ever. The style is Mr. Wellwood's and unmistakable. The subject is once and again almost lost in the sparkle of the style. But Mr. Wellwood was very right to give us a book as well as a brief biography.

SUNDAY HOURS. (R.T.S. 4to, pp. 624. 4s.)
The first half-yearly volume of a magazine that caught the public ear at once, and is very sure to keep it.

HOOKS AND EYES. BY THE REV. FREDERICK LANGBRIDGE, M.A. (R.T.S. 4to, pp. 128. 2s. 6d.)
'Little Helps to Little Folks.' The type is large, but the words are small, and the illustrations will attract even the folks that are too little for the little words.

ODD. BY THE AUTHOR OF 'PROBABLE SONS.' (R.T.S. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 160. 2s.)
And it is quite as good as 'Probable Sons,—a girls' story, delightful, fascinating.

THE BURDEN OF LIFE. BY JAMES HAIN FRISWELL. (Unwin. Crown 8vo, pp. viii, 344. 3s. 6d.)
Surely 'making love' is not one of the burdens of life. But, indeed, Mr. Friswell never knew what life's burdens are if he thought these were the burdens of life. 'Making Love' and the 'Custom of Kissing,' oh fie! But the title is nothing. The contents are very sweet and good to read, and all is so pleasantly, so kindly told, that he who runs very hard may read it and find rest.

Archaeological Commentary on Genesis.

BY THE REV. A. H. SAYCE, LL.D., PROFESSOR OF ASSYRIOLOGY, OXFORD.

XIV. 1. It has long been recognised by Assyriologists that Arioch of Ellasar must be Eri-Aku, king of Larsa, the son of Kudur-Mabug, the son of Simti-silkhak, who has left us contemporaneous inscriptions. Kudur-Mabug was an Elamite, the prince of Yavutbal, on the borders of Elam and Babylonia, and Babylonia was at the time under Elamite suzerainty. Eri-Aku is Sumerian, and signifies 'the servant of the moon-god'; the Semitic equivalent is Rim-Sin, as Eri-Aku was called by his Semitic contemporaries. Besides his own inscriptions, numerous contracts exist dated in his reign. In one of his inscriptions, Eri-Aku calls himself 'the shepherd of the lands of Nipur, the executor of the oracle of the holy tree of Eridu, the shepherd of Ur, king of Larsa, king of Sumer and Akkad,' the last title asserting his claim to supremacy in Babylonia. He calls his father 'the father of the land of the Amorites,' which implies that he held an official position in Syria and Canaan, and his name Kudur-Mabug, 'the servant of Mabug,' may also
Amraphel may be explained, it is now clear that the name must be the same as that of Khammurabi. Ellasar has been corrupted from Larsa perhaps through a confusion with al sarri, 'the city of the king.' Goyim, the kingdom of Tid'al, may also be a corrupt reading, and Sir H. Rawlinson has suggested that we ought to read Gutium. Gutium was the Semitic form of the Sumerian Guti or Kurdistan, which embraced all the country east of the Tigris and north of Elam, and thus included the future kingdom of Assyria. Guti or Gutu (also Qutu) is interpreted in the cuneiform tablets by the Assyrian quradu, 'a warrior,' whence the name of the Kurds to-day. An inscription of a king of Gutium has been discovered, which is a good deal earlier in date than the age of Khammurabi; and in the astrological tablets of the same period, mention is made of 'the king of Guti.' In one of the inscriptions discovered by Mr. Pinches, however, we read: 'Who is Kudur-Lagamar the doer of evil? He has assembled the Umman Manda, and has washed the people of Bel and marched at their side.' The Umman Manda were the nomad hordes of Kurdistan, and the Babylonian expression is the exact equivalent of the Hebrew Goyim. Tudkhula or Tid'al may therefore have been the king of the Umman Manda, who adjoined the northern frontier of Elam, and were the subject-allies of Kudur-Lagamar.

The fact that some of the names in the present text of Genesis are corrupt, indicates that it must be considerably older than the age of the Septuagint. On the whole, however, the newly-discovered tablet shows that the names have been preserved with remarkable accuracy, and that in the case of Tid'al the Masoretes are more correct than the Septuagint (which has Thorgal). As the 's' of the Babylonian original is represented by the Hebrew ס, we are taken back to a time when it had not as yet become ס in Hebrew transcript.
tion. This is earlier than the Assyrian epoch and the royal period of Judah, when Babylonian authority was recognised in Canaan long before the age of Abraham. Sargon of Akkad (B.C. 3800) had incorporated all the countries of the West into his empire, and erected images of himself on the coast of the Mediterranean, while his son Naram-Sin, secure of Palestine in his rear, marched southward into Magan, the Sinaitic Peninsula, and made his king a prisoner. Iné-Sin, who was king of Ur shortly before the rise of Khammurabi’s dynasty, conquered Zemar in Phoenicia, and his daughter received the fief of Markhasi or Mer’ash in Northern Syria. Kudur-Mabug was ‘father of the land of the Amorites,’ and Khammurabi himself claimed to be its ruler. One of his successors, Ammi-satana, the son of Abishua’i, calls himself king of Babylon, Kish, Sumer and Akkad, and ‘the country of the Amorites’; and the Tel el-Amarna tablets prove that the influence of the Babylonian Government and culture must have been exerted over Canaan for several centuries. When they were written, the Babylonians were still intriguing in Palestine.

Shinab is the same name as Sanibu, borne by a king of Ammon in the time of Tiglath-Pileser III. If Shemeber is right, it will be the Assyrian Sumu-abir, ‘the god Shem is strong’; but it may be a corrupt reading for Sumu-abi, the name of the founder of the dynasty to which Khammurabi belonged. For Bela’, see note on x. 19. Zoar is found in the geographical cartouches of Kom Ombos in Upper Egypt (age of Ptolemy Lathyrus), where it is written in hieroglyphs, Zagher.

3. ‘All these formed a confederacy (khaberu, like the Khabiri of the Tel el-Amarna tablets, see note on xiii. 18) in the vale of Siddim.’ As Zoar remained to late times, the statement that the vale of Siddim was the Salt Sea must be intended to mean that it included the Dead Sea as well as the fertile valley immediately to the north of it.

5. Ashteroth-Karnaim (or rather Ashtoreth-Karnaim, ‘Ashtoreth of the Two Horns’) was a witness to Babylonian influence in the West. Ashtoreth was the Babylonian Istar, the goddess of the evening star, with the Semitic feminine suffix attached. As there was no moon-god in Canaan, Ashtoreth there became identified with the moon. Ashteroth-Karnaim is the modern Tell ‘Asheret in Bashan, east of the Sea of Galilee, and is called ‘Astartu in the list of the conquests of Thothmes III. in Palestine. It is there followed by Anau-repa, which Mr. Tomkins makes On-Repha, and compares with the classical Raphon or Raphana, now Er-Rafah. On-Repha would be ‘On of the Rephaim.’ The Zuzim of Ham are called the Zamzummim of Ammon in Deut. ii. 20. The difference of spelling can be explained if we suppose that Gen. xiv. has been copied from a cuneiform original. In the Babylonian cuneiform system of writing, m and w (or u) are expressed by the same characters, and no distinction is made, in writing, between aleph, hé, and ‘ayin, so that ‘Ammi (for ‘Ammon) could be read Ham, and Zanzummin, Zuz(w)im. That the narrative is taken from a Babylonian document is indicated by the fact that it is dated in the reign of the king of ‘Shinar,’ though his suzerain and leader in the campaign was the king of Elam.

6. Ramses III. states that he conquered the Shasu or Bedouin of ‘Seir,’ and ‘plundered their tents.’ For the Horites, see xxxvi. 20.

7. The site of Kadesh-barnea was discovered by Dr. Rowlands, and subsequently explored by Dr. Clay Trumbull, at ‘Ain Qadis, in the Jebel Magrah, about midway between the mountains of Seir and the Mediterranean. The name En-Mishpat, or ‘Spring of Judgments,’ shows that it was the legislative centre of the desert tribes long before Moses delivered his ‘judgments’ there.

The Amalekites of the Old Testament are the Bedouin of to-day. We learn from i Sam. xv. 7 that they occupied the desert south of Palestine as far west as the Egyptian frontier. The route followed by Chedorlaomer and his allies had already been traversed by Naram-Sin when he marched against the Sinaitic Peninsula.

10. The ‘slime-pits’ or naphtha-wells can still be traced.

15. Damascus (Tamasqa) was conquered by Thothmes III., and is mentioned in the Tel el-Amarna tablets.

18. The Tel el-Amarna tablets have shown that Jerusalem was already an important fortress and the capital of a considerable territory in the age of the eighteenth Egyptian dynasty. Among them are several letters from its king Ebed-tob to the Pharaoh. The name of the city is written Uru-
salim, and in a lexical tablet the word *uru*, originally borrowed from the Sumerian *eri*, is stated to be equivalent to the Babylonian *alu*, 'city.' It is one of the words which show that Canaanite (or Hebrew) and Sumerian must once have been in contact. Salim means 'peace;' and is probably the name of the god of peace who was called Sulmanu or Shalman in Assyrian (cp. Isa. ix. 6). Ramses II. and Ramses III. call the city Shalema or Salem, and claim to have captured it. Salem, therefore, was the name by which it was known in Egypt in the Mosaic period.

With the name of Melchizedek we may compare that of Chemosh-zedek on a recently-discovered Moabite seal. Light is thrown on the position of Melchizedek by the letters of Ebed-tob. He declares that he is not like the other Egyptian governors of Canaan, but a tributary ally of the Pharaoh, and that he had received his royal dignity, not from his father or his mother, but from the arm (or perhaps oracle) of the Mighty King. As the Mighty King is distinguished from 'the great king' of Egypt, he must be the deity corresponding to 'the Most High God' of Genesis. In one of his letters Ebed-tob refers to 'the city of the mountain of Jerusalem, whose name is the city of the temple of the god Nin-ip, the city of the (Egyptian) king;' from which we gather that the deity was identified with the Babylonian Nin-ip, a warlike form of the sun-god. Like Melchizedek, accordingly, Ebed-tob was officially 'without father' or 'mother;' and as he had been appointed to his post by the god of Jerusalem, must have been a priest-king.

9. 'And one said unto him.' Was another deity than Yahveh mentioned in the original document? The division of the animals marked what the Hebrews called 'cutting,' that is, making the covenant, one-half of each animal belonging to one of the parties to it, the other half to the other.

10. Note that the four hundred years denote the period during which the Israelites were to be afflicted in Egypt, not the period of their sojourn there. The four hundred and thirty years of sojourn (Ex. xii. 40) includes the generation of Joseph, a generation being reckoned at thirty years. A similar period of four hundred years is mentioned on a stela of Ramses II., the Pharaoh of the Oppression, discovered by Mariette at Sân, the ancient Zoan. The stela commemorates a visit made to Zoan by the governor of the frontier about B.C. 1300, in the four hundredth year of the Hyksos king, Set-ân-pehti Set-nubti.

16. The 'fourth generation' does not agree with the four hundred years of oppression, or with the number of generations from the death of Abraham (ver. 15) to that of Joshua. It is generally explained in reference to the fact that Moses was the third in descent from Levi; but this does not harmonise with the context or with the genealogies of the daughters of Zelophehad (Num. xxvii. 1), and of Joshua (1 Chron. vii. 23-27). The fourth generation from Abraham would bring us to the sons of Ephraim who were slain by the men of Gath, apparently after the settlement in Egypt (1 Chron. vii. 21).

The 'Amorites' in this verse take the place of the Canaanites in accordance with the old Babylonian usage.

18. Sargon and Esar-haddon describe the *nakhal Muzri*, 'the wadi of Egypt,' the modern Wadi
el-Arish, as the Egyptian frontier. Here it is called a ‘river,’ like the Euphrates, and not a ‘wadi,’ as elsewhere in the Old Testament. This, however, must be from a Babylonian point of view, since it was not a river, but a nakhal, or waterless wadi.

19. The Kenites, or clan of nomad smiths, from kain, ‘a worker in metals,’ resembled the wandering smiths or tinkers of the Middle Ages, who jealously kept to themselves the secrets of metallurgy. They lived in tents (Judg. iv. 11; 1 Chron. ii. 55; Jer. xxxv. 6, 7), and it was doubtless their removal from the devastated land of Israel that enabled the Philistines to deprive the Israelites of the services of a smith (1 Sam. xiii. 19). Their wandering habits led them to associate with the Amalekites or Bedouin (1 Sam. xv. 6; Num. xxiv. 27). In the time of Ramses ii. the ironsmith was already so fully established in Canaan that in the story of the Travels of a Mohar in Palestine, the hero is made to turn aside to one as soon as his chariot is broken.

The Kenizzites were an Edomite tribe (Gen. xxxvi. 11), some of whom settled in Judah. Caleb and Othniel, the first judge, belonged to them (Josh. xv. 17). In the Tel el-Amarna tablets there is a land of Kinza north of Palestine, in the neighbourhood of Kadesh, on the Orontes. The Kadmonites or ‘Easterns’ are called ‘the children of the East’ in Judg. vi. 3; 1 Kings v. 30. In the Egyptian story of the political refugee Sinuhet, written in the time of the twelfth dynasty, the hero takes refuge, first in Qedem, in the southwestern part of Edom, and then with the prince Ammu-anshi of the Upper Tenu, in what was afterwards the territory of Edom.

(To be continued.)

---

I.

‘The opening of Thy words giveth light.’—Ps. cxxix. 30 (R.V.).

1. How many of you can repeat this 119th Psalm? How many of you understand it? How many love it? The psalmist who wrote it had great pieces of God’s Word by heart, especially the Law of God; he understood it; he loved it. This long psalm is just a song in praise of the beauty of the Law he knew and loved so well.

2. So when he says, in our Golden Text, ‘The opening of Thy words giveth light,’ he means that when anyone tries to learn and understand any of the Scriptures he learns to know God. The words of God are God’s way of making Himself known. And when God is known aright, He is greatly loved. The soul is dark that knows not the love of God.

3. But, as the Golden Text, these words are taken in a still larger, fuller meaning. The lesson tells us how Lydia’s heart was opened; how she was rescued from the darkness of sin into the glorious safety of the grace of God. It was the preaching of the gospel that did it.

4. So the gospel gives light. The gospel is the good news that a Saviour has come, a Saviour from sin. Now sin is darkness. He that does evil abides in darkness and hates the light. When the gospel comes it scatters the darkness of sin, giving us fellowship with Him who is Light. When Jesus was upon the earth, He said, ‘I am the Light of the World,’ and He bade His followers walk while they had the light. And in the City of God there is no night, for the Lamb of God is its everlasting Light.

II.

‘Believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved, thou and thy house.’—Acts xvi. 31 (R.V.).

1. The Philippian jailer could not do that until he had heard who the Lord Jesus was. So the apostle took him and told him. He told him of the coming of the Son of God into the world; of His miracles, and how he went about doing good; of His death and resurrection. Then he would tell him that He came into the world to be the Saviour of the world; that this was His deliberate and only purpose—‘I came... to give my life a ransom.’ He would tell him that He saved the world by dying for it. And he would let him see that none but the Son of God could do that for the world.