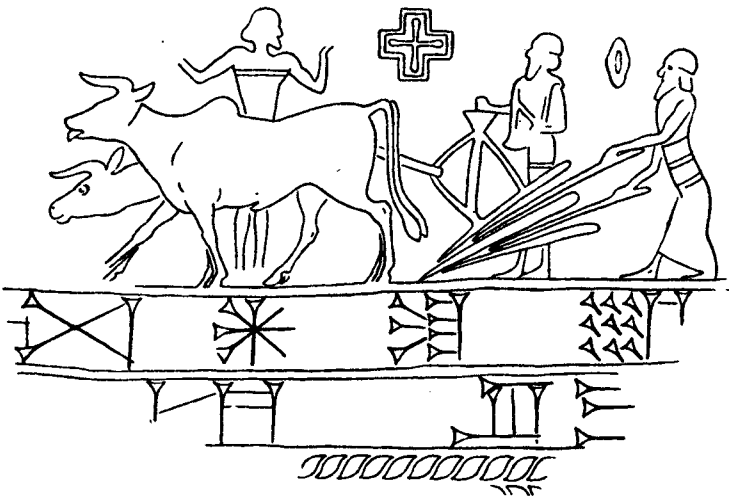


## BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS

## An Assyrian Illustration to the Book of Jubilees

**I**N the *Publications of the Babylonian Section* of the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania Prof. A. T. Clay has published a reproduction and description of an Assyrian plow drawn by two oxen and attended by a gang of three men, one of whom is engaged at a funnel-shaped apparatus at the side of the plow;



this contrivance is doubtless a seeder, the seed being fed through into the turned up furrow. The seal belongs to the 14th century B. C. Similar representations are found on monuments of Sennacherib and Esarhaddon, and this kind of plow still remains in use in Syria.

The device illustrates a hitherto obscure passage in the Book of Jubilees. In the 11th chapter of this book is described a

plague of ravens sent in Terali's day, which devoured the seed before it was turned into the earth by the plow. Then upon Abraham's birth, he was able to avert the birds by his mere word, and subsequently (to quote Charles' translation) "taught those who made implements for oxen, the artificers in wood, and they made a vessel above the ground, facing the frame of the plow, in order to put the seed thereon, and the seed fell down therefrom upon the share of the plow, and was hidden in the earth, and they no longer feared the ravens. And after this manner they made vessels above the ground on all the frames of the plows, and they sowed and tilled all the ground, according as Abraham commanded them, and they no longer feared the birds."

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James A. Montgomery.

#### A Hebrew Folksong

**I**N his volume on Isaiah, Chapters I-XXXIX, in the International Critical Commentary, the Rev. George Buchanan Gray, D. D., thus describes the passage Chapter III 18-23 (p. 72): "A catalogue of one-and-twenty articles of women's finery: probably a prose addition to the poem: see small print n. above. Some of the terms are of uncertain meaning, and it is therefore difficult to say whether the catalogue is carefully compiled without any principle of arrangement, or an artistically constructed list." In the JOURNAL of this Society for 1885, under the title "Two Fragments of Hebrew Popular Melodies", I printed this passage in its verse form. Without comment and remark I venture to reproduce that poem here:

העכסים והשביסים והשהינים  
הנמפות והשרות והרעלות  
הפארים והנעדות

[ו]הקשרים ובתי נפש והלחשים  
המבעות ונומי האף (?)