

"When Gudea was building the temple of his god Ningirsu, Ningirsu subjected all things to him, from the upper sea to the lower sea. In Amanus, the mountain of cedar, he has cut and caused to be brought from the mountain, cedar trees whose length was 70 cubits, cedars whose length was 50 cubits, box trees whose length was 25 cubits. With this wood he made various parts of the temple."

Stores were also brought from Phœnicia, and diorite from Makan generally supposed to be Sinai.

This passage indicates an Akkadian invasion of the Lebanon in very early times, and if Makan be correctly identified (and Mr. Pinches agrees with Lenormant on this point), all Palestine would, even before Abraham's time, have been known to, and probably colonised by the Akkadians. The "upper sea" would appear to be the north-east part of the Mediterranean, and the "lower sea" the Persian Gulf. It will be noted that this historic statement agrees with the supposition that an early Akkadian population carved the Hittite monuments, while the language of Mitani,¹ in the 15th century B.C., forms a connecting link, Mitani being the northern part of Mesopotamia, east of the Euphrates and close to the Hittite borders, opposite to their capital of Carchemish. Hitherto this extension of Akkadian rule has not been historically demonstrated, and the new texts are of great value for the history of Palestine.

NOTE ON THE LACHISH CORNICE.

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THE cornice shown (pp. 26, 35) in Mr. F. Petrie's "Lachish Memoir," closely resembles that in the interior court of the Haram at Hebron. It is also similar to that on two tombs in the Kedron Valley. One of these tombs has been called "Egyptian" because of this cornice, but on the other (Absalom's tomb) this cornice occurs with Ionic capitals. The Hebron masonry being of the same class with the Herodian work at Jerusalem, I think there can be little hesitation in regarding this kind of cornice as belonging to the Greek or Greco-Roman age in Palestine. The date is therefore more probably the 1st rather than the 10th century B.C., and it may be placed even as late as the 1st century A.D. with great probability. This agrees with the Greek character of the pillar found in connection with the cornice.

Some of the buildings found at Lachish appear to me to be as late as 500 A.D.

¹ I hope shortly to publish a translation of this important letter of Dusratta in this language, which is an Akkadian dialect. The letter contains more than 500 lines of writing. Only a few scattered words have so far been explained.