

political supremacy that was well enough organized to endure for a long period and not simply the result of a military conquest that went to pieces as soon as the conqueror was gone, was the empire which the Assyrians established at this time. Their progress westward is one of the outstanding features of the later books of the Old Testament. We find them first appearing on the horizon as a great menace. We notice them conquering nation after nation that lie between them and Palestine. Eventually we find them crossing Palestine in warlike expeditions and finally conquering most of it. The great *events* of the later political history of Israel and many of the outstanding utterances of the Prophets are meaningless to us unless we have a clear picture of the growth of this Assyrian power the the tremendous menace which it became.

Our first real history comes from Assyrian sources. The Assyrians established a system of ~~XXXXXX~~ naming each year after a prominent official of the Kingdom. They kept lists of these officials giving the outstanding events of the years which were named after them. Most of their kings have left to us long accounts of the great events of their reigns. A true historical interest is found in Assyria to a much greater extent than can be found among the ~~XXXXX~~ ^{previous} writings of Babylonia or of Egypt. These writings give an idea of the methods used by these kings in their ruthless extension of their power.

Under Ashur-Nasirpal II. (884-860) Assyria became the best fighting machine in the ancient world. The troops went out each year in order to extend his dominion. He treated fairly well those who submitted to his yoke without great opposition. If a city yielded allegiance to him and then later revolted, nothing was too cruel for him to do when he reconquered it. In his annals, he gloats over the cruel treatment which he had meted out to those whom he reconquered. For instance he says: