

chides the Egyptian ruler for not having sent on ambassadors to inquire after him when he was ill.

Meantime the tributary city of Assur, on the river Tigris, had thrown off the yoke of Babylon when the Kassites had first invaded the country, and within a comparatively few centuries had become the centre of a great nation.

The mother country of Babylonia was one of the earliest conquests of the new Empire of Assyria under the rule of Tiglath-Pileser. Yet, in her position of dependence, Babylonia succeeded in profoundly influencing the warrior-nation who had become her nominal conqueror; and in the years to come her spirit of culture and quiet strength was to cause her to stand forth once again as the Second Empire of Babylonia.

Chapter V.

THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE.

(C. 1830-539 B.C.)



WE saw in our last chapter that Assyria, the land lying on either side of the river Tigris, north of the plain between the two great waters of the Tigris and Euphrates, was a colony of Ancient Babylonia. Assur and Nineveh were two of its greatest cities, and the first of these gave the nation its name.