

under Hammurabis' rule. Nothing can be more interesting to us than the position and character of the "Gi-amm," the good son of the great god of the earth, the third person in the Sumerian trinity. The part played by the son of Ea is illustrated well in a dialogue reported in an incantation formula which frequently occurs in the old Sumerian, which runs as follows, according to the German of Professor Honimel—"Girri-Dugga has looked on the misery of afflicted mankind; he approached his father in his abode and says: My father, the folly (delirium) came from the nether-world. And a second time he says to him—"What shall man do? He knows not how he can obtain healing salvation." Ea answered his son, Girri-Dugga: "My son, what is there thou dost not know already, what more shall I add for thee? What I know, that knowest thou also. Go my son, Girri-Dugga, take a vessel and bring therein some water at the mouth of the streams, and on this water bestow thy pure blessing and besprinkle therewith this man, the child of his god." Then the magic priest takes up the exorcism thus, addressing himself to man: "May the folly of his brain dissolve; the sickness in his head, which encumbers him like a nightly ghost, may it depart; may the word of Ea drive it out: the goddess Dungal-Nunna restore thee, may the fair form of Girra-Dugga's first-born, son of the abyss of waters, be thine."

The intervention of the son of the great god Ea was invoked against all diseases and misfortunes, even to procure cloudless moons. Thus we find that the mind of man was directed towards the idea of an intercessor between the supreme god and man, who was suffering, and lost, if salvation could not be obtained. The intercessor was thus, thousands of years before Abraham, held to be the son of the supreme god. In all this we have, in my humble opinion, a sublime lesson. We may see in it, if we will only think, the gradual preparation of the human race for an inspired religion. We may see man, the most ancient race of men of whom we know anything, feeling his way in the dark towards the faint and still distant first glimpse of light.

We now come to speak of the next great race from Asia that settled in Mesopotamia, the then garden of the world.

THE SHEMITES OR SEMITES.

Frequent mention has already been made of the invasion of Mesopotamia by Semite races. They, like the Sumerians, arrived from the desert and the east. They were brave, war-like and rude, compared to the Sumerians, who had, by this time, suffered from the effeminacy that is an inevitable result of comfort and prosperity. The early history of these Shemite hordes