



# AND LITERARY GEM.

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."—PROVERBS, Chap. 20.

VOL. I.

TORONTO, C.W., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1851.

NO. 17.



## Original Poetry.

It was a dream too blest to last,  
That filled my midnight hours;  
The place I thought was paradise,  
My couch a bed of flowers.

Around me hovering angels flew,  
To guard me while I slept;  
And through that long delicious dream  
Their quiet vigils kept.

And thou my love wert by my side.  
Thy heart was pressed to mine;  
Whose wildest throbs of love and joy  
Were answered each with thine.

Thy cheek was nestled on my breast,  
Thine arm around me thrown,  
While softly on thy loving face,  
The holy moonlight shone.

How blest my fate! thou wert my love,  
Where thou shouldest ever be.  
No cankerling cares disturb my soul:  
I thought alone of thee!

'Twas scarce a dream, to heaven I vowed.  
And here again I vow:  
That never to my dying hour  
I'll love thee less than now.

## Biblical Antiquities—The Kings of Assyria.

Colonel Rawlinson, the celebrated English antiquary, the greatest of living archaeologists, has, of late, as is well known, devoted all his learning and efforts to the task of deciphering the inscriptions obtained by Layard and the French explorers from among the ruins of Nineveh and other Assyrian towns. His success has been considerable; but he announces in the last received number of the London Athenaeum a triumph which transcends all previous ones in importance, being nothing less than the discovery of records of the reign of Sennacherib and of his war against Jerusalem and King Hezekiah. "I have succeeded," says he, "in determinately identifying the Assyrian kings of the Lower dynasty, whose palaces have been recently excavated in the vicinity of Mosul; and I have obtained from the annals of those kings contemporary notice of events which agree in the most remarkable

way with the statements preserved in sacred and profane history." From this paper, which is a pretty long one, in the Atheneum, we abbreviate some of the more interesting particulars.

The king who built the palace of Khorsabad, excavated by the French; he says, is named *Surainia*; but he also bears, in some of the inscriptions the epithet of *Shalmaneser*, by which title he was better known to the Jews. One of the tablets, which is much mutilated, records his going up, in the first year of his reign against the city of *Sumaria*, (Samaria) and the country of *Beth Horri*. (*Omri* was the founder of Samaria;) whence he carried off into captivity in Assyria no less than 27,280 inhabitants of the conquered, settling in their places colonists from Babylon. This event, which is commemorated in the Bible as having occurred in the sixth year of Hezekiah, Col. R., supposes must have taken place subsequently to the building of the palace of Khorsabad, on one of the tablets of which the monarch styles himself "conqueror of the remote Judea."

Sennacherib, the son of Sarginia or Shalmaneser, is the King who built the great palace of Koyunjik, which Mr. Layard has been recently excavating. The inscriptions on one of the colossal bulls at the grand entrance of the excavated palace, shows that in the third year of his reign, he conquered *LULIGA*, King of Sidon, and then, while turning his arms against some other cities of Syria, learned of an insurrection in Palestine, where the people had risen against their King *PADIYA*, who had been placed over them by the Assyrians, compelling him to take refuge with Hezekiah at Jerusalem. Padiya was restored by Sennacherib; and a quarrel then arising with Hezekiah about tribute, the proud King of Kings chastised him by ravaging his kingdom, threatening his capitol, compelling him to pay a heavy and ignominious fine, and taking away a portion of his lands and villages and transferring them to other more faithful, or more prudent vassals. The inscriptive history here tallies so perfectly with the biblical that "the agreement," says Colonel Rawlinson, "extends even to the number of the talents of gold and silver which were given as tribute." The inscription only covers seven years of Sennacherib's reign, and, of course, does not reach the event of the miraculous destruction of his army, which Colonel R., supposes to have happened fourteen or fifteen years later. The discovery of a complete set of stone annals, should be fortunately made by Mr. Layard, will prove a event of incalculable interest.

Col. R. tells us there is in the British Museum an Assyrian relic, containing a tolerably perfect copy of the annals of Essar Haddon, the son of Sennacherib, in which is recorded a further deportation of Israelites from Palestine; which he says, explains a passage in Ezra, in which the Samaritans speak of Essar Haddon as the king by whom they were carried into captivity. Many of the relics sent home by Mr. Layard from Nineveh refer to Essar Haddon, whose wars were, fortunately for the Jews, directed chiefly against Baby-

lonia, Susiana, and Armenia. He was the father of Saracus, or Sardanapalus, the last of the Assyrian kings, with whom the great empire in fact, and the vast city, its metropolis, fell, never to rise again.

"One of the most interesting matters," says the learned antiquary, "connected with this discovery of the identity of the Assyrian kings is the prospect, amounting almost to certainty, that we must have, in the bas-reliefs of Khorsabad and Koyunjik representations from the chisels of contemporary artists, not only of Samaria, but of that Jerusalem which contained the Temple of Solomon. "I have already," he adds, "identified the Samaritans among the groups of captive pourtrayed upon the marbles of Khorsabad; and when I shall have accurately learned the locality of the different bas-reliefs that have been brought from Koyunjik, I do not doubt but that I shall be able to point out the bands of Jewish maidens who were delivered to Sennacherib, and perhaps to distinguish the portraiture of the humbled Hezekiah."

There is something of a character of sacred grandeur almost, as well as a most solemn interest, which attaches to these researches of Col. Rawlinson.

## A PRACTICAL JOKE.

A gentleman of considerable talent as an orator, became a member of the legislature in one of the Eastern States. In speaking, he was addicted to an odd habit of handling his spectacles; first placing them on his nose—suffusing them to remain a minute or two—throwing them upon his fore-head, and then finally folding them up and laying them before him on the desk. One day a very important question came up for consideration, and he commenced a speech in opposition. A friend to the proposed measure, who was a most incorrigible wag, determined to spoil the effect of the hon. member's remarks, and accordingly, before he entered the House, provided himself with a dozen pair of spectacles. The member commenced his speech with his usual ability. But few minutes elapsed before he was at work with his spectacles, and at length got them upon his forehead. At this juncture, our wag, who stood ready, laid another pair upon the desk before the orator. These were taken up and by gradation, gained a place on his forehead just below the first. A third pair, a fourth, and also a fifth were disposed of in the same manner. A smile settled upon the countenances of the honorable members, which gradually broadened into a grin, and at last, when the speaker had got warmed into one of his most patriotic and elegant sentences, he deposited a sixth pair with the others: then arose one roar of laughter from all quarters of the hall—present, members, and clerks, all joining in chorus. The speaker looked round in astonishment at this interruption, then, raising his hand he grasped his spectacles, and the truth flashed upon his mind. He dashed the glasses upon the floor, and rushed from the hall.