

Bhandarkar, is the well-known Carmichael Professor of Ancient Indian History and Culture in the Calcutta University.

F. W. THOMAS.

Professor Albert T. Clay

In Professor Albert T. Clay, who died last September at a comparatively early age, American Assyriology has lost one of its foremost scholars. He began his Assyriological work in the best of schools by copying and editing the original tablets of the great Nippur library, which are now in the Museum of Philadelphia. His copies of the tablets of the Kassite period with their careless and sometimes semi-legible writing are especially noteworthy; in fact, his copies generally of the cuneiform texts are among the best ever made.

He was an indefatigable worker, and his contributions to science and our knowledge of Babylonian literature are very numerous. He first brought to light and published one of the most important Syllabaries bequeathed to us by the Babylonian scribes, and the number of new historical texts which we owe to him is large. In 1915 appeared his *Miscellaneous Inscriptions in the Yale Babylonian Collection*, which formed the first volume of the Babylonian Texts in the Yale Oriental Series, and included the interesting inscription of Nabonidos in which the royal antiquary tells us that the daughter of Kudur-Mabuk was the first abbess of the nunnery in the temple of the Moon-god at Ur. Professor Clay had already published many of the cuneiform texts in the Pierpont Morgan Library, which he had been instrumental in securing (*Babylonian Records in the Library of J. Pierpont Morgan*, 1913), and many more were published by him in a later volume which appeared in 1923.

But Professor Clay is probably best known as the propounder and advocate of a theory which seeks to establish the existence of a Semitic "Amorite" empire preceding that of the Babylonians and originating much of the culture which is usually believed to have come from a Babylonian source. In

accordance with this view, the Biblical stories of the Creation and Deluge would have been derived from it and not from Babylonia, the Babylonian versions, indeed, being themselves of Amorite origin. Professor Clay's views were first set forth in his *Amurru, the Home of the Northern Semites*, and were followed up by the *Empire of the Amorites* (1919). In 1923 came another and larger work on the same subject, *The Origin of Biblical Traditions ; Hebrew legends in Babylonia and Israel*, which are full of new matter and ingenious argument.

All his volumes of texts are provided with exhaustive and scientifically arranged indices of proper names. Those contained in the Nippur volumes are especially valuable on account of the numerous names of foreign origin in them—Kassite, "Amorite," Jewish, and the like.

Of late, however, most of his attention was absorbed by his "Amorite" studies, and his last production was a vigorous "Rejoinder" to Professor Barton and other critics in the *Journal* of the American Oriental Society, June, 1925. It showed no sign of diminishing intellectual power, and I little thought when reading it that it would be so soon followed by the announcement of his death. But he had never fully recovered from the effects of the motor accident last year in Mesopotamia, in which he was involved together with Professor and Mrs. Hewett, when their car plunged into a hidden chasm in the valley of the Euphrates. An operation was adjudged necessary, but like so many other "operations" it proved fatal.

Besides being an eminent Assyriologist, Professor Clay was a delightful companion. One of the happiest weeks of my life was spent with him in his bungalow, built largely by his own hands, amid the woods on the shore of Lake Pocono where he spent his summers. The University of Yale, where he was Professor, owes to him a small but choice Museum of Assyrian and Babylonian objects, many of which are unique. He was one of that little band of workers and decipherers whom Oriental science can ill afford to lose.

A. H. SAYCE.