

THE SPINNING DAMSEL

BY THE EDITOR.

DURING his stay at Susa, M. J. DeMorgan discovered a bas-relief, ten by thirteen centimeters, which is a beautiful specimen of Oriental art of Ancient Persia. The face of the spinning damsel is decidedly Semitic, and the slave behind her, with fau in



hand, belongs to the same race. The lady is seated upon a tabouret in Oriental fashion. Before her stands an altar-like table, apparently hollowed out on the top so as to serve as a dish, in which lies a fish. The seven indentations which appear above the fish may be the margin of the dish.

The right-hand corner shows remnants of a dress, indicating that there was a third figure, which is broken off and may have been either some person or a statue.

There is no trace of an inscription on the bas-relief so that there is no possibility of determining whether we have before us a family scene or the representation of some ceremonial spinning in a temple. Nor do we know whether the artist was an Elamite or a Babylonian. It may be the product of Babylonian art carried away by the victorious invader into their mountain home of Elam. However, if the sculptor was an Elamite, he must have acquired his skill and cultivated his taste in a Babylonian school.