

Messenger and Visitor

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HAMMURABI AND HIS CODE.

An interesting article in the current number of the *Century* magazine, by Dr. William Hass Ward, entitled "Who was Hammurabi?" quite confidently identifies this personage with the "Amraphel, King of Shinar," of Genesis 14. This would make Hammurabi contemporary with Abraham and would identify him as one of the four kings who fought victoriously with the King of Sodom and his four royal allies in the vale of Siddim, and as a result carried away Lot and his family as a part of their spoil. This identification, however, does not appear to be well established. In the article "Amraphel" by H. E. Ryle in the *Hastings Bible Dictionary* it is noted that there is a chronological as well as a geographical difficulty in the way of such an identification, for (1) the date of Hammurabi, according to the reckoning of Winckler and Sayce, is 400 years earlier than the date to which Genesis 14 is generally ascribed, and (2) Shinar, as generally understood, was a part of South Babylonia and therefore not included in the country ruled over by Hammurabi. Dr. Ryle says in conclusion that "the results of Assyriological research in illustration of Genesis 14 are still much disputed," and deems it best at present "to suspend judgment upon this much-disputed identification."

But the interest attaching to Hammurabi and his work is still very great, even though he may not be identified with the Amraphel of Genesis. His reign extended over a period of 55 years, from 2264-2210 B. C., according to Winckler's interpretation of the Cuneiform inscriptions. He was King of Babylon and N. Babylonia, he rebelled successfully against the supremacy of Elam, and was the first to make a United Kingdom of Babylonia. According to Dr. Ward's statement, it took Hammurabi thirty years to throw off the yoke of the Elamites with their capital at Susa, and the remaining years of his reign he devoted to consolidating his empire, which now, for the first time in history, united under one rule the whole of Babylonia, and added to it the suzerainty of Southern Persia with Assyria to the North and even Syria and Palestine as far as the Mediterranean Sea. Being a great statesman as well as conqueror, he built roads, dug canals, and was the first to collect and formulate into code the decisions which the civil courts had rendered and which had grown out of judges' law.

Among all the known works of this ancient Babylonian monarch, this code is to us of especial interest, as being the most elaborate monument of early civilization yet discovered. Hammurabi engraved this code on great stone stele and set them up in the principal cities of his realm where they could be read by all his subjects. One of these stele was set up before the temple of Shamash, the sun god, at Sippara. There it remained for some centuries until the plains of Babylonia were invaded and reconquered by the Elamites who carried away the stele of Hammurabi to their capital city of Susa. There, as the result of excavations carried out by a French savant, M. de Morgan, this historic stone has been brought to light.

The code inscribed on the stele embraced about two hundred and eighty separate decisions or edicts, covering the rights of property, inheritance, marriage, divorce, injuries to life or person, rent, wages, slavery, etc. Following the text of the laws is given the reasons why the King had published this code. It was that justice might be established and that anyone who had a complaint against his neighbor might come and read the law and learn what were his rights. Dr. Ward thinks that these laws were doubtless carried to all parts of Hammurabi's empire, even to Palestine, and were very likely in force there, so far as conditions allowed, for centuries before Moses entered the Holy Land. It is evident that the promulgation of such a code presupposes the existence of an advanced state of civilization and very considerable literary ability among the people, and this is in harmony with much other evidence that the work of excavation in recent years has brought to

light. It is certain that in the days of Abraham, or earlier, the knowledge of letters was wide-spread in the great Babylonian Empire.

Concerning the character of the laws embraced in the code of Hammurabi, we quote the following from the *Century* article: "Some of the laws deserve attention. Courts must be impartial: If a man bring a capital charge against another and it is proved false, he shall himself suffer capital punishment. Thus were malicious suits discouraged. And severe punishment was inflicted if the prosecutor threatened or attempted to bribe witnesses. If a judge rendered a false judgment he was required to pay twelve times the amount of his false judgment and was expelled from the bench. A theft from the temple or from the palace was punished much more than one from a private person, even as high as thirty fold being required. Injuries to the person were judged by the dignity of the one injured, the penalty for injuries to a free man being greater than for the same injury to a freed man or a slave. The comparison with the Mosaic legislation shows the latter to be on the whole very much more humane. There are, however, exceptions. If a man has given his wife, son or daughter to serve in payment of a debt they shall not serve more than three years and shall go free on the fourth; the Hebrew law said the seventh. The conditions of the country appear in the provision that if a thunder storm has ravaged a debtor's field or there has been a drought, the debtor shall be released for that year, his note altered and no interest charged.

"The purity of the family was respected, but with unexpected leniency to woman. A man who slandered a woman was branded on the forehead. A man who seduced a betrothed girl was to be killed, but the girl was preserved innocent. . . . If a man wishes to divorce his wife her rights are fully protected, and her marriage portion is returned to her. The case of Abraham's wife Sarah and her maid Hagar is carefully provided for. If a man's wife has no children and she gives him her maid, and the maid bears children and then makes herself equal to her mistress, the mistress cannot sell her, but she may put a mark on her and make her a maid-servant. A husband must sustain his sick wife as long as she lives; he cannot divorce her. The rights of children are also elaborately protected.

"Beyond all doubt," says Dr. Ward, "this stone monument found by De Morgan in Susa is the most important document for the history of civilization that has been discovered in many years. It carries back the history of law for a thousand years or more. It tells us how strong was the sense of justice at a time which we have been too ready to regard as wholly barbaric."

CALENDAR OF ACADIA UNIVERSITY.

We have received a copy of the Calendar of Acadia for the year 1903-1904. It is a pamphlet of much interest to a large number of our readers: It contains information about the work of the College that cannot be obtained elsewhere.

The Faculty of Instruction consist of: Rev. Thomas Trotter, D. D., Rev. A. W. Sawyer, D. D., L. L. D., R. V. Jones Ph. D., Rev. E. M. Keirstead, D. D., L. E. Wortman, L. L. D., J. F. Tufts, D. C. L., F. R. Haley, M. A., Everett W. Sawyer, B. A., Ernest Haycock, M. A., C. C. Jones, Ph. D., Rev. A. C. Clute, D. D., and W. E. Roscoe, M. A., K. C. The record of the work of recent graduates to be found elsewhere in this paper may here be referred to as one more proof of the strength of Acadia's faculty.

The courses of instruction include courses in Apologetics, Homiletics, Pastoral Theology, Hebrew Language and Biblical Literature, Psychology and Metaphysics, the Greek and Latin Languages, English Language and Literature, Moral Philosophy, History, Political Economy, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Geology, Contracts, and other subjects—surely a young man can here find enough to employ his mind for four years. A list of the books named would perhaps alarm some of our gentle readers who may think of sending their boys to college.

The social life is provided for by several Societies, such as: The Athenaeum, the Athletic Association, The Propylaeum, the College Young Women's Christian Association, the Acadia Missionary Society, and the like.

It need scarcely be said that provision is made for worship. Students are required to attend morning prayers and public worship on the Sabbath. Prayer meetings are held on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening.

The expenses are moderate. The following are the College charges—Tuition per year, \$24; Incidental Fees, \$6; Gymnasium and Campus, \$4.30; General Chemistry, \$2; Analytical Chemistry (elective) \$8; Practical Physics (elective) \$3.

There are 12 scholarships for the students in Arts and a large sum for ministerial students that comes from the bequest of the late G. P. Payzant.

Board and rooms for about 60 students are provided in Chipman Hall. The charge for board, which includes table, care of room, and plain washing, is \$2.60 per week. Room rent, fuel and light are extra.

The Calendar contains the names of the graduates from 1843 to 1903, a period of 60 years. About 684 have received the degree of B. A. Of these 87 have finished their work on earth. Nearly 600, therefore, represent Acadia in

various forms of life in the world. Most of them are making good records.

Acadia has done well in the past and well deserves the help she needs to do better in days to come.

ACADIA MEN AT YALE.

During the past year, 1902-'03, Acadia has been represented at Yale by a number of graduates who have upheld the reputation of our College in a most worthy manner. We are glad to put the facts on record:

1. Mr. Shirley J. Case of '93 is pursuing studies in the Divinity School. He will be heard from in due time.
2. Aaron Perry, '01, entered the Graduate School, obtained the M. A. degree and received a tuition scholarship of \$100, for the year 1903-'04.
3. The Acadia students in the Yale College department were: R. G. D. Richardson, '98; C. Stanley Dukeshire, '98; E. H. Cameron, '00; A. L. Bishop, '01; W. M. Steele, '02; W. L. Patterson, '02. All of whom obtained the B. A. degree from Yale.
4. Wallace I. Hutchinson, '01, received the degree of M. F. (Master of Forestry) in the Department of Forestry. Mr. Hutchinson has secured a good position with the Bureau of Forestry of the United States Government, and has been sent for the summer to California in connection with Government work in that State.
5. The following Fellowships were awarded to Acadia men the competition being open to all graduates of Yale College:
 - (a) W. L. Patterson got a \$600 Fellowship in the Department of History.
 - (b) R. G. D. Richardson was awarded \$500 from the Mathematical Department.
 - (c) A. L. Bishop was awarded a \$500 Fellowship in the Department of Economics and received an appointment as Assistant in Economics for the year 1903-'04.
 - (d) W. M. Steele received an appointment in the Psychological Laboratory of the order of \$300 and tuition \$100 for the ensuing year.
 - (e) E. H. Cameron got a \$350 Fellowship in the Department of Philosophy and Psychology.

The above five students will return to Yale this autumn for further study in their respective departments. Mr. Dukeshire has a good position as teacher of English and Mathematics in a private school in New York City.

6. The three honor divisions in order of merit are: Philosophical Orations, High Orations, and Orations.

The average number of students in the Graduating Class at Yale College is about 310, and of this number about 12 to 14 each year come in the division of Philosophical Orations. This year Bishop, Cameron, Richardson and Steele made the highest possible division in the Honor list, viz.: Philosophical Orations, while Dukeshire and Patterson made the next highest division, viz.: High Orations.

7. About 30 entered the Senior Class at Yale in 1902 as the men from Acadia entered it, and received their B. A. degree after one year's study. Of this number only five obtained a sufficiently high standing to be elected to the Honor Society, and of these no fewer than three were from Acadia, viz.: Cameron, Bishop and Richardson.

7. Special Honors are granted to those students of high standing who do a certain amount of extra work along some special line. The work must be purely original and embody private research, and must be extensive. Acadia men received Special Honors as follows: E. H. Cameron and W. M. Steele in Psychology; A. L. Bishop in Economics, and R. G. D. Richardson in Mathematics. Of the 311 students in the Senior Class the highest standing for the year's work was made by Richardson, and Cameron and Bishop were among the first.

8. It should be noted that the size of the Fellowship awarded is not necessarily any index of the comparative work of the men receiving them. They are divided among the various departments and are re-assigned as they fall vacant at the end of each year. If a student happens to be in the Department where a large Fellowship is vacated he stands the same chance of receiving it as though it were only half the amount, while a very meritorious student may be in a Department where only small Fellowships are to be assigned for that year, and hence he has no chance to compete for a large Fellowship.

We consider the above statement, which we believe to be accurate, does great credit to the young men and to the Professors of Acadia College.

Editorial Notes.

—Ira D. Sankey, the gospel singer, who was so long associated with Dwight L. Moody in evangelistic work, is hopelessly blind. Mr. Sankey has been otherwise in poor health, but is said to be recovering. He accepts his sad affliction in a Christian spirit. He makes no complaint and retains