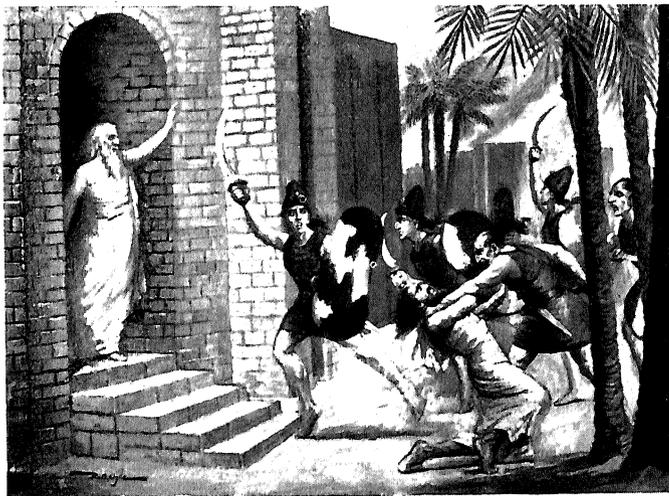


## History of the Nations

incidents in animal and human life. The old medical texts and magical prescriptions were also carefully collected and written out upon series of numbered tablets. A study of the Babylonian literature, in fact, affords a striking proof that the Semitizing of the country was accompanied by no break or set-back in the Babylonian civilization. The older texts and traditions were taken over in bulk, and, except where the rank and position of Marduk was affected, little change or modification was made. The Semitic scribes no doubt developed their inheritance, but expansion took place on the old lines. In commercial life, too, Sumerian customs remained unaltered. Taxes, rent and prices continued to be paid in kind, and, though the talent, maneh and shekel were in use as metal weights, no true currency was developed. In the sale of land, for example, even during the period of the Kassite kings, the purchase-price was settled in shekel-weights of silver, but very little metal actually changed hands. Various items were exchanged against the land, and these, in addition to corn, the principal medium of exchange, included slaves, animals, weapons, garments, etc., the value of each item being reckoned on the same silver basis until the agreed purchase-price was made up. The Semitic Babylonian, despite his commercial activity, did not advance beyond the transition stage between pure barter and a regular currency.

Under Hammurabi's dynasty the common speech of Babylonia became Semitic, and it remained



*Painted specially for this work.*

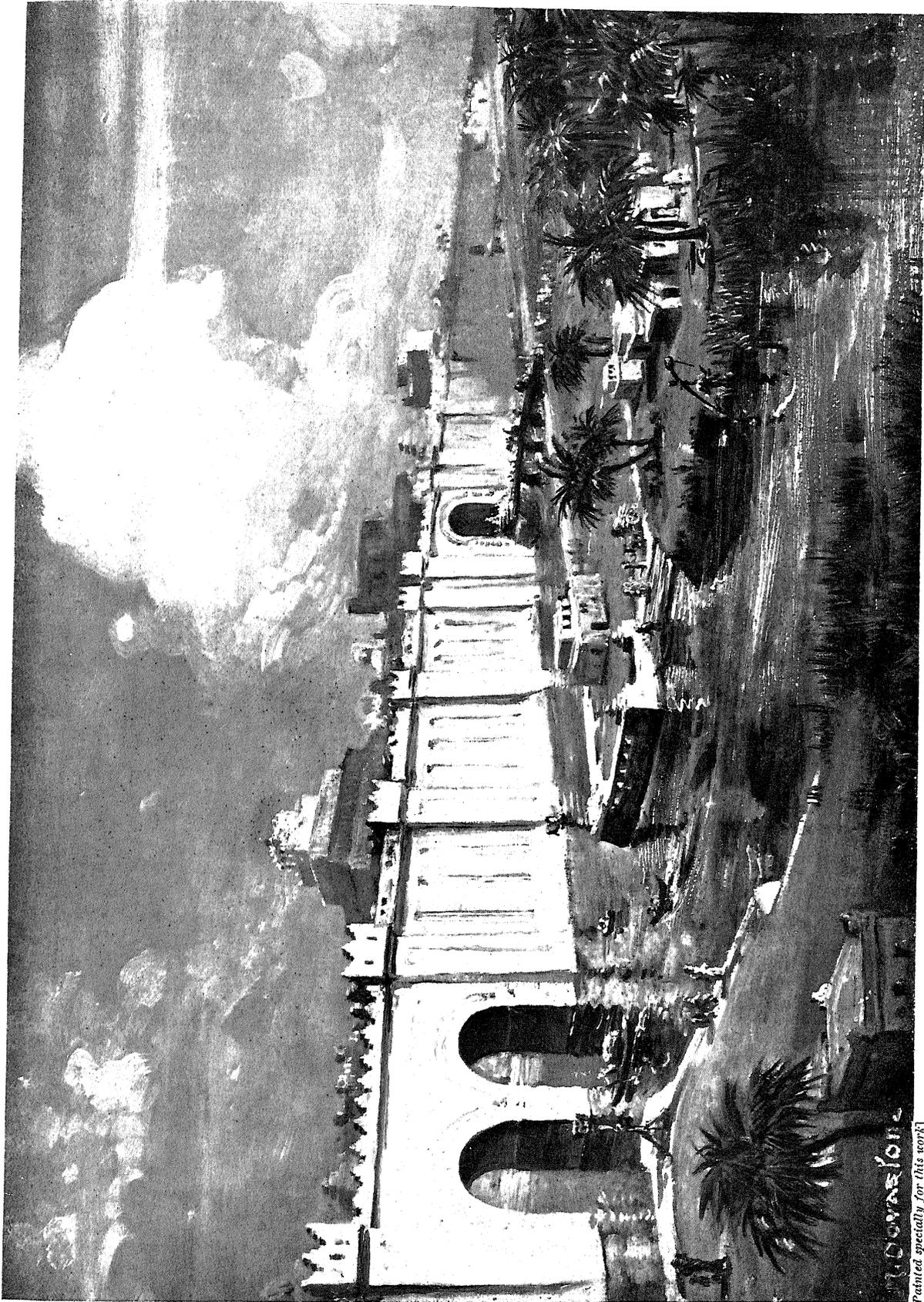
*[By A. B. Ogilve.]*

### THE HITTITE RAID ON BABYLON.

It appears that the strong dynasty of Hammurabi, weakened by struggles with the kings of the Sea-Land, was brought to an end by a Hittite raid about 1750 B.C. These wild tribes, descending the Euphrates from Anatolia, sacked the city and carried off its gods, leaving it a prey to the Kassites.

Dynasty. But it is now clear that their authority never extended beyond the littoral of the Persian Gulf. Babylon was undoubtedly weakened by her struggles to subdue this revolting province, and her attention was now distracted from the south by a new enemy who began to make his appearance on her north-eastern frontier. Bands of Kassite tribes were beginning to descend from the mountains of Media, through the Zagros Pass, and to make periodical raids across the Akkadian frontier. They represented an early wave of the great Indo-European migration, which at about the same period led to the establishment of the kingdom of Mitanni in Northern Mesopotamia, and affected in a marked degree the early history of Assyria. But the first arrivals in Babylonia were not strong enough to cause much trouble to Samsu-iluna and his successors. It is in Samsu-iluna's reign that we find the earliest record of the horse in Babylonia, and it was probably introduced by the Kassites; for the Babylonians expressed their name for this strange animal by an ideograph signifying literally "the ass of the mountain," suggesting that it was brought to Babylonia by mountain tribes from the east.

Even in the reign of Ammi-zaduga, the great-grandson of Samsu-iluna, Babylon continued to retain a semblance of Hammurabi's empire, for she had recovered her control of Elam and held that land as a tributary state. But she had necessarily to garrison the country, and other large bodies of her troops must have been massed in the south to retain the forces of the Sea-Land kings, and also in the north-east



*Painted specially for this work*

[By M. Doraston, R.B.A., N.B.A.]

**BABYLON RESTORED.**

In the period of her greatness Babylon was the metropolis of Western Asia, and although the description of her size and extent as given by Herodotus has been shown to be exaggerated, she was the most magnificent city of the ancient world. In the picture the great temple-tower of Esagila, the shrine of Marduk the god of Babylon, may be seen rising above the walls, Canals from the Euphrates were employed both for irrigation and defence.



*By permission of]*

THE LION OF BABYLON.

*[Underwood & Underwood.*

This roughly hewn, and possibly unfinished, sculpture, found many years ago in the ruins of Babylon and still standing on the palace-mound, probably represents Babylon trampling on a fallen foe.



*By permission of]*

THE RUINS OF BABYLON.

*[Underwood & Underwood.*

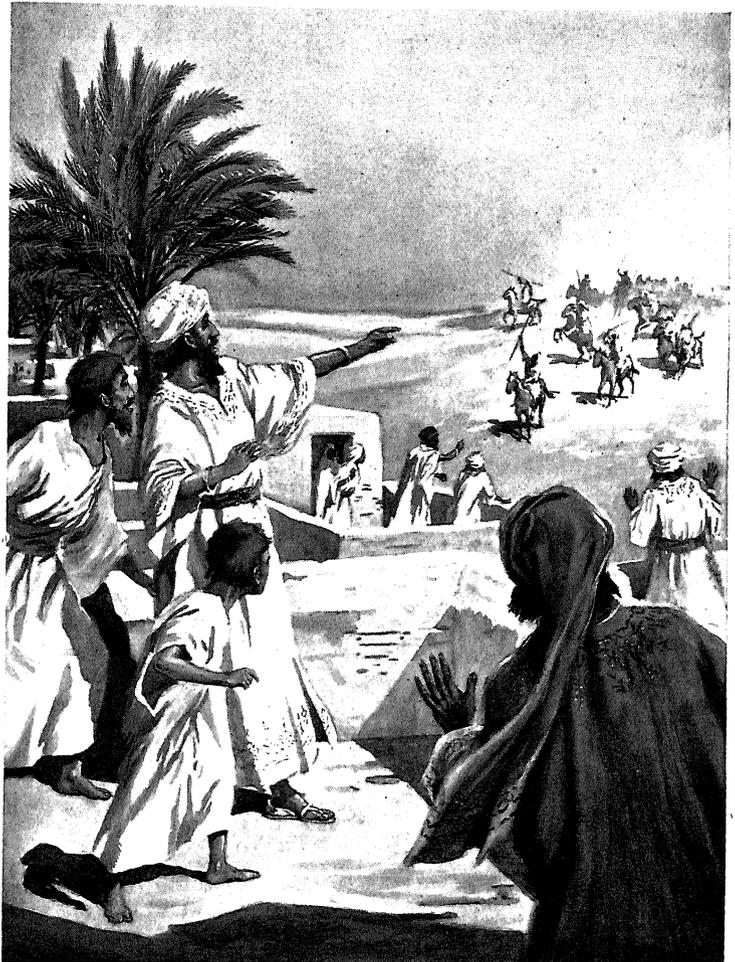
The view shows the remains of Babylon as they appear to-day after the recent excavations. In the foreground is the Ishtar Gate, decorated with rows of bulls and dragons in relief.

to safeguard her mountain frontier against Kassite raids. She does not appear to have given much attention to the west, the direction from which her West Semitic rulers had themselves entered the country; and it was from this quarter that the blow fell which shattered her defences and paralysed her existence for a time. In the reign of Samsu-ditana, the last king of Babylon's First Dynasty, the Hittites of Anatolia marched down the Euphrates, broke through Babylon's defences, captured and sacked the city, and carried off as spoil the sacred images of Marduk, the national god, and of Sarpanitum, his consort. The Hittites do not appear to have occupied the country for long, which soon fell an easy prey to the Kassites, who, finding no opposition to their advance, now pressed across her eastern frontier. Gandash, their leader, established himself in Babylon, and the Kassite dynasty he founded endured, according to the native annalists, for five hundred and seventy-six years.

We know little of the earlier Kassite kings. Our principal contemporary records of the period are boundary-stones, which prove that the kings rewarded their military commanders and principal supporters by grants of land throughout the country. In fact, the Kassites in Babylonia were a ruling aristocracy, and though they doubtless brought with them numbers of humbler followers, their domination did not affect the linguistic nor the racial character of the country in any marked degree. We may compare their rule to that of Turkey at the present day in the Tigris and Euphrates valley. They give no evidence of having possessed a high degree of culture, and though they gradually adopted the civilization of Babylon, they tended for long to keep themselves aloof, retaining their native names along with their separate nationality. They were essentially a

practical people, and produced successful administrators. The chief gain they brought to Babylon was an improved method of time-reckoning. In place of the unwieldy system of date-formulæ, inherited by the Semites from the Sumerians, under which each year was known by an elaborate title taken from some great event, the Kassites introduced the simpler plan of dating by the years of the king's reign.

It was not until the sixteenth century B.C. that the new rulers of Babylon succeeded in establishing their authority throughout the whole of the country in the south. The last Sea-Land king was Ea-gamil. More ambitious than his predecessors, he invaded Elam, but was defeated by a Kassite chieftain, Ulam-Buriash, who held his kingdom for a few years as an independent fief, until it was incorporated with Babylonia. In the fourteenth century we find the Kassite kings ruling a powerful kingdom, and maintaining friendly relations with Egypt, which meanwhile had extended her empire over Syria. The letters discovered at Tell el-Amarna, in Upper Egypt, are striking evidence of the extent to which Babylonian culture had meanwhile spread throughout Western Asia; for the Babylonian writing and language were used by Egypt for her communications with her Syrian and Palestinian dependencies, as well as for letters to Babylonian and Assyrian kings. The documents which have been recovered include correspondence which was carried on between Amenophis III. and IV. and the Kassite kings, Kadashman-Enlil and Burra-Buriash, the son of Kurigalzu, and they throw an interesting light on the international diplomacy of the period. Egypt succeeds in preventing Babylon from giving support to revolts in Canaan, but she does not hesitate to encourage Assyria, which now begins to display her power as Babylon's rival. The Babylonian king, writing to the Egyptian Pharaoh, might boastfully refer to the Assyrians as his "subjects," but he had to defend his own northern frontier against Assyrian encroachment by force of arms. Indeed, Tukulti-Ninib I. of Assyria, about the middle of the thirteenth century B.C., succeeded in capturing and sacking Babylon, and, according to one account, ruled the city for seven years. But Assyria was not yet strong enough to dominate the southern kingdom for any length of time, and Babylon not only regained her independence, but afterwards carried the war into the enemy's country. It was Elam, not Assyria, that brought the long and undistinguished Kassite dynasty to an end.



*Painted specially for this work*

*[By W. H. Holloway.]*

### THE KASSITE INVASION.

The Kassites, who invaded Babylonia from the east, owed their victories to the horse, which they introduced into Western Asia. The astonishment of a frontier village is here shown on first beholding the invaders advancing on the backs of strange animals. In the earlier period very few people in Babylonia had seen a horse.

### FROM THE FOURTH TO THE NINTH DYNASTY OF BABYLON: 1180—625 B.C.

THE native Babylonian annalists make no mention of the Elamite conquest of Babylonia, which put an end to the Third Dynasty; but we have unimpeachable evidence of its drastic character in the number

of Kassite monuments from Babylonia which have been discovered during recent excavations at Susa, the Elamite capital. These had been carried off as spoil of war by the Elamite king Shutruk-Nankhundi, and it is probable that for some years the Elamites retained their hold on Babylon. But they were eventually driven out by Enlil-nadin-akhi of the Fourth Dynasty, whose early rulers appear to have established themselves at first in Isin, and, using that city as their headquarters, to have extended their authority gradually over the rest of the country. Nebuchadnezzar I., the successor of Enlil-nadin-akhi, followed the retreating Elamites across the frontier, and subdued the Kassite tribes who were settled in the upland valleys of Western Elam. We have an interesting memorial of one of Nebuchadnezzar's successes against the Elamites, in what is probably the finest Babylonian boundary-stone which has yet been recovered. It recorded a grant of land to Ritti-Marduk, the captain of the king's chariots, as a



*Painted specially for this work.]*

#### CONQUEST OF THE SEA-LAND BY THE KASSITES.

*[By Edwin Morrow.]*

The people living in the Sea-Land, the swampy district at the head of the Persian Gulf, had given trouble to the kings of the First Dynasty, and they retained their independence after the Kassites had conquered Babylon. Their last king, Ea-gamil, fired with ambition, invaded Elam, but he was signally defeated, and soon afterwards the Kassites of Babylon, under Agum, occupied the country.

reward for his valour in battle against the Elamites, when the Babylonian army, led by the king in person, drove the Elamites out of the frontier fortress of Dur-ilu and routed them in their own territory on the banks of the Eulaeus.

Nebuchadnezzar was not equally fortunate against Assyria, and when he attacked the Northern kingdom he was defeated by Ashur-resh-ishi, who captured forty of his chariots of war and slew Karashtu, the commander of his army. But Babylonia was to experience still worse disasters at the hands of Tiglath-pileser I., the great successor of Ashur-resh-ishi. Under his able leadership Assyria achieved her first period of empire, and his successes in the south, which included the temporary capture of Babylon and other Akkadian cities, was his justification for assuming the ancient Babylonian title of "King of Sumer and Akkad." During the reign of Tiglath-pileser's son, Ashur-bel-kala, we find Babylon maintaining friendly relations with Assyria; but her power of resistance and recuperation after defeat was now considerably weakened by the attacks of a new and uncivilized foe. Arabia was once more pouring