

queen, "thou makest me remember the fair-haired prophet of Israel who ——" "Be still!" cried Saracus, "call not the Jewish slave I killed a prophet." "Nay, but O king," persisted the queen, "when he was dying under the torture you know he said his people, the chosen of God he called them, had a prophet called Nahum who foretold the fall of our empire, and he said, 'The gates of the river shall be opened and the palace shall be dissolved.'" "Aye," groaned the king, "and it is fulfilled, but Cyaxares shall not boast of thee in his triumph." And at a sign to his faithful servant seven lighted torches rise to the drapery of the room; simultaneously torches are applied in every room in the building. A smothered cry from the queen, a closer clasping of the king's arms around her, and their voices are lost in the crackling of the flames. A moment later and the manly form of the Assyrian king, he of the coal-black eyes and evenly trimmed beard, and the frail form of his companion, are lost to view in the smoke which rises where but a short time since the royal palace of Ninevah met the eye. When the Median army entered the city they found the royal abode a heap of ruins. Thus fell the monarchy of which it was written, "The Assyrian was a cedar in Lebanon, fair of branches, and with a shadowing shroud and of high stature, and his top was among the thick boughs, nor was any tree in the garden of God like unto him in his beauty." But the voice of a prophet had said, "I am against thee, saith the Lord of Hosts," and Assyria met the doom her deeds had called forth.

II. South of Assyria and subject to her before the Median conquest lay Babylonia, the prize now given to Nabopolassar for his treachery to his king. He was now monarch of this country and spent his reign in strengthening the kingdom which under his son Nebuchadnezzar rose to the height of its power and greatness. Although a marriage of pure policy

arranged by the respective fathers, the beautiful Amyites found a loving husband in Nebuchadnezzar. They formed a complete contrast; he with his massive head and neck and dark hair curling over shoulders grand in their strength and in perfect proportion with the height of the man, more than once had this strength been matched against the king of beasts in the fierce encounter of the hunt. But the face was not unkindly after the first impressions, which was one of sternness, had passed away. Amyites was slightly above medium height with delicate, evenly-formed features and eyes with a thoughtful look in them at times, as if the mind of their owner was far away. Nebuchadnezzar added to his kingdom by conquest, and Babylon, the capital, must have been indeed like a vision of fairy land from the accounts which have been handed down to us. But of all the king's conquests that of Judea and the introduction of the Hebrew captives was by far the most important in the eyes of Amyites: she recognized her own religion in that of Daniel and his friends. When, after a weary night, Nebuchadnezzar summoned his wise men to tell him his forgotten dream, and after his terrible wrath at their inability to comply with his request, we see that impressive scene in the king's audience room when the youthful Daniel stands before him and not only tells him his dream but interprets it to him. The king although so deeply impressed that he would bow down before the young Hebrew, yet in his pride he afterwards forgets the God of Daniel. But one in that audience never forgot, Amuhia, the young daughter of Nebuchadnezzar and Amyites. All the best qualities of her father seemed to have descended upon this child with the beauty of her mother; the earnest thoughtful eyes were a shade darker as was the hair, and there was an expression of more strength about the mouth and chin than in the mother's face. Child of a sad history and troublous times! Many