

## BATTLE SCENES IN ANCIENT ART.

BY THE EDITOR.

Generally the idea prevails that art in its primitive shape represented human figures in action in a very stiff and crude way. This notion is based

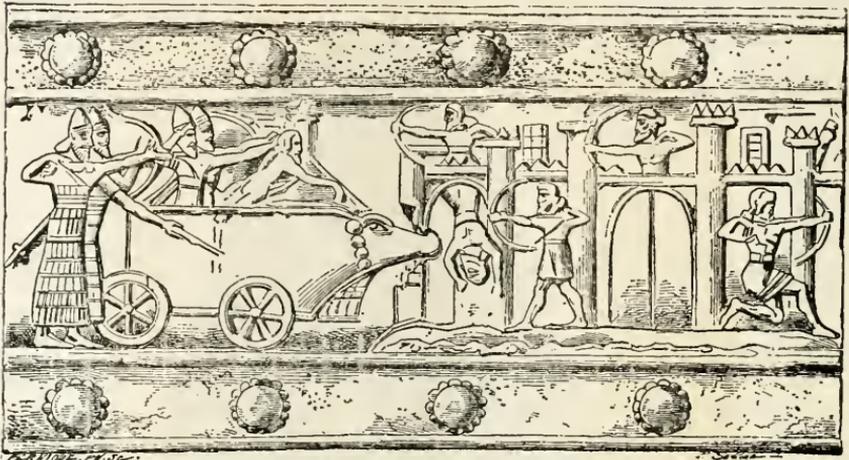


STELE OF NARAM-SIN.

Found in the ruins of Susa, now in the Louvre.

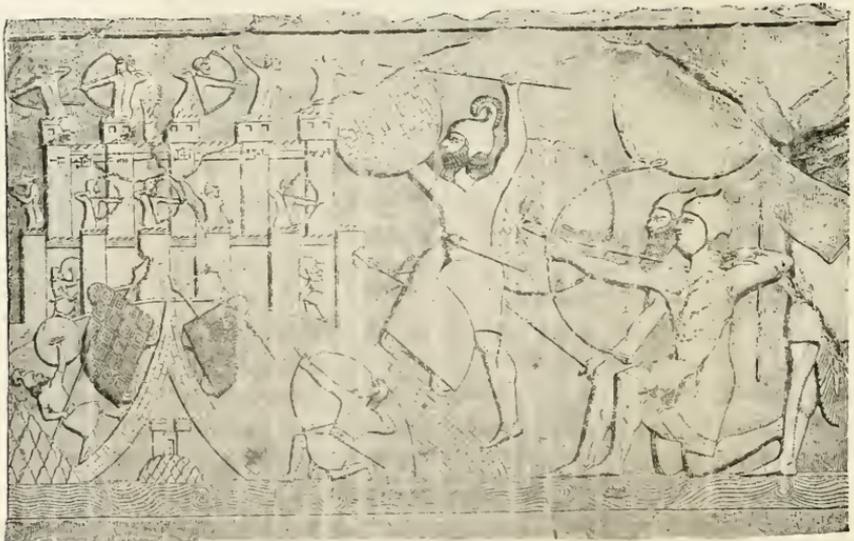
on Egyptian sculpture as it is preserved in Egyptian monuments, and we assume that Greek artists had gradually freed themselves from this tradition imported into Greece from the valley of the Nile.

But such is not the case. We find in ancient Babylonian and Assyrian monuments a remarkable freedom in many human figures which comes out most boldly in battle scenes such as represented on Naram-Sin's stele of the



ASSYRIANS BATTERING A FORTRESS.

Delitzsch, *Babel and Bible*, Fig. 10.



ASSYRIAN BOWMEN AND SPEARMEN ATTACKING A FORTRESS.

Delitzsch, *Babel and Bible*, Fig. 13.

fourth millennium B. C. (See the article "Naram-Sin's Stele" in *The Open Court*, XVIII, 563) and also in other monuments representing the defence of beleaguered cities. But it seems that these Babylonian monuments have



ASURNAZIRPAL IN BATTLE.  
Original in the British Museum. Photograph by Mansell. Delitzsch, *Babel and Bible*, Fig. 100.

been eclipsed by Greek artists at the time when the technique of the sculptor was not as yet developed and the human figure was still represented in slim outlines. We here reproduce from Perrot and Chipiez illustrations which picture such battle scenes by the hand of prehistoric Greek artists. The



A PREHISTORIC BESIEGED CITY.

Fragment of chased silver from a tomb in the Acropolis of Mycenae.



CARVED GEM FROM A MYCENAEAN GRAVE.

larger one of the two, a relief, exhibits the defence of a beleaguered city, while the smaller one, a gem, shows a valiant fight of four men at the moment of a most vigorous onslaught. These attest the artistic promise of a nation that at the beginning of civilization could produce such works of art.

#### THE CAUSE OF ISLAM.

The world of Islam forms a more solidary unit than is commonly known in Christian lands. The fellow-feeling among Moslems is very strong and as an instance we cite a recent number of *The Islamic Fraternity*, a periodical published in Japan as an organ of the Mussulmans living in Japan, in which the editor publishes a report of a mass meeting held at *Kabul*, the capital of Afghanistan in the presence of His Majesty Ameer Habibullah khan. The ruler of "the God-granted kingdom" addressed his subjects in an animated speech in behalf of the Moslem brethren in Tripoli who are heroically defending their hearths, their home and their religion. He denounced the unrighteousness of the Italian aggressors and exhorted his people to show their sympathy in large contributions for the martyr-heroes of their faith. He expressed regret that geographical conditions and the great distance prevented him from taking an active part in the war and sending his valiant warriors to aid in the cause of Islam.

We have published in former numbers the position of the Italian invaders who claim to fight for civilization and righteousness and wish to show here our impartiality by pointing out that there is another side of the question.