

with the consonantal *w* (𐎶 𐎠𐎺 𐎠𐎺 𐎶, *Hur-wa-ša*), the first personage bearing it being called 𐎶𐎠𐎺 𐎶𐎠𐎺 𐎶, *awēlu šalsū*, and the second the *maduūu*, or "sailor." *Huruāši*, however, was a much higher-placed official, namely, a *ḫazānu*, or "governor," and therefore quite distinct from either of these, who, moreover, were not his contemporaries. The vocalic change at the end is probably due to the scribe who wrote *Murwaša* regarding it as an indeclinable noun, whilst he of the Gezer tablet gives it as in the genitive after *pān*, "before." The tablet K. 294 (Mr. Johns's No. 324) refers to house property within Nineveh, so that the presence of western names would seem to be of no value for fixing the locality of the Palestine Exploration Fund's new find—which, however, is sufficiently attested by Mr. Macalister, the discoverer, and the indication of the date.

In compliance with the request made to me, I have written such a description of the tablet found by Mr. Macalister at Gezer as is possible in the short time (filled, as it has been, with many occupations) at my disposal. Others, however, have been invited to write upon it, and there is no doubt that much more of importance will come to light in consequence of their studies. Professor Sayce, the head of Assyriology in England, always has excellent and suggestive things to say, and all will look eagerly for his remarks. As for the Rev. C. H. W. Johns, the author of *Assyrian Deeds and Documents*—a most important work, dealing exclusively with inscriptions of this class, of which he has made a special study—he will be able to correct (as I hope) my rendering, and also add much useful information to my notes thereon.

It remains only to be said that Mr. Macalister is worthy of our warmest thanks for the extremely interesting document which he has discovered, and it is to be hoped that this forecast of good things to come will be fulfilled to the uttermost.

NOTE ON THE ASSYRIAN TABLET.

By the Rev. A. H. SAYCE, LL.D., *Professor of Assyriology, Oxford.*

MY copy of the cast, which is not very clear in places, agrees with that of Dr. Pinches, except at the beginning of line 9 of the Reverse, where I have read *šu* instead of *mur*. Dr. Pinches' skill and experience, however, have given him an authority in questions

of textual reading far beyond that of any other living Assyriologist, and I therefore have no doubt that his reading is to be preferred. In Obverse, line 4, the cast certainly has *bit*.

The Assyrian phrase in Reverse, lines 3, 4, I should translate: "Seizure for the corvée for 100 days (during the year) is a perpetual obligation."

I confess to feeling some difficulty about accepting the statement of the workmen that the tablet was actually found at Gezer, since the seals are typically North Syrian, and the names of the witnesses which are not Assyrian are also Syrian and not Canaanite. The element 'Sih is found in the names from Harrau published by Mr. Johns. Dr. Pinches has already drawn attention to the Aramaic character of *Ḥuruāsi*, and *Bur-rāpīh* would correspond with an Aramaic *Bar-Rāphīa*, in which the second element has the same origin as the Hebrew *Rāphā* and *Rāphayyāh* (*Rāphīa*). It would not be very difficult for an Arab workman to obtain a broken Assyrian tablet at Jerusalem, and "salting the ground" is not unknown even in the East.

NOTE ON THE GEZER CONTRACT TABLET.

By the Rev. C. H. W. JOHNS, M.A., *Lecturer in Assyriology, Queens' College, Cambridge, and King's College, London.*

HAVING been favoured with a view of the cast and photographs of this tablet, and also most courteously allowed to see Dr. Pinches' report upon it, I gladly avail myself of permission to add a few remarks as to my own impressions.

The most remarkable thing about the tablet is its *provenance*. There is not a word now preserved upon it which directly connects it with Gezer. The script and language and many of the proper names are pure Assyrian. Certainly several proper names are of a type which can be paralleled from Phœnicia, Palmyra, Syria, or Palestine, and are called West Semitic by some. Such names occur very frequently in documents found at Nineveh. Hence did we not know where it was discovered we might suspect that it was part of a tablet found in the ruins of Nineveh, or elsewhere in Assyria.