

Lecture No. 4.

inscriptions in a peculiar type of writing, with signs made by a combination of various wedge shaped marks. During the 17th and 18th centuries, considerable ~~was~~ interest was aroused by these columns and by the marks on them, and in time, fairly accurate copies of them were brought back to Europe and there made available for study.

No such ruins had been seen at Mesopotamia, and it was not until the beginning of the 19th century that much interest was aroused in that region. Early in that century, Claude James Rich became ~~president~~ <sup>agent</sup> of the East India Company at Bagdad, the most important town in Mesopotamia. He travelled quite a bit in the land of the *two rivers* and made occasional small excavations here and there. He found a number of inscriptions which he took with him to England.

In 1842, the French government created a vice consulate at Mosul, several hundred miles north of Bagdad and sent as vice consulate Paul Emil Botta. French commerce in the district hardly warranted the establishment. The reason for it was the feeling of certain leaders in France who had seen the bricks from Babylonia with their inscriptions on them in the offices of the East India Company in London that something of great importance for our knowledge of ancient times might be found in that region. Botta was directed to spend his spare time exploring the mounds opposite Mosul and digging into them in order to find out whether they really covered the site of ancient settlements. He experienced considerable difficulty in finding a promising place to dig. He worked for three months in the mound of *Koyunjik* across the Tigris from Mosul. Finding comparatively little here of interest, he became discouraged and changed the field of his operations to a hill called Khorsabad, about fourteen miles to the southeast. Here he found a palace filled with interesting