

A PASSAGE ON THE MOABITE STONE.

On the Moabite Stone the word **אשב** has been taken in two senses: Line 12, "I carried off;" and line 13, "I caused to dwell." Is it not possible that in both it answers to the Hebrew **ישב**, "I turned" (*cf.* 1 Sam. xv, 31, from the root **שׁוּב**). In Assyrian the aorist takes *a* as a prefix (*cf.* *asib*, "I sat"), and the Moabite dialect approaches Assyrian in some particulars (pronouns, plural, and verbal forms). This change, if there is, as I suppose, no real grammatical objection, makes a great difference in the historical meaning of the text—

ואשב משם את אראל דודה ואסחבה) לפני נמש בקריה
ואשב בה את אש שון א . . . מחרת

"And I turned thence (from Ataroth) to Ariel of David, and I pulled it down before the face of Chemosh by war, and I turned by it to the men of Sharon (and . . .) afterwards."

The fourteenth line records the taking of **נבה**, either Nebo or Nob, where the altars of Jehovah" were pulled down, but this word is used in the Bible of pulling down the walls of a city (2 Sam. xvii, 17).

In this case if, as is generally supposed, the Ariel of the Bible is Jerusalem, King Mesha claims to have taken Jerusalem and to have gone on to Sharon, and to have overthrown Nob in the time of Omri's son Ahab, or more probably later, after his death (*cf.* 2 Kings, iii, 4). The victories of Mesha would follow Jehoram's attack, and in the same reign (2 Kings, viii, 16-22) there was a general revolt from Edom to Libnah, which would agree with this rendering. But we do not know for certain where Ariel—the "city where David camped" (Isaiah xxix, 1, 2, 7) should be placed, and the term Sharon was applied to other grazing plains besides that near Jaffa—notably to one near Tabor.

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THE BATTLE OF KADESH.

(3rd Sallier Papyrus, "Records of the Past," II, pp. 67-78.)

THE conquest of Kadesh by Rameses II was preceded by a surprise nearly fatal to the king. He was told that the Hittites had retired to Aleppo, and riding alone to the north-west of Kadesh, was cut off from his army by the Hittites, who were in ambush, and who came out by the ditch south of the town west of the Orontes.

The position of the Egyptian army in rear is minutely described. The legion of Amon was behind the king (*i.e.*, towards the south), the legion of Phra was by the ditch, west of the town of Sabatuna, divided by a long distance from the legion of Ptah "in the midst," which was