

it was very likely the restlessness caused by this state of things that suggested to Abraham and Terah to leave their native city, "Ur of the Chaldees," and seek, with their tribe, a more peaceful settlement in the land of Canaan.

It was the dispersal of the Elamites by Hammurabi some time later which left this monarch free to found a great empire in Babylonia, as we have already seen.

So firmly laid were the foundations of this early empire that even when the land was overrun by a new enemy, the wild Kassites from the mountain regions, it stood firm, and the newcomers were glad to accept its civilization, and rule according to its customs.

During their time the Babylonians were famous for their world-trade, for we find that when they were building a temple, they were able to contribute to it cedar and cypress wood and marble from the "mountains of the East," lapis lazuli from far-off Bactria—the modern Afghanistan region—magnesite from the Greek islands of the Ægean Sea, cobalt from China, as well as copper, gold, and precious stones from other countries.

Two letters are to be seen in the British Museum from kings of this Kassite dynasty to the reigning Pharaoh of Egypt. One speaks of a period of prosperity and peace within the land; the other gently