

**ASSYRIAN AND BABYLONIAN
LETTERS BELONGING TO THE
KOUYUNJIK COLLECTIONS OF
THE BRITISH MUSEUM, PART IV,
337-435**

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Assyrian and Babylonian letters belonging to the Kouyunjik collections of the British museum,
Part IV, 337-435 by Robert Francis Harper

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ROBERT FRANCIS HARPER

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For Review

ASSYRIAN

AND

BABYLONIAN LETTERS

BELONGING TO

THE KOUYUNJIK COLLECTIONS OF
THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

BY

ROBERT FRANCIS HARPER,

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

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TO

LEONARD W. KING, M.A.,

*Assistant in the Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities,
British Museum.*

DSW

15-16-161

P R E F A C E.

THE Assyrian texts printed in the following pages are taken from a number of the finest of the Letter-tablets contained in the Collections which have come from Kouyunjik during the last few years.

It will be observed that the plan of publication followed in this Part is different from that of its predecessors. It must be distinctly understood that I have not attempted to give in this Part the complete series of Letters of each scribe. There is much to be said for the usefulness of this course. In the first place, it makes the best and most complete texts available at an early date and affords good material for beginners to work upon. In the second place, I was anxious to secure priority of publication, for finished copies of a large number of these Letters have been lying in my portfolio for years. It was only too evident that large extracts from these, which serve no useful purpose, were appearing from time to time in various Assyriological publications. I felt, therefore, that the best interests of Assyriology demanded that complete copies, such as I have given, should be placed as soon as possible before my fellow students. The rest of the texts belonging to the scribes selected for this Part will appear in due time in Parts V-VIII. The fourth volume of

BEZOLD'S *Catalogue* appeared in time to have enabled me to follow my original plan, but, for the reasons given above, I have preferred not to do so.

Emendations, which were tolerably certain, have been introduced. Others, based on a comparison of similar passages, will be attempted later in the Textual Notes.

Of the one hundred and sixteen pages here given, about ninety contain texts published for the first time; the contents of ten other pages had already been published by myself in the *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie*, Volume VIII.

With the appearance of the Fourth Part of this Collection of Letter-tablets I may, perhaps, be permitted to announce the probable number of Parts which will complete the Series. Four subsequent Parts will contain the text of the Tablets which still remain to be published. As in the first three Parts, the Letters will be grouped according to the names of their writers; they will, however, be drawn not from the "K." Collection only, but from all the Collections which have come from Kouyunjik. The last Letters to be given will be those from which the names of the writers are broken off. After a final collation of the texts published in all eight Parts, the whole material will be in the hands of students, and it will then be possible to draw conclusions touching the various problems presented by the public and private correspondence of the later Assyrian Empire.

It is then my intention to treat, in the form of an Introduction, this branch of literature as a whole, comparing the introductions and formulae of greeting employed by the Assyrian scribes with those in use during the earlier periods of Babylonian history. The Letters will then be classified according to their contents, and, to judge from the results I have already obtained, it is certain that many new facts

will come to light with regard to the religious as well as to the purely official and private sides of Assyrian life.

Résumés of the contents of the Letters will then be given; and textual notes, a vocabulary and a list of proper names will form the critical apparatus of the work. I, therefore, hope that the series will be completed in ten Parts.

I wish especially to acknowledge my obligations to DR. E. WALLIS BUDGE, the Keeper of the Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities, British Museum, for his courtesy, and for the great assistance which he has afforded me during my present stay in London.

I am indebted for many valuable suggestions as to the readings of difficult passages to MR. LEONARD W. KING, to whom I have the honor of dedicating this volume.

LONDON, *September 15th, 1896.*