

SENNACHERIB'S WILL.

TRANSLATED BY REV. A. H. SAYCE, M.A.

I, Sennacherib, king of multitudes, king of Assyria, have given chains of gold, crowns and chains besides all the riches, of which there are heaps, crystal* and another precious stone, and bird's-stone: one and a half manehs (Eze. xlv. 12.) two and a half cibi, according to their weight: to Ezar-haddon my son, who was afterwards named Assur-ebil-mucin-pal according to my desire; the treasure of the temple of Amuk, and (Nebo)-irik-erba, the harpists of Nebo. Is. xxxvii. 38. And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech, ("splendour of the king,") and Sharezer ("help of the prince,") his sons, smote him with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Armenia; and Ezarhaddon, ("the noble prince") his son, reigned in his stead.

*The fragments of a crystal throne inscribed with the name of Sennacherib, and disinterred from the ruins of his palace, are now in the British Museum.

ASSYRIAN SABBATH.

Among the Assyrians, the first 28 days of every month were divided into four weeks of seven days each, the 7th 14th 21st and 28th days respectively, being sabbaths; and there was a general prohibition of work on these days, p. 19 Assy. Canon. The days were dedicated to the sun and moon, and five planets, (hence our Sunday and Monday,) and to the deities who presided over these. In one of the newly-found fragments, which recount the Chaldean version of the creation, the appointment of the stars as "leaders of the week," is mentioned, and the same fragment records the mode in which the moon was made "to go forth from the heaven on the 7th day." The expression "day of rest," found in the inscriptions, was but the Assyrian translation of an older Accadian equivalent, which signified "dies nefastus." There exists a kind of Saint's Calendar for the month Elul, with notes relating to the religious duties devolving on the king, on each day; the memorandum attached to the 7th day is the following—"the 7th day, the festival of Merodach and Zirpanitu; a holy day. A Sabbath for the ruler of great nations. Sudden flesh (and) cooked fruit he may not eat. Hi

clothes he may not change, (new) garments he may not put on, sacrifices he may not offer, the king his chariot may not drive, in royal fashion he may not legislate, a place of assembly for the judge he may not establish, medicine for his ailments of body he may not apply. To make a measured square it is suitable. During the (ensuing) night, in the presence of Merodach and Istar, the king should erect his altar, offer a sacrifice, and, lifting up his hand, worship (in) the high place of the god."

The 21st day of the month was consecrated to the moon and the sun; on that day white garments might not be worn, and the sacrifice to the gods was to be performed at dawn.

The word Sabbattu (Sabbath) occurs in the inscriptions, and is explained as "a day of rest for the heart."

It may not be superfluous to observe that the will of Sennacherib, and all matter relating to Assyria, has been obtained from inscriptions in a language which had been slumbering unknown beneath the "heaps" of Nineveh and Babylon for twenty centuries and more.

The studied enumeration of Biblical statements, the object of which varies with the several numbers, is little known to the generality of Biblical students. Subjoined are twelve statements of the gospel, which occur in Is. ch. liii.

- "It was our griefs that He bore." } v. 4.
- "It was our sorrows that He carried." } v. 4.
- "He was wounded for our transgressions." } v. 5.
- "Bruised for our iniquities." } v. 5.
- "The chastisement of our peace was upon him." } v. 5.
- "And with his stripes we are healed." } v. 10.
- "But Jehovah made the iniquities of us all to fall on him." v. 6.
- "For the transgression of my people was he smitten." v. 8.
- "When his life shall have made a sacrifice for sin." v. 10.
- "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied." v. 11.
- "He shall bear their iniquities." v. 11.
- "And bare the sin of many." v. 12.