

imagine that they were to discover some of the most remarkable confirmations of holy writ. The spade is often one of the most valuable of commentators. In the brick tablets of Babylon, its royal library containing over 10,000 records, and in the carved slabs of Nineveh have been preserved some of the most remarkable traditions of the creation, deluge, and the history of the early empires which have come down to us upon the stream of time.

The Bible represents the beginning of Babylon as belonging to the time of Nimrod. (Gen. x. 6-10.) The mighty city of Babylon was a district of vast size in-

"How is Babylon become a desolation among the nations! It is a land of graven images. They are mad upon their idols.

"Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell there, and the owls shall dwell therein; and it shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation.

"As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the Lord; so shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein." Jer. 1. 23, 38-40.

Thus saith the Lord of hosts; the broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken, and her high gates shall be burned with fire; and the people shall labour in vain, and the folk in the fire, and they shall be weary.

"And thou shalt say, thus shall Baby-



ASSAULT ON THE CITY.

closed by lofty walls. Ancient authors describe their circuit as from forty to sixty miles, but even the lowest estimate would give it an area of five times the size of London. The whole plain of Shinar is covered with ruined mounds, some of which rise 140 feet above the level of the plain. In its present desolation it is one of the most remarkable fulfilments of Divine prophecy. As shown in our picture it is a plain void of inhabitants, and, in that sense, a wilderness.

"Because of the wrath of the Lord it shall not be inhabited, but it shall be wholly desolate; every one that goeth by Babylon shall be astonished, and hiss at all her plagues." Jer. 1. 13.

lon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her; and they shall be weary. Thus far are the words of Jeremiah." Jer. li. 58, 64.

In like manner has Nineveh been laid waste and it has never risen from its ruins. The colossal figures shown in these pages are those disinterred by Layard and Rawlinson, Hormuzd Rassam and others, and brought at great cost to the British Museum. This exceeding great city, where Jonah was sent to preach repentance, has been literally obliterated from the face of the earth.

"And it shall come to pass, that all they that look upon thee shall flee from thee and say, Nineveh is laid waste; who