



A Scene on the Tigr

the other hand, even a hasty examination of the outer city-walls fully corroborates the Greek historian's account of their enormous width, and leads one to think that if he is correct in some details his seemingly exaggerated account of the city's size may not be so far from the truth if fuller details were known. As one sees Babylon to-day the chief things of interest are the Babel Mound on the north, by some identified as the ancient Tower of Babel, the Kasr or palace of Nebuchadnezzar, excavated by the Germans under the direction of Dr. Koldewey; a sculptured lion of colossal size; the Ishtar gate, with its walls forty feet high adorned with sculptured figures of lions, dragons and bulls in relief; the Sacra Via, leading from the Ishtar Gate past the Ishtar Temple, and down into the heart of the city to the temple of the city's god, the inner and outer city walls, the remains of a Greek theatre which retains in the popular nomenclature the name of Alexander the Great, and in addition scores of other unidentified ruins. And when you have seen all this you can look beyond and see acres and acres of mounds still untouched by the

excavator's spade. In one place a hole has been dug some sixty feet deep, and here through successive layers, may be traced the civilizations of the past—Greek, Persian, Neo-Babylonian and ancient Babylonian. To attempt a detailed description of even one excavated site would be out of place here. Furthermore this has been done by Dr. King of the British Museum in his work on Babylon, and by Dr. Koldewey in various books and publications connected with his excavations, and to these the reader is referred. But perhaps a few notes may be acceptable with reference to the ruined palace of Nebuchadnezzar.

With patience and care characteristically German and worthy of all praise, Koldewey almost completely uncovered the foundation rooms and walls of the palace, and it is now possible to see its three large courts, the Kings Throne Room, two private portions of the building, several wells more than fifty feet deep, a labyrinth of rooms and passage-ways resembling the Minoan Palace in Crete, and, according to Dr. Koldewey, the site of the famous "Hanging Gardens" in the north-east corner of the palace. As to