

further. So, he went to the archives of the British Museum, and gathered there together as many as he could find, and there were great many of contracts and other documents of that sort that were dated in the reign of king Nabonidus, and began to read with care. And reading the Babylonian documents is something that takes time. Well, apparently they are not printed, they are scripts. They are not scripts that we write, but they were made with the styluses that press in. Ordinary documents are not nearly clear as the royal inscriptions or something like that. And any Babylonian is almost as bad as English to read. Any Babylonian sign has anywhere three to seventeen possible meanings, and you often have to decide what the meaning is in the light of the context, and just like in English, if you look at a letter, you may pronounce it o or a or ou or even it. English is so bad. I mentioned that once, and somebody said to me, I do not believe it. The letter o is never pronounced i. in English. That is the letter a. But I said, it is not in one word. Well, he said, /I do not think I have ever heard a word. I said to him, it is a very common, and he said, what is it? And I said, women. He had heard that word. But most of us do not realize how terribly confusing English writing has become. Well, the Babylonian writing was the same way, only worse because we have 26 letters, but while they have over 300 different signs. So, there is that much more confusion to come in. But Prof. Pinch read quite a number of these these tablets, and as he went on, he found one that had the very name Belshazzar. So, he said, So, at least there is somebody named Belshazzar who lived in the reign of Nabonidus. Then he went on reading, and came to a tablet which said, that a certain man had rented a house for three years as agent for Belshazzar the king's son. This ties up Belshazzar up with Nabonidus and with the royal family, so that it made it look as if this were not quite so bad a historical background as had appeared at first sight. At that point, Prof. Dowery of Yale University took over the investigation, and he went on and read more of the tablets and other records from the time of Nabonidus.