

much labor and ingenuity a number of these were fitted together, and some understanding of the general contents was obtained. Mr. Smith estimates the number of tablets in the royal library at Nineveh at over 10,000, treating on a great variety of subjects.

The copies that contain the Genesis narratives, Mr. Smith says, all belong to the age of Assurbanipal who reigned over Assyria a little more than six hundred years before our era. They are consequently of a much later date than is claimed for the book of Genesis in the Bible. But as the Assyrian tablets are considered merely copies of Babylonian records, it is assumed that the composition of the narratives belongs to much earlier ages. Chronology is at best a difficult subject, but when it comes to penetrating the depths of this remote antiquity, the explorer is often lost in the labyrinths of events. Babylonia was invaded by the Assyrians about one thousand three hundred years before our era, and the Babylonian records must therefore at least antedate that year. So much seems clear. But how much older they are must be left to future discoveries to prove. Moses flourished in the seventeenth century before Christ and may, for aught we know, have been cotemporary with the Babylonian authors whose works were copied in later ages by Assyrian scholars. Chronology, then, furnishes no argument for the supposition that Moses in his Genesis copied the Babylonian tablets.

Mr. Smith's own observations on this point are pertinent. He says:

"I think all will admit a connection of some sort between the Biblical narrative and those of Berosus and the cuneiform texts, but between Chaldea and Palestine was a wide extent of country inhabited by different nations, whose territories formed a connecting link between these extremes. The Aramean and Hittite races who once inhabited the region along the Euphrates and in Syria have passed away, their history has been lost, and their mythology and traditions are unknown; until future researches on the sites of their cities shall reveal the position in which their traditions stood towards those of Babylonia and Palestine, we shall not be able to clear up the connection between the two." Chald. Acc. of Gen. 284, 285.

One thing is absolutely certain. The author of the book of Genesis recorded events that had really transpired and were recorded among the various primitive nations of the old world. This is the only reasonable conclusion to be drawn from the fact that both traditions and the written history of various countries agree in all the main facts. And thus the discovery of the Assyrian fragments adds to the proofs of the genuineness and authenticity of the books of Moses.

It was known from what happens to be preserved of the writings of Berosus, a Babylonian writer who knew the Greek language and lived about 250 years before Christ, that the Babylonians were acquainted with traditions relating to the creation, the era before the deluge and other Biblical subjects. But his testimony was not accepted as evidence of the high antiquity of these

traditions. The evidence in the Assyrian fragments is of more satisfactory nature and cannot be disputed.

HAIL TO THE CHOIR!

The great Elsteadford choir competition was held on the World's Fair grounds in Chicago yesterday and late last night the decision of the adjudicators was given. According to this, the Salt Lake Tabernacle Choir carries off the second prize of \$1000, having lost the first prize by only half a point—whatever that may mean—and Prof. Stephens will wear a gold medal as being the conductor of a winning organization.

The triumph is in every way gratifying. Stephens and his melodious associates have borne aloft, and with distinguished success the banner of musical culture in these Rocky Mountains, and have evoked an all-conquering enthusiasm over two thousand miles of territory such as probably never greeted a similar occurrence before. They deserve the praise and thanks of the entire West, for they have opened the eyes and charmed the ears of the world, and, having put the most superior and long-triumphant choruses on their keenest mettle, were only defeated for the very highest honors by a scratch. Their undertaking was in the utmost degree courageous, and bravely has it been carried through. We greet them as victors of a hard-sung field, who have answered every expectation of their friends at home; and promise that their return to the mountain heights will be the occasion of pride and joy, not only to their fellow-religionists but to their town and Territory, the nucleus of intermountain courage, beauty, intelligence and song!

HOME RULE DEFEATED.

A London dispatch, which is altogether too brief in view of the importance of the information it conveys, announces the defeat of the Irish home rule bill by the British house of lords by the decisive vote of 419 to 41—the largest vote ever recorded in the house. The result was not unexpected, it was on the contrary a foregone conclusion. So far as the present parliament is concerned, therefore, the bill is killed; and when on some future occasion a new measure of similar import shall be brought forward, the hard work of getting it through the various stages of consideration in the lower house will all have to be done over again.

But it must not be thought for a moment that Mr. Gladstone's labor on this absorbing question has been in vain. Neither does it follow that the obvious consequence is or should be an appeal to the country. If the country had anything to do with the election of the members of the house of lords, such appeal might be proper and efficacious. But their lordships in their seats are far above the power of the electors; they are there by reason of blood or royal favor, not by reason of brains or popularity. If Mr. Gladstone should decide "to go to the people," therefore, for an endorsement of his policy, the most that he could expect

would be the return of a friendly majority of commonsense, and this he has already; the only further result would be a moral but wholly ineffectual rebuke of the lords by the people, which he knows, quite as well as anyone else, would be a matter of supreme indifference to their titled highnesses. When the prime minister, or a measure introduced or favored by him, is defeated by a vote in the only elective part of parliament, the house of commons, then and then only is an appeal to the country the obvious and logical and proper recourse.

For many years leading men in the British empire have been inquiring one of another, "what's the use of this house of lords of ours?" Few acceptable answers have been given. This latest vote, which overturns and vetoes the will of the people as expressed through their elected representatives, will make the question still more ugly for the aristocrats. Hence the observation above, that Mr. Gladstone's labor has not been in vain. He may have contrived, in a purely honorable and open way, to assist the house of lords to dig its own grave.

[COMMUNICATED.]

THE RETURN OF CONFIDENCE.

NEW YORK, Sept. 6.—The banks and trust companies are looking for customers to take money on time at 6 per cent on prime dividend stocks. Thus the position of borrower and lender has been reversed completely the past few days.

It is said that this great nation numbers nearly seventy millions of people. It can only be looked upon as a unit for the present purpose; but whatever differences of station, or state, or means, this seventy million people have wants in common. They must eat to live; they must be clad; and shelter is as essential to one as to another.

A certain proportion may be prepared from pre-accumulation to live and enjoy. They have a surplus so large that stringent times have little or no effect upon them. There are others used to abundance, but when distrust is abroad they have to furl sail a little, or at least they exercise caution; they have to consider and curtail in part, may be, but yet life is easy, they are not in any great danger, they do not suffer, they are able to wait a turn in affairs, anxiety is not theirs unless depression is long continued.

The great majority live on the borderland of circumstance, subject to all the contingencies of a rather complicated civilization. They crowd into cities; they depend for labor upon others; mainly willing to work, no doubt, but life at its best is precarious; they buy from hand to mouth; they are in excess as a rule; two or three men often want one job, and when work is fairly abundant they are beset by demagogues and led into strikes until contentions seem inseparable from times of prosperity. This multitudinous element is subject to conditions over which it is powerless. Capital controls, dominates, places value upon it; landlordism destroys that potent feature of home life—ownership. Rent becomes a burdensome tax, and evictions in large cities are more common than ever they were in old Ireland.