

gifts to the ferry-boat ; and sometimes, by a curious confusion of place, Charon and his skiff actually approach the tomb itself to fetch its occupant.

“ From the lecythi and the sculptured tombs together, we may gather some notion of how the Greeks thought of death and of the life beyond it. It is evident that there was some confusion, both in belief and in ritual, between various inconsistent views. The most prevalent notion seems to be of the continued existence of the dead in the neighborhood of the place where his body lies, of his presence to receive the visits of his relatives and their offerings, of his appearing to them as he had been in life, or sometimes hovering as a diminutive ghost about them and their gifts. It is impossible not to recall in this connection the description of Plato in the *Phædo*, how those souls that had allowed themselves to be too much mixed up and contaminated with the body in their earthly life, found it impossible to free themselves from it entirely at death, but still hovered about the cemeteries. Side by side with this conception of the actual presence of the deceased at his tomb, and sometimes inextricably confused with it, we find some allusions to the myth of Charon, but not to any other incidents of the life beyond the grave. The myths of Hades, of judgment and punishment or reward, that we read of in poets and philosophers, find no reflection in the popular feeling, so far as it is recorded for us by these monuments. In fact, it is not only for the beliefs of the people about death, but also for the representation of their life, that the sculptured tombs of the Athenians are valuable to us ; for they supplement and correct in a remarkable way the impressions given by literature. Especially notable are the prominence of women on the tombs and the constant representations of husband and wife, of parents and children, in the intimacy of family life. This is a side of the Greeks that we might well overlook but for these monuments ; yet we can hardly believe that what they turned to in moments of sorrow and therefore of the deepest feeling had not also, though not superficially conspicuous, a real influence on their life and character.”

P. C.

EXPLORATIONS IN BIBLE LANDS DURING THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

Prof. H. V. Hilprecht, of the University of Pennsylvania, commonly considered the leading Assyriologist of America, presents in his latest work, *Explorations in Bible Lands During the 19th Century*,¹ the results of the excavations which have been made in Babylonia, Assyria, Palestine, Egypt, Arabia, and the country of the Hittites, so called, during the century just passed. Professor Hilprecht is the editor of, and the main contributor to, this stately volume, his department being Assyria and Babylonia. For a statement of the results of excavations in Palestine, he has engaged Dr. J. Benzinger ; in Egypt, Prof. Georg Steindorff ; for Arabia, Prof. Fritz Hommel ; and for the Hittite inscriptions, Prof. P. Jensen. The territory on the Euphrates near Babylon having yielded so much interesting and valuable material, it is but natural that the department of Assyria and Babylonia is the bulkiest in the book, consisting alone of 622 pages. Professor Hilprecht narrates here the long story of the rediscovery of Nineveh and Babylon, beginning with the earliest explorers, without forgetting to summarise the reports which Mediæval travellers brought home of the sites of the lost cities. We become acquainted with all the important details of the excavations made by Claudius

¹ With nearly two hundred illustrations and four maps. Philadelphia : A. J. Holman and Company. 1903. Pages, xxiv, 809.

James Rich (a Frenchman educated at Bristol, England), J. S. Buckingham, Sir Robert Ker Porter, Capt. Robert Mignan, G. Baille Fraser, Col. Chesney, James Felix Jones, Lynch, Selby, Collingwood, Bewsher, etc., etc. The discoveries of these men were only the beginning; they were taken up more systematically by Botta, who, supported by Flandin and Place, discovered at Khorsabâd, near the ancient site of Nineveh, an extensive Assyrian palace fortress which proved to be the castle of the famous conqueror of Samaria, King Sargon, which was called Dûr-Sharrukên, or "Sargon's Castle." For the first time the importance of these excavations now dawned upon the world, and our historians saw themselves necessitated to concede the extraordinary civilisation of the ancient Assyrians.

Of special interest are the excavations undertaken by Layard, an English Huguenot who, with comparatively small means, accomplished greater results than all his predecessors. He was followed by Rassam and Loftus. The works of Layard are too well known to need further explanation. The French government, anxious not to stand behind other nations, sent out an expedition under Fresnel, Oppert (a naturalised German), and Thomas. Sir Henry Rawlinson is the next to be named. Among his discoveries may be mentioned the first successful restoration of a Babylonian *ziggurat*, viz., "The Temple of the Seven Spheres of Heaven and Earth," which he unearthed at Borsippa. The conception which, on the basis of his investigations, he established concerning these peculiar Babylonian pyramids proved to be true in all essential points, they consisting of several platforms, one raised upon another, in successive stories, becoming smaller and smaller to the top. About the same time fall the labors of George Smith and Hormuzd Rassam. The French scored great successes at Tellô under De Sarzec, especially in the discovery of the important relics of the priest-king Gudea, a sovereign who must have possessed both great power and wisdom. Under his rule, about 2700 B. C., a period when Sumerian was still a spoken language, the country must have enjoyed extraordinary prosperity and a comparatively peaceful development. His capital, the city of Lagash, was the center of trade and commerce. Gudea fought victorious battles against Elam, and his agents reached the Mediterranean. His cedars were cut in northern Syria; his dolerite he obtained from the quarries of Magan, in eastern Arabia; his caravans brought copper from the mines of Kimash, and his ships carried gold and precious wood from the mountains of Medina and the rocky shores of the Sinaitic peninsula. What a powerful influence Sumeria must have exercised over the whole Orient, including Palestine, long before Abraham left his ancestral home on the banks of the Euphrates! De Sarzec discovered innumerable statues representing this powerful priest-king and also vases decorated with the coat-of-arms of Lagash,—a lion-headed eagle holding a lion in its talons.

The German excavations under Moritz and Koldewey are briefly summarised in a special chapter; but naturally the conclusion of this interesting chapter in history, the American expeditions, partly directed by Professor Hilprecht himself will claim our special interest. The first expedition may be considered a failure. It so happened that one of the Moravian Arabs was killed by a Turkish policeman while defending the property of the expedition, and this aroused the hostility of the half-civilised inhabitants of the desert, which finally led to the utter abandonment of the project. A new campaign started in 1889, this time with more success. The Americans tried their best to remain on a good footing with the Arabs; the difficulties, however, were still very great. The rivalry among the different chiefs and the greed of the poor "Afej" caused much embarrassment. The Arabs believed that the Americans possessed great treasures; every box of their provi-

sions was suspected to contain gold. The mere sight of a gold crown on the tooth of one of the explorers strengthened their conviction and excited their lust for plunder. Fortunately, however, there was one circumstance which proved of priceless value to the members of the expedition and may have helped to save their lives. We here insert verbatim the report of Professor Hilprecht:

“The notion was spread among the ‘Afej and their neighboring tribes that the foreigners were armed with great magical power, and that, in punishment of the firing and plundering of their camp, they had brought upon their enemies the cholera, which was not quite extinct even in the year following. Several successful treatments of light ailments, and exceedingly bitter concoctions wisely administered to various healthy chiefs, who were curious to see and to taste the truth of all that was constantly reported, served only to assure and confirm this belief; and Peters, on his part, seized every opportunity to encourage and to develop such sentiment among the credulous ‘Afej. He intimated to them that nothing was hidden from his knowledge, and that the accursed money which had been stolen would find its way back to him; he made mysterious threats of sore affliction and loss by death which would cause consternation among them; and to demonstrate his superior power and to indicate some of the terrible things which might happen at any moment, he finally gave them a drastic exhibition of his cunning art, which had a tremendous effect upon all who saw it. We will quote the story in his own language: ‘Just before sunset, when the men were all in camp and at leisure, so that I was sure they would notice what we did, Noorian and I ascended a high point of the mound near by, he solemnly bearing a compass before me on an improvised black cushion. There, by the side of an old trench, we went through a complicated hocus-pocus with the compass, a Turkish dictionary, a spring tape-measure, and a pair of field glasses, the whole camp watching us in puzzled wonder. Immediately after our dinner, while most of the men were still busy eating, we stole up the hill, having left to Haynes the duty of preventing any one from leaving the camp. Our fireworks were somewhat primitive and slightly dangerous, so that the trench which we had chosen for our operations proved rather close quarters. The first rocket had scarcely gone off when we could hear a buzz of excited voices below us. When the second and third followed, the cry arose that we were making the stars fall from heaven. The women screamed and hid themselves in the huts, and the more timid among the men followed suit. As Roman candles and Bengal lights followed, the excitement grew more intense. At last we came to our *pièce de résistance*, the tomato-can firework. At first this fizzled and bade fair to ruin our whole performance. Then, just as we despaired of success, it exploded with a great noise, knocking us over backward in the trench, behind a wall in which we were hidden, and filling the air with fiery serpents hissing and sputtering in every direction. The effect was indescribably diabolical, and every man, woman, and child, guards included, fled screaming, to seek for hiding-places, overcome with terror.’ ”

Comical as this incident is, we find that the history of the rediscovery of ancient Babylonia also contains tragic features. On page 318 we learn that while Professor Hilprecht sojourned in the Orient his wife, concealing a serious illness, wrote cheerful and encouraging letters so as not to prevent her husband from pursuing his work; and when he finally returned to Germany in perfect ignorance of her condition, she was beyond human aid and died soon afterward (March, 1902).

The great results achieved by these expeditions have been discussed in books by various scholars, and they are sufficiently indicated in Professor Hilprechts’

work ; but it will be impossible to recapitulate them in the present review. Suffice it to say that Professor Hilprecht has published three volumes of Assyrian monuments, and is still busily engaged in continuing the work of decipherment. In addition to him there are many American, French, and German scholars engaged in the same field.

The report of the explorations in Palestine, by Professor Benzinger, is comparatively short, and naturally so, for Palestine is very poor in antiquities. The Jews are by their very religion enjoined to abstain from making themselves graven images, and thus it happens that the Jewish race have never cultivated plastic arts. The monuments discovered in Palestine are mainly the inscription of Siloa recording the erection of a water conduit, the stone of King Mesha of Moab, the wrongly so-called sarcophagus of Alexander, the tomb of Absalom so called, and the cuneiform correspondence between the Egyptian viceroy and his sovereign. A whole Jewish city, Sandahanna, has been unearthed, but no further monuments of importance have been discovered. No doubt there are still invaluable treasures hidden in the bosom of the earth, but we must bide the time and the good luck to discover them.

Professor Steindorff surveys in brief outlines the history of the exploration of Egypt, beginning with the French expedition under Napoleon, the discovery of the "Rosetta Stone," Champollion's decipherment of the hieroglyphs (strange to say, he entirely omits to mention Young), following up the results of the more recent excavations under Lepsius, Maspero, Petri, Naville, etc., etc. He settles some mooted questions concerning the site of the ancient Lake Mœris, and touches lightly upon the most significant monuments.

While the excavations in Egypt and Assyria have commanded general interest and are comparatively well known, the explorations in Arabia are more remote. Arabia is a country of enormous size, and although most of it is desert land it is not quite so bare of civilisation as is generally assumed. The interior is practically independent. The Sultan exercises supremacy only over the outskirts, while the Bedouins roaming in the interior are practically independent. Under these conditions it is very dangerous to travel through the country ; nevertheless, some bold explorers have ventured into the interior and have brought back invaluable treasures, not only accounts as to the nature of the country, which in some parts is extraordinarily grand and beautiful, but also of inscriptions in Nabatean, Minean, and Sabean. They prove the intercourse between the Arabian capitals and Babylonia and other countries ; in fact, it was an Arabian dynasty which succeeded in gaining supremacy over northern Babylonia, the sixth king being Hammurabi, the Biblical Amraphel, and a contemporary of Abraham. Babylonian inscriptions tally with the records found in Arabia, and we find that later on under Tiglath-Pileser Sargon, and Esarhaddon the Arabians were again tributary to Babylonia.

The last installment of the book before us is on a subject almost unknown,—the so-called Hittites and their inscriptions, in which Professor Jensen, who may be regarded as the most successful decipherer of this ancient writing, gives a short account of about forty pages. His conclusions are that these inscriptions, generally credited to the Hittites, were made in the years between 1300 and 600 B. C. Most of them preceded the Assyrian period when Nineveh was the capital of Asia. The script was hieroglyphic, and it is not impossible that it was made in imitation of the Egyptian hieroglyphics. The Egyptians came in contact with the Hittites (the inhabitants of Khate) about the year 1200 ; there are signs which must be regarded as ideographic, others as phonetic, similar to Egyptian writing. Fur-

ther, the nouns preceding the ideogram of *son* indicate the same ending as the plural nouns, and the grammatical construction of the words gives sufficient proof that it is a language built up after the pattern of the Aryan tongues. It is not Semitic, nor is it Iranian; thus, Professor Jensen identifies the Hittites with the Armenians and Indo-Germanic race, who are still living in the same districts of Hither Asia. Accordingly, we have here the most ancient monuments of a branch of the family group of our ancestors; and although in history the knowledge of their deeds has been almost blotted out, we now recover some important and interesting data as to the extent and nature of their civilisation. P. C.

DREAMS AND GHOSTS.

Mr. Andrew Lang is one of the most interesting of all the authors who have written on the subject of ghosts. While in the main occupying a critical attitude in his well-known book of *Dreams and Ghosts*,¹ he has aimed rather to entertain than to investigate; but the tone of the remarks he has interpolated among his recitals leaves little doubt as to his real inclinations. His book, he says, "does not pretend to be a convincing, but merely an illustrative, collection of evidence." He adopts the modern theory that every ghost is an hallucination, but that also an hallucination is a perception, to quote Professor James, "as good and true a sensation as if there were a real object there. The object happens *not* to be there, that is all." As to telepathy, he remarks with strained open-mindedness: "I do believe, with all students of human nature, in hallucinations of one, or of several, or even of all the senses. But as to whether such hallucinations, among the sane, are ever caused by psychical influences from the minds of others, alive or dead, not communicated through the ordinary channels of sense, my mind is in a balance of doubt. It is a question of evidence."

Mr. Lang tells, besides modern stories, many from remote times. "The ancient legends are given, not as evidence, but for three reasons: first, because of their merit as mere stories; next, because several of them are now perhaps for the first time offered with a critical discussion of their historical sources; lastly, because the old legends seem to show how the fancy of periods less critical than ours dealt with such facts as are now reported in a dull undramatic manner." The classical ghost-stories are all here, and even some from the Gaelic and Icelandic, which "have peculiar literary merit as simple dramatic narratives." There is also the famous Wesley ghost, Sir George Villier's spectre, Lord Lyttleton's ghost, the Beresford ghost, etc., etc. We shall reproduce but one, as a specimen of Mr. Lang's art. It is one on Professor Hilprecht.

THE ASSYRIAN PRIEST.

Herr H. V. Hilprecht is Professor of Assyriology in the University of Pennsylvania. That university had despatched an expedition to explore the ruins of Babylon, and sketches of the objects discovered had been sent home. Among these were drawings of two small fragments of agate, inscribed with characters. One Saturday night in March, 1893, Professor Hilprecht had wearied himself with puzzling over these two fragments, which were supposed to be broken pieces of finger-rings. He was inclined, from the nature of the characters, to date them about 1700-1140 B. C.; and as the first character of the third line of the first frag-

¹ Longmans, Green & Co., London, New York, and Bombay. Pages, 301.