

one of the various nations which used the language and other nations had used it much earlier than the Assyrians. The term "Assyrian" for the language has largely been given up within the last twenty years. It is used now for one dialect of the language, the Assyrian dialect, but any book published more than twenty years ago is apt to call the language Assyrian and professors of the language were called Assyriologists always up to within the last twenty years. Now Assyria is thought of as only one branch of the language of Assyria, or Babylonia. Well, now these excavations, then, found, as I say, a tremendous number of very valuable works of art and a great many hundreds of thousands, a great many tens of thousands, some hundreds of thousands of clay tablets, many of which were of tremendous interest and importance, and the excavations were on with little interruption from about 1840 until about 1854 and then so much material had been found, far more than could be decently studied immediately and decently presented that interest waned and from 1854 until 1872 there was practically nothing done in the way of excavation in Mesopotamia and then in 1872 there was a meeting in England at which George Smith, an employe of the British Museum read a paper. George Smith had already been working; he was a young man who had gone into the British Museum, had persuaded the authorities in the museum that he had enough knowledge of the subject, that it would be safe to let him handle and study the tablets and after he had studied them awhile they had decided that his skill was sufficient that they put him on the pay roll at a small stipend and, to study and publish the tablets, and George Smith had published two or three tablets of considerable interest but now he announced he had one of unusual interest and so a meeting was held at one of their archeological societies in London and at this meeting George Smith read his paper on some tablets which he had found in the British Museum brought from Nineveh which he had found lines in which described a great universal flood very similar to the one described in the Bible and George Smith said, "Here is a remarkable corroboration of the Scripture. Here is the account of the flood," and the thing was fragmentary; there were sections of it missing but he had