prof. Hilprecht while at Nippur and in the last year at Con-

THIS AIRSHIP WILL FLY.



Is England to claim the honor of the first flying machine that really flies? While Santos Dumont is still planning to complete his machine and Prof. Stevenson of America, is making futile attempts to lift his aerodrome off the ground, Stanley Spencer, a British skykipper who has already made a flight of 30 miles over London, claims his invention is a perfect success in every particular.

stantinople, proved to be most varied; in fact, practically every branch of literature known to the Babylonians is represented in the library. Among the inscriptions are hundreds of historical texts, dictionaries, or lists of Sumerian words with Semitic equivalents; lists of birds, animals, plants and stones; lists of words for chairs, stools and other articles of furniture; hymns, astronomical and mythological inscriptions, tablets which refer to the services and functions of the temple—how many garments the god Bel wore, how many temples and shrines there were at Nippur besides those dedicated to Bel, and what the revenues of the temple were; tablets containing grammatical sentences written by students, arithmetical calculations, etc. Naturally, in the brief time at his disposal up to the present, only the most cursory examination of the precious material could be made by Prof. Hilprecht; but, as he announced, "the methodical publication of the rich and varied contents of this unique library, the first of its kind so far excavated in Babylonia, and now constituting one of the most precious treasures of the University of Pennsylvania, will be taken in hand vigorously and constitute his chief task for the next 20 years."

When we reflect that until recent decades our knowledge of the period prior to Abraham was entirely dependent upon the first 11 chapters of Genesis, and that there is an entire library, which contains many thousand volumes written in that early age, we can at least realize that the future generations will have considerable knowledge of those early days, which until recently were regarded by many scholars as mythical, and yet no one can even conjecture what is contained in the larger part of the mound which up to the present remains untouched.

Several versions of the creation and deluge stories older than those found in Ashurbanipal's library have been discovered at other places. One of these is dated about 2000 B. C. It would not be surprising to find that versions of the same accounts older than those already recovered would be found in the great Nippur library, besides other documents which would throw additional light on the early chapters of Genesis. This is only one of the important discoveries of the recent campaign. Considerable attention was paid to the excavation of the great temple of Bel, the foundation of which was laid between 600 and 700 years before Christ. An ancient government palace of immense proportions, where the kings lived, belonging to the fifth millennium before Christ, and one of the ancient gates and walls of the city were uncovered. A government palace erected about 350 B. C. was completely and systematically excavated, besides numerous other buildings of less importance. Most valuable inscriptions in stone belonging to the earliest rulers of Babylonia, by the help of which the early history of mankind in the valley between the Tigris and Euphrates will be reconstructed, were discovered. Antiquities in coins, jewelry in gold, silver and bronze in great quantities; vases in enameled and plain pottery of all periods; seals and seal cylinders, such as the Babylonians used in connection with their business transactions; images of gods, playthings in terra cotta, bas reliefs, weights, utensils in bronze, iron and silver, etc., were found. These are a few of the important things found, without mentioning the numerous facts ascertained and the many questions solved through the personal study of Prof. Hilprecht while in the trenches, which have important bearing upon the religious ideas and customs of the daily life of the Babylonians.

Only a small portion of the mounds at Nippur has thus far been completely excavated. Considerable work yet remains to be done on the temple. Only one side of the ancient government palace has been cleared, and about one-twentieth part of the library. In view of the fact that the sultan and his administrative body have manifested such a generous and friendly attitude toward the university, and especially toward her representative, who is the scientific

THE KAISER'S WILY PLAN.

He Courts the Sultan's Favor and Secures Valuable Franchises in Asia Minor.

(Special Correspondence of the Chicago Daily News.) Constantinople, Aug. 26.—Germany has succeeded in riveting another link in the chain she has been forging for several years which is intended to surround Asia Minor and bind it so firmly to the fatherland that no one can possibly compete with German commerce there. Germany's progress is very slow but very sure. The whole scheme was worked out years ago and step by step the Kaiser is completing it. At times he seems to have forgotten it altogether; then suddenly a new move is announced.

Abdul Hamid is always in difficulties and the German emperor poses as his only friend. When Europe and America were crying out at the time of the Armenian massacres, Germany did nothing. After the Greek war, when all the powers wished to use coercion, and during the Cretan question, Germany always took part till the critical moment and then backed out. When the other nations were treating the Sultan as a barbarian Kaiser Wilhelm paid him a visit and appeared on the most friendly terms with him. As a reward Germany got the long-coveted concession of the Baghdad railway.

CLAUSE WHICH LOOKED INNOCENT.

Germany has no intention of building a railway to carry other people's merchandise, and when it got the concession inserted some seemingly innocent clauses, which it now appears will give Germany a monopoly of trade in

Asia Minor. Whenever the government is in great straits for money the Germans come forward and make them a small loan of about \$1,000,000, and in return get a concession for something that will in the future be worth many millions.

At the same time they secured a concession for making a harbor and quays at Haidar-Pasha. These works have been completed. Afterward they began negotiating with the Oriental railway company for amalgamation. The Oriental railway unites Constantinople directly with Germany. Their intention was to establish a steam ferry to carry trucks from Constantinople to Haidar-Pasha. These negotiations have fallen through, but now it is announced that the Germans have made a loan of \$500,000 to the admiralty to buy new steamers for the Haidar-Pasha-Constantinople line and take control of the receipts to repay themselves. This means that this steamer line—the connecting link between European and Asiatic railways—has passed into their hands, enabling them to carry out the most important feature of their plans.

To see how they are situated one must take a map and examine how carefully they have worked to make

their scheme complete. When they began there were several lines starting from the coast and running inland, all of which had been trying for years to obtain extensions into the interior without success. These are the Mondana-Broussa, Mesina-Adana, Smyrna-Samsat, Smyrna-Aidin and the Bagdadi-Damascus. The concession for the German line permits it to leave Haidar-Pasha and go round the coast as far as Aleppo before striking across to Bagdad, the result being that all other lines are cut off from the interior, as by the concession none of them may cross the German lines.

ANOTHER FATAL CLAUSE.

Having thus disposed of all competitors inland, the Germans meet their foreign trade rivals at the magnificent and unnecessary harbor at Haidar-Pasha. Of course such a fine harbor and quays necessitate quay dues; but the clause in the concession, which nobody noticed when it was formulated, provided that goods arriving in full carloads, if not breaking bulk, should be exempt from quay dues.

People now begin to understand that the Germans, by holding the ferryboats, will be able to bring cars direct from Germany to Constantinople by ferry across to Haidar-Pasha and thence to Bagdad without breaking bulk, while all the seaborne goods must break bulk, and pay heavy quay dues. Further, German goods will benefit by through rates from Germany to Asia Minor while the others will have to pay full local rates from Haidar-Pasha.—John Croker in Chicago Daily News.

RAILROADS NAIL THROUGH HIS HAND.

While opening a box, J. C. Mount, of Three Mile Bay, N. Y., ran a ten penny nail through the fleshy part of his hand. "I thought at once of all the pain and soreness this would cause me," he says, "and immediately applied Chamberlain's Pain Balm and occasionally afterwards. To my surprise it removed all pain and soreness and the injured parts were soon healed." For sale by all druggists.

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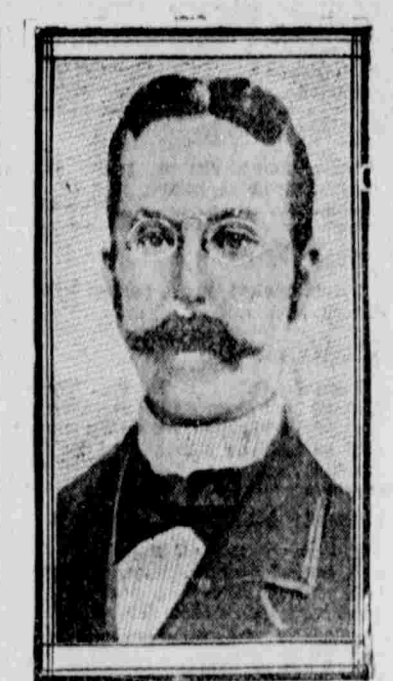
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Dr. T. S. Dedrick's friends are now busy circulating the doctor's side of the story of the great Peary controversy. They declare that out of a stern sense of duty, because he knew that the expedition had no other physician along, Dr. Dedrick, repudiated and humiliated by Peary, voluntarily stayed with in reach of the expedition and heroically endured the horrible sufferings of the Arctic regions.

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