

ing a re-entrant angle at one edge of the mound, near the base, and apparently extending further in towards the centre to complete the basement walls of a building. On the face of each block were Hittite bas-reliefs.

The attention of American antiquarians was called to this mound, and it was hoped that American enterprise would undertake its exploration. The past winter a party of Germans, under the patronage of their government, have commenced the work of excavation, and 100 laborers in a few weeks' time laid bare a large number of blocks forming, as had been supposed, the basement of a Hittite palace. They were nearly all in situ, resting upon rude foundations of masonry. A line of blocks extends along the entire front, then opens midway into an entrance hall, which soon widens into a court 40 feet square. A narrow hall connects this court with another large court further within, which has been uncovered only in part, but seems to be several rods square. These halls and courts are lined by a single row of basalt blocks, each standing on end, and nearly every block contains on its inner surface a Hittite sculpture.

At one place is a hunting scene continued along a dozen blocks. The men are armed with daggers, spears and the bow and arrow. Deer, rabbits and birds represent a variety of game. At the entrance to the main court on either side are the bas-relief sculptures of an immense lion looking toward the outer door and behind each lion stands a heavily armed soldier. The superstructure, resting upon these Hittite blocks, must have been made of sun-dried brick and perhaps in part of wood. The stones bear evidence that the buildings above them were burned. The pile of earth that forms the mound must be the debris of mud roofs and walls from Hittite palaces to the present hovels of modern times.

No Hittite hieroglyphics have yet been discovered, but the most remarkable "find" is the colossal statue of Sardanapalus, king of Nineveh, eighth century B. C., standing on a pedestal in the smaller court of the palace. The workmanship is very fine. The face speaks like the finest Grecian statues. The statue had been thrown down and broken, but the fragments are all there and the whole figure can easily be restored. On this statue were several square yards of Assyrian inscription in cuneiform hieroglyphics from which the name was determined.

But how this statue of the Assyrian king came to be placed in a Hittite palace is not easily accounted for. It is presumed that when Sardanapalus made his expedition through Asia Minor he conquered this Hittite city and erected his own statue in the center of the palace, carefully preserving intact all the productions of Hittite art.

Several shafts have been sunk in different parts of the mound, but thus far no other important results have been reached. A few feet below the surface in various places

were found the rude foundations of mediæval and Roman peasant huts with stone hand-mills, mortars, jars, and other relics of those periods. One shaft reaching to the level of the plain disclosed a colossal image of an animal designed for a lion, but its rude workmanship belongs to an early period in the art of sculpture. There are traces also of a wall and moat a few rods distant inclosing a mound. Opposite the entrance to the palace a dozen sculptured blocks have been uncovered. They mark the gateway in the city wall.

The Germans propose to continue their excavations three years and turn over with the spade the entire mound.

In the year 1879 the mounds of Jerablous, on the Euphrates, six hours below Birdjék, were identified by Mr. Henderson, the English consul at Aleppo, as the site of "Carchemish," the capital of the ancient but long-lost nation of the Hittites. Soon afterwards the American missionaries visited those mines and examined them with deep interest, and as they toured through the mission fields from time to time, they scrutinized every fragment of chiseled stone in search of Hittite sculptures and inscriptions.

Two lions of black basalt were found on top of the wall of the old Genoese Castle in the City of Marash, guarding the entrance. Their workmanship was so unlike the other ornamentations of the wall that it was but natural to infer that they were made for some other purpose.

One of them was covered with hieroglyphics in the same character as those at Carchemish. They were found also to be identical with the mysterious writing on the Himath blocks in the museum at Constantinople. The inscriptions are in raised characters, arranged in a horizontal band, four inches wide, extending from left to right, and then right to left, with a raised line separating the bands from each other.

Among the characters appear the heads of men, oxen, goats, hares and other animals, human hands, feet, faces with rings in the lips, and many other similar figures and others still, which in their present form do not seem to represent any natural object. The smaller characters are written one above another between the lines, but the larger forms extend nearly from line to line.

The faces and feet on the first band all look toward the right, but on the second they look toward the left and continue alternately in the same order, indicating the direction in which the writing must be read. These inscriptions bear very little resemblance to any known system of writing, and no attempt to decipher their meaning has thus far been successful.

Near the base of the fort was found the colossal trunk of a human statue or an idol, which must have been nearly eight feet in height. The head and both feet have been broken off. This large trunk now serves as a step in the stairway of a mosque.

On a grave in the Christian cemetery we found a slab of black basalt four feet in length, two in width and one in thickness. The upper surface only had been trimmed, and contained in bas-relief a human figure dressed in a long tunic fastened by a girdle. In the hand was a wand or staff. The beard resembled that of the Assyrian sculptures, but the hair was long and gathered at the back of the neck in a peculiar roll, turned upward. The shoes were pointed and turned upward at the toes. These peculiarities are characteristic of nearly all Hittite sculptures.

This slab also contained an inscription covering its face, the bands of hieroglyphics extending back and forth across the human figure, but the characters differ from others in being incised instead of in relief. They were, however, much defaced. Fifteen to twenty other slabs of the same general character have been discovered in Marash. One is the doorstep of a minaret, another is in the pavement of a door-yard, another still, containing the figure of a chariot, serves as a horse-block at a street door. One heavy slab was found lying on its face four feet under ground in a vineyard, on which was represented two human figures sitting in chairs on either side of a cross-legged table on which were plates of bread and fowl. These slabs are all of black basalt, having only one face of the stone trimmed; the figures are in bas-relief and the inscriptions all in the same characters, though there is a variety of form corresponding to the hand-writing of different men or possibly of different times.

The great desideratum in Hittite discoveries is a bi-lingual inscription to be used as a key to interpret the mysterious hieroglyphics. Nothing of the kind has yet appeared, except a very brief inscription on a silver boss which a few years ago was offered for sale in Constantinople and fortunately copied, but the original has mysteriously disappeared. The languages were Hittite and Assyrian cuneiform, giving the name of a king of his country, but both were unknown to history. —*Globe-Democrat*.

Aztac Remains.

A discovery of great archaeological interest has recently been made near the small town of Painted Cave, on the Southern Pacific Railroad, about the junction of the Pecos and Rio Grande. Mr. Vandervoort, who owns a farm near the town mentioned, found on his place after a recent windstorm a large cottonwood tree blown down and leaving the roots exposed. In the earth loosened by its fall and upheaved by the spreading roots he noticed a round object, which upon investigation proved to be a human skull. Mr. Vandervoort, a gentleman of much intelligence and good education, together with some slight knowledge of anthropology, decided that the skull was that of an Aztec, which possesses notable peculiarities. The farm laborers were at once set to work, and after two or three