

that the actual means of reading this ancient writing had been found, even though it is altogether different from any system of writing that had ever previously been known. Before a great deal of advance had been made in the reading of the language the discovery was made that the language was very similar to Hebrew and of course this proved a tremendous help. The language is related to Hebrew though the grammar is somewhat different, the forms have very definite differences and the words have different endings, yet a great many of the words are similar to Hebrew words and this, of course, gave a clue very frequently. Thus, you have the Hebrew " " , here you have " " meaning "sun", you have " " where the Hebrew is " " and you have dozens of words which have the same consonants as the Hebrew words; and so the reading of the cuneiform was put on a solid basis and now they were able to read the writing to some extent on these discs that had been brought and by this time actual excavation had begun and one of the first places excavated was--we'll look at the excavations separately--but one of the first places excavated was a great palace of the king " in Ninevah, and in this palace they found that King " had collected a great library and the library contained every type of literature that you could expect to find in a modern library. There were tablets giving history, tablets of statistics, tablets of poetry, beautiful literature, medicine, law--all sorts of tablets were found in this library and arranged according to a definite system, and this gave, of course, an introduction to a tremendous part of the culture of ancient Mesopotamia. The great bulk of the library of " which contained over one hundred thousand tablets was brought to the British Museum and there were so many of these that scholars have just glanced through them and picked out the most interesting ones and copied them and more and more have been copied, but even up to the present day discoveries are being made in the library of " which was brought from Ninevah to the British Museum about one hundred years ago. It is very interesting in that connection that previous