

like his mother Semiramis. He shut himself up in his palace at Nineveh, and seldom shewed himself to his people. Having little influence over them, he kept them in subjection by troops drawn from the several provinces of his empire; when one levy had served for the period of one year, they were succeeded by another, and his policy in this short service, was to keep the officers from forming any attachment with their men, and so conspiring against his government.—From the time of Ninyas there is a long blank in the history of the first Assyrian empire, extending over the period of more than one thousand years. It would seem the princes during this time, like Ninyas, were effeminated by luxury, as Sesostri, king of Egypt, (B. C. 1491), extended his conquests as far as the Ganges without any opposition from Assyria.

Passing over this long interval, we come to the time (B. C. 770) when Pul, one of the kings of Assyria, received from Manahen, one of the kings of the ten tribes, one thousand talents of silver, to secure him on his throne. This Pul is supposed to be the same king who repented at the preaching of Jonah, and the father of Sardanapalus, who succeeded him. This last prince was given up to luxury and vice; he spent his time in feasting and guilty pleasures; and it was the sight of this effeminate man, in the midst of his seraglio, that filled Arbaces, governor of Media, with such indignation, that he, along with the governor of Babylon, entered into a conspiracy against him.—Sardanapalus having taken the field, was overcome, when he shut himself up in Nineveh, in the hope that there he would be secure; but the city being taken, he burnt himself, his eunuchs, and women, and an immense amount of treasures, on one funeral pile. And with him ended the first Assyrian empire, after having subsisted one thousand four hundred and fifty years.

B. C. 747. The second Assyrian empire commenced with the reign of Belshazzar, governor of Babylon, who, as we have just said, conspired against Sardanapalus and dethroned him at Nineveh. This king called also Baladan in scripture, was the father of Merodachbaladan, who sent ambassadors to congratulate Hezekiah on his recovery from sickness. After the reign of this latter prince a blank occurs in the history of the affairs of Babylon.

After the revolution already referred to, the first of the kings who began to reign at Nineveh, was Tiglah Pileser. Ahaz, king of Judah, sought the assistance of this prince against Israel and Damascus, which he granted, and subdued his enemies, but distressed him afterwards by rendering him a tributary of Assyria. Salmanezer succeeded Tiglah Pileser in the empire. In his time

the kingdom of Israel having rebelled, he subdued them with an army, took their king Hosca, and removed the ten tribes from the land of their fathers, thus putting an end to the kingdom as the prophets had foretold. Salmanezer dying Senacherib succeeded him. It was this prince whose army, amounting to eighty-five thousand men, was destroyed by an angel in one night. After this overthrow he fled to Nineveh, where he was slain by his two sons—these parricides, however, were obliged to flee into Armenia, and left the kingdom to Esarhaddon their younger brother.

As the royal family in Babylon had become extinct, Esarhaddon annexed Babylon to his dominions, and reigned over the united empires.—He removed such of the tribes as yet remained in the land, and sent colonists of idolators to Samaria, who were the fathers of the race of Samaritans in after times. He defeated also Manassah, king of Judah, and carried him to Babylon. After reigning thirteen years over Nineveh and Babylon he left the empire to his son Nebuchodonozor the first. This prince was attacked by the Medes, but he defeated them in a pitched battle, and entering their country he took their capital, slew their king and returned to Nineveh.

Saracus succeeded Nebuchodonozor the first, but being weak and effeminate, Nabopolassar, a Babylonian, usurped the government of that part of the empire, and making an alliance with Cyaxares, king of the Medes, who was desirous to be revenged because of the death of his father, the united armies of Babylon and Media took Nineveh and utterly destroyed it as the prophets had foretold.

It was at this time that Necho, king of Egypt, alarmed because of the power of Babylon, in alliance with Media, marched an army towards the Euphrates; on his way he was attacked by good Josiah, king of Judah, whose forces he overthrew and wounded the king, that he died at Jerusalem. Necho continued his march, he defeated the Babylonians, and took one of their cities in which he placed a garrison. Returning to Egypt, he dethroned Jehoiachaz, son of Josiah, who had been proclaimed king without his consent. He now set Jehoiakim his brother on the throne, and imposed a tribute on the land.

Nabopolassar, king of Babylon, getting into years, he took his son Nebuchodonozor the second as partner in the empire. This prince in his turn defeated Necho, retook Carchemish, and entering Judea took Jerusalem. On his father's death, Nebuchodonozor the second succeeded to the whole empire, and Daniel and others being taken captives to Babylon, he interpreted to this prince his dream concerning the golden image.—Jehoiakim the king of Judah dying, his son Je-