

## WAR

By the Nile, the sacred river,  
I can see the captive hordes  
Strain beneath the lash and quiver  
At the long papyrus cords,  
While in granite rapt and solemn,  
Rising over roof and column,  
Amen-hotep dreams, or Ramses,  
Lord of Lords.

I can hear the trumpets waken  
For a victory old and far—  
Carchemish or Kadesh taken—  
I can see the conqueror's car  
Bearing down some Hittite valley,  
Where the bowmen break and sally,  
Sargina or Esarhaddon,  
Grim with war!