

Lecture No. 4.

inscribed bas reliefs of alabaster and a city about a mile in circumference. Under the corners of the palace and under the city gates were many inscribed cylinders of clay. Scores of inscriptions mostly upon stone and monumental in character came to light. Great winged bulls that had stood at the entrance of palace doors were found. Bas reliefs of much beauty, showing scenes of peace and war were dug up. The start had been made in discovering ancient Babylonia.

As yet, the inscriptions could not be read, and little could be known of the real meaning of what had been found.

Two years before Botta began his excavations, an Englishman named Henry Layard, had visited Mosul and had examined these mounds and longed to discover what was in them. Two years later, he visited Mosul when Botta was beginning his work. Layard formed a friendship with Botta and constantly encouraged him in what he was doing. He himself longed to undertake excavations. The British ambassador at Constantinople finally gave him \$300.00 which he was to use in excavation, provided he could collect an equal amount among his friends. In 1845, he was ready to begin.

The Mohammedan governor of the province was very hostile and it was impossible to tell him what he wished to do. He met constant difficulties set on foot by this official. He dug into a mound called Nimroud, somewhat further down the Tigris than Mosul. One day, a very exciting event occurred in his work there. I shall read his own description of it (See Rogers Vol. 1, page 145 to 152.)

After working for some time at Nimroud, Layard transferred his attention to Konyunjik. He continued his work for a number of years and Botta and his successor, Victor Place, excavated intermittently at Khorsabad, uncovering the palace and making a plan of it, excavating city walls and studying the drainage of the ancient town.