

The manufactures especially famed were those of textile fabrics and carpets. Many of the ornamental patterns of our own time have been derived from Babylonian carpets and other fabrics through Greek transmission. Embossing on metal was also a highly developed art. *The weights and measures* now in use are mainly traced to Assyria and Babylonia through Greek transmission. Even the English division of the pound into twenty shillings goes back to the Babylonian system. The English shilling is the equivalent of the drachma of the Greeks, which was one-twentieth of a Babylonian gold shekel. Our division of time by hours of sixty minutes and minutes of sixty seconds is also Babylonian by Greek transmission. In luxury and general civilization we can scarcely rate the Tigris-Euphrates valley lower than Egypt. The system of canals for irrigation was carried to marvelous perfection.

The government of the successive empires already mentioned was universally despotic, for reasons like those which determined the government of Egypt. The fertile valley was surrounded by warlike and poorer nations which had to be quelled and kept at bay by a strong military and despotic power. The government of the subjugated nations was not especially oppressive. They were ruled by satraps, who were expected to raise the required tribute, but the internal affairs of the subject nations were not disturbed. Rebellious populations were punished by wholesale deportations. The conquest of the kingdom of Israel by Assyria in 721 B. C., and of Judæa by Babylonia (Nebuchadnezzar) in 586 B. C., were accompanied by such transfers of population. During the Persian period the Jews were mildly treated.

GENERAL QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN EXERCISE ON CHALDÆO-ASSYRIA.

- The system of writing questions and answers in consecutive sentences is again recommended.
- What valley always remained the seat of power, both of Chaldean and Assyrian rule?
 - What was the capital of Chaldæa? Of Assyria?
 - When did the latter province become head of an empire?
 - What was the difference in size between it and its predecessor?
 - Into what two empires was the Assyrian State finally divided? When?
 - What tribe and province reunited these empires? When?
 - What additions were made?
 - When was a decided change in the civilization of Western Asia effected? By whom?
 - What was the condition of art and science with the Assyrians?
 - Why have the buildings been so totally ruined?
 - How do we learn to know the lives and occupations of the Assyrians?
 - To what language was theirs related? In what form are the written remains?
 - What inscription corresponds to the Rosetta Stone as key to the cuneiform writing?
 - What nation united the civilizations of Egypt and Assyria, traded with them, and transmitted their arts and science to all the nations around the Mediterranean? For answer see next section.