

and split it into fragments. These fragments they distributed as charms among their families to be hidden away in their granaries. Most of these fragments have been recovered, and the stone, once more put together, may be seen in the Museum of Louvre at Paris.

When the inscription came to be read it was found that the monument was erected by a certain "Mesha, King of Moab," and spoke of a recent war waged between Moab and two or more kings of Israel. The account of these border wars, one of the most tragic episodes that history mentions, is recorded in 2 Kings iii. But the Scripture narrative concerning the fortunes of Mesha is very brief. The inscription on the Moabite Stone, from the hand of this same "Mesha, King of Moab," recording his victories, and made at a time when the wars had ceased, and he had secured the independence of his country, and was established on the throne, not only corroborates the Bible narrative, but is a supplement to it.

Translations of this inscription appeared some years ago in nearly all the leading reviews. One of the best of the earlier readings, together with an excellent article by Prof. Davidson, of Edinburgh, appeared in the *British and Foreign Evangelical Review* for February, 1871. Scholars have been for ten years expecting M. Clermont-Ganneau's promised completion of his studies, but the work has never appeared. The new reading, by the two German professors, supplements the earlier ones in several important points. A copy of this reading, together with much valuable information concerning the Stone, has been placed at our disposal by Mr. James Bain, of the Toronto Public Library. The following is a revised translation of the whole text:

- 1 "I am Mesha, the son of Chemosh melech, the king of Moab, of
- 2 Dibon. My father was king of Moab 30 years, and I became king
- 3 after my father, and I have erected this high place to Chemosh in Kirk-
- hah for the salvation of Mesha,
- 4 since he saved me from all the kings, and let me see my desire upon all
- my enemies. Omri,
- 5 the king of Israel, he oppressed Moab many days, since Chemosh was
- angry against his
- 6 land. And then his son followed him, and he also said: I will oppress
- Moab; in my day he said thus,
- 7 but I saw my pleasure upon him and his house, and Israel perished for
- ever. And Omri occupied the whole land