

The impious Achaz, king of Juda, begged the protection of Phul, or Tiglath-Pileser II, against the kings of Syria and Israel and in return gave up the treasures of the Temple and the palace. Tiglath-Pileser took advantage of this dissension to invade Syria and conquer Damascus. He then took from Phacee, king of Israel, half of his kingdom and carried off the inhabitants to Assyria.

The Sargonids. — **Sargon.** — 20. A particularly interesting period of the second part of the Assyrian Empire was the dynasty of the Sargonids. The first king of the dynasty was a general of the highest order, Sargon, also called Salmanasar IV. During a whole century, this dynasty displayed a series of brilliant reigns. The Sargonids vigorously pursued the work of extending the empire.



Sargon and his Minister.

(bas relief discovered in the ruins of Nineveh).

Osee, king of Israel, succeeded Phacee and refused to pay tribute to the Assyrians. Fearing a new invasion, he asked help from the king of Egypt. Annoyed at this alliance of Israel with Egypt, Sargon or Salmanasar IV, marched against Samaria, took possession of it after a siege of three years, and brought into captivity the remaining Jews of the kingdom of Israel.

Sennacherib. — **Esarhaddon.** — 21. Sennacherib, son and successor of Salmanasar IV, wanted to conquer the