

at the University of Pennsylvania and later at the University of Chicago, and who died about twenty years ago. He published a good many tablets and he did quite a bit of excavation and here is a letter to his wife which gives--a section of his letter--which gives a little idea of the feeling of one of these mounds, and I thought I would read you a bit of it. It is in the prologue of this book, **THEY WROTE ON CLAY**, which is made up of material written by , but was put together after his death by his successor, Professor .

He says in the letter: "This evening I made my usual pilgrimage to the mound covering the ancient temple tower. It is only a few hundred yards from our camp and it is pleasant to ascend to the summit of that tower which dominates the landscape." This brings out one of the interesting features of these ancient cities in Mesopotamia, that they usually had a temple tower which usually rose up in stages, up and in, and then up and in, like that, and they often rose quite high above the city, nothing comparable to the pyramids of Egypt but they rose to a fair height and they towered above the city. He said: "It is pleasant to ascend to the summit of that tower which dominates the landscape." Of course, today in going up it you would have it covered over with earth largely. Outside it would be a fairly steep hill. Then it might be excavated on some sides, but at the time of which he speaks doubtless most of the sides would still be covered with earth. "This I generally do in the evening after supper in the bright moonlight. Today I have come with the ambition of jotting down my impressions for the spectacle moves me deeply, though it does not look so high as might be expected of a Babylonian temple tower. Did not that of Babylon pretend to reach to heaven? One gets the answer after ascending it. Though rather low, it can hardly be more than five hundred feet, still from the top the eye sweeps over an enormous distance on the boundless flat plain up it." To say, "not over five hundred feet", sounds as if he didn't think it was so large. Well, it isn't compared to something like the Empire State Building, of course. It would only be about