

nearer. The mountain folk, to descend upon Babylon, had to come across quite an area of plain land and might be intercepted and held back but the Assyrian settlements are fairly near the mountains and consequently in much more danger. It is a wilder type of country than Babylonia, the southern part of Mesopotamia, and there was more trouble with the wild beasts than in southern Mesopotamia, and as a result you have in northern Mesopotamia a somewhat more warlike people than in southern Mesopotamia. In this northern area we call it Assyria after the name of the city of Ashur, a city which was founded by Sumerian colonists in the third millennium B. C. and which gained considerable power as the people managed to maintain themselves by fighting off the wild beasts and by fighting off the mountain folk and gradually they developed very strong war-like powers and established other colonies in the neighborhood and gradually developed quite a strong power up there during the latter part of the third millennium and during the whole second millennium. When Babylon was conquered by the mountain folk the Assyrians resisted them and gained their independence through the conquest of Babylon and maintained their independence. We have some interesting tablets that have been discovered about the Assyrian power and it has gradually increased during this second millennium B. C. but the time that we are interested in and which we call the Assyrian period is the period in which the Assyrians became the leading power in Mesopotamia. We can begin this period roughly around 1000 B. C. but its real^{high} point is the period which begins between 800 and 600 B. C. These Assyrian people then were not primarily a commercial people like the Babylonians. They were a literary people. They took over all these things from the Babylonians but they were primarily a war-like people. The Babylonians thought that war was a valuable instrument of national policy and they used it but they didn't glory in it. The Assyrians gloried in it. The Assyrians in their inscriptions devote more space to telling of their great victories in war, by far, than to any other subject and the Assyrians seemed to--each king seemed to vie with his predecessors in an attempt