

WITH reference to the statement of Prof. Sayce on this subject, I would call attention to the following extracts. In the *Academy* of May 11th, 1878, Prof. Sayce wrote: "Another interesting fact disclosed by THE SYLLABARIES¹ is the existence of a woman's language among the Accadians." In consequence of this statement Dr. Haupt wrote (*Die Akkadische Sprache*, p. xxix), "Der Erste, der in *émé sal* die Bezeichnung für eine besondere Weibersprache bei den Akkadiern zu erkennen glaubte, war meines Wissens A. H. Sayce." The explanation of the ideograph *émé sal* by "Woman's Language" was first given by Delitzsch, and Dr. Haupt thought that "it was the technical term by which the old Babylonian grammarians designated the lower Babylonian dialect."² It is true that Dr. Delitzsch was the first to read *émé sal* as *naqbu*, and to explain it by the word "female," but it is equally true that the theory of a "woman's language" was previously held by Prof. Sayce (as I have shown above), and by Lenormant (*La Magie*, p. 399, German edition). The statement by Dr. Bezold on this subject is as follows: "His view (*i.e.* that of Dr. Delitzsch) was also held previously by Sayce and Lenormant. I have however recently examined the tablet, and found that these two signs (*naq-bu*) do not exist upon it at all; but instead of them there are parts of the ideograph *émé sal*, of the true reading and meaning of which we are just as ignorant as we were twenty years ago" (Bezold, *Remarks on some Unpublished Cuneiform Syllabaries*, p. 2). It seems to me a logical consequent that Prof. Sayce's theory is either proved by the explanation of *émé sal* given by Dr. Delitzsch, especially as he himself says that the existence of a woman's language is disclosed by the syllabaries, that is to say, by the term *émé sal*, or that it falls to the ground when it is proved that *émé sal* does not mean "Woman's Language," and that it cannot be at present explained. I therefore stand by the sentence in my review to which Prof. Sayce takes exception.

The suggestion that we should expect to find *naqbitu* instead of *naqbu*, (which Dr. Delitzsch actually read!) *i.e.* a feminine instead of a masculine form, was made so far back as 1883 by Dr. Haupt, who, by the way, would read *naqbatu* (*Die Akkadische Sprache*, p. xxviii). Which form is to be read cannot at present be decided.

E.

¹ The capitals are mine.

² *American Journ. Philology*, v., p. 69.