

# THE ANGLICAN VERSION OF THE SACRED TEXT

From a Discourse by Archbishop Moran of Sydney, in the Sydney Freeman's Journal.

Concluded

To a thousand years earlier date belongs the narrative in the 14th chapter of Genesis, which attests that at the time of Abraham the King of Elam was powerful enough to carry his arms into Syria, and so subject for a time the eastern territories of Palestine. In profane history there was nothing till our own days to illustrate this supremacy of the Kingdom of Elam. But in one of the Babylonian inscriptions referring to Sardanapalus we read that the monarch finally destroyed the Elamite Kingdom and it is added to illustrate the importance of his triumph, that 'the Elamite respected not the worship of the great gods but laid his hands on the temples and oppressed Babylon for 1565 years,' a date which would lead us back almost to the days of Abraham. Coming now to the Egyptian monuments it has seemed strange to some interpreters that Abraham, on entering Egypt, should have wished his wife to pass for his sister. But a very ancient papyrus, preserved in the Museum of Berlin, throws light upon this matter, for it attests that as far back as the twelfth dynasty, the wife and children of a foreigner entering Egypt were confiscated and became the property of the King. On the wall of one of the mortuary monuments at Thebes there is a scene which strikingly illustrates the employment of the Israelites in Egypt: 'They made their lives bitter with hard works in clay and brick, and with all manner of service, wherewith they were charged in the works of the earth' (Exod. i. 14).

Foreign captives, as represented there, overlooked by Egyptian taskmasters and engaged in forming bricks from clay and erecting a temple to Ammon. A hieroglyphical inscription, still existing at Karnak, near Thebes, commemorates the triumphs of Shishak of Sessac, King of Egypt, and gives the names of several cities which he captured, eight, of which have been deciphered as fenced cities of Israel and Judah. Thus are illustrated the words of the scripture: 'Sessac, King of Egypt, came up against Jerusalem (because they had sinned against the Lord with twelve hundred chariots and three score thousand horsemen, and he took the strongest cities in Judah and came to Jerusalem, (11. Paral. xiii. 2). In the Book of Esdras (4th chapter) we read that in the reign of the next monarch but one after Cyrus, the Samaritan enemies of the Jews forwarded a petition to him praying that a stop would be put to the rebuilding of the temple of Jerusalem. He favorably received their petition and the scripture adds that the work was stopped till the second year of Darius, King of Persia. Similar representations had been made to Cyrus and his immediate successor, but without effect. They were renewed under Darius, but in vain. How comes it that in this particular instance the enemies of the Jews attained their purpose? The ancient inscriptions give the clue to this anomaly. They tell us that the successor but one of Cyrus was an alien, and that though he reigned only a short time he endeavored to destroy throughout Persia the temples of the Zoroastrian worship, in which a personal God was adored. It is precisely such a monarch that we would expect to find joining hands with the enemies of Judah and prohibiting the building of the temple. One of the most remarkable of the Oriental monuments known as the Moabite stone, was discovered as late as the year 1868.

It is a pillar of black basalt, about three one-seventh feet in height, presenting an inscription in the ancient Phoenician language, and dating from about the year 900 before our era. The ancient territory of Moab, now a desert waste, is separated from Judea by an immense chasm about 2,000 feet in depth; and is as yet in a great part unexplored. This basaltic pillar appears to have been brought to the surface by an earthquake and its inscription was found to give the history of Mesha, King of Moab, who is more than once referred to in the Second Book of Kings. It perfectly harmonizes with the inspired narrative in its description of the towns and various geographical features of that land, in the manners and customs of its people, and in every minute detail. It records that Moab had for many years suffered a grievous oppression at the hands of the Kings of Israel; but the yoke was shaken off within forty years after the accession of Omri, and it retained its independence the valor of King Mesha. All this is perfectly in accord with the Book of Kings I will add only one or two examples from the New Testament. The Acts of the Apostles (xiii. 7) speaks of the island of Cyprus being under the government

of a pro consul at the time of the visit of St. Paul. Now, we know from secular history that when Augustus became sole ruler of Rome, he assigned the turbulent provinces to the care of military officers with the title of praetors, and Cyprus was expressly named among those disturbed provinces. However, modern research has brought to light some ancient Cyprian coins of the time of the Emperor Claudius, this almost contemporaneous with the time of the Apostle's visit. Now on these coins the governor is expressly called pro consul, and hence we may conclude that Cyprus was one of those favored provinces which to the reign of the Emperor Augustus was restored to tranquility, and being therefore exempted from martial law, had the usual civil government restored to it. Again, in the 17th chapter of the Acts, the Apostles, when accused at Thessalonica of acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, are brought before the magistrates, who are designated in the original text by the peculiar name of politarchs.

I call it a peculiar name, because it is nowhere else to be found in the sacred Scriptures, nor is it used by those writers who discuss with great fullness the municipal institution of Greece. But what we search for in vain in books we find indelibly inscribed on contemporary monuments. In the modern town of Saloniki (the ancient Thessalonica), there still stands a triumphal arch, witness of the importance of the city in former days, and erected, after the battle of Philippi in honor of the victor. The inscription on this venerable monument has been deciphered in our days; and in it the chief magistrates of the cities are precisely designated by the name of politarchs. Thus it is that the varied studies of learned men in every abstrusest field of historical or scientific research serve to throw light on one or other obscure passage of the sacred text, and the harmony which in every minutest detail is found to subsist between the authentic monuments of the ancient Kingdom and the narrative of the sacred Scripture, corroborates in a wonderful way the authenticity of the inspired books, and justifies the Christian, an believer in his faith, I do not know that I can better conclude, this too hurried discourse than by addressing to the trustees of this Biblical Hall the beautiful words which a century ago were written by the illustrious Pott, Pius VI, to an Italian Bishop engaged in publishing a translation of the Sacred Scriptures into the vulgar tongue: 'At a time when a vast number of bad books which grossly attack the Catholic religion are circulated even among the unlearned, to the great destruction of souls, you judge exceedingly well that the faithful should be excited to reading of the Holy Scriptures for these are the most abundant sources, which ought to be left open to every one, to draw from them purity of morals and of doctrine.'

## MANAGEMENT OF DIPHTHERIA

There are many cases in which at first a skilled physician cannot say positively whether it is contagious diphtheria or a simple inflammation of the throat with which he has to deal, and this uncertainty may continue for a considerable time. If Dr. Jacob's views are correct; diphtheria may exist; especially in the adult in a crude form, not greatly disturbing the health, or at all events not preventing the person so affected from not going about and performing his or her usual duties, and yet making the secretions from such persons capable of conveying the disease.

The precautions to be taken in the management of a wellmarked case of diphtheria are as follows.

Isolate the patient in an airy room having the least possible amount of furniture, especially that which is upholstered and having no carpet or curtains. Disinfect all excretions and secretions, and especially those from the throat, nose and mouth, and all articles soiled by them, promptly, while they are yet moist, and thoroughly clean, soft rags for receiving the discharges from the nose and mouth, and burn them as fast as soiled. If other articles are soiled, disinfect with solutions of chloride of zinc or bichloride of mercury, under the instructions of the physician. Be especially careful as regards toys, pencils or other articles which may be given the child for its amusement, of the articles used in giving it food or drink, and of the remnants of such food or drink everything that has touched the patient's lips, or that has been touched by anything that has touched the patient's lips is dangerous.

When convalescence has set in do not yield too soon to the importunities of the patient to be allowed to see his friends or to go out, nor to his own feelings of weariness at the long confinement.

Above all things do not under the excuse of giving change of air scene, send him off to some other place to complete his recovery you might send dynamite about the country with scarcely more risk. Do not send a child back to school in less than six weeks after the attack, about two weeks after you are satisfied that he is entirely well is a very good rule.

If the little life is not strong enough to withstand the attack, and is cut short, do not, in your grief, forget the danger to other lives which the house and its contents may yet cause. Do not allow sympathizing friends and playmates to enter. do not have any funeral ceremonies in the house, treat the sick room and its contents as being dangerously affected.

In mild and doubtful cases follow the plan above indicated as nearly as you can, and be sure that all your care and patience will be needed if you wish to obtain security for other members of the family and for friends.

## DANGER FROM CATS' BREATH

I wish for the benefit of who allow a cat to lie in a cradle with a child you would give this note space. I have lately read two articles on the subject, and I am surprised that none seem to realize the harm the cat does. The cat will not suck the child's breath: but the child will inhale the breath of the cat, which is very poisonous, I remember not many years ago seeing a cat loving child made very sick with terrible fits of spasms. She could always be found with the cat in her arms. Finally she took the cat's breath by kissing it in the mouth, and immediately fell into fits. I have never allowed a cat around my house since I saw that. I suppose if a cat could thus kill a child it would gorge itself off the child's flesh, as it is known that a cat will try to get where there is a dead body if it can. I know of no beings cats will seek to sleep with but a human being, and I think they have the power to kill a person in the way mentioned above were they left undisturbed. I would advise that all cats be kept from the cradle, and also that children be not allowed to carry about a cat in arms.

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Superintendent,

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