

Parker

July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1896.

July 1906

SIPPAR HOUSE,

38, BLOMFIELD ROAD,

MAIDA HILL, W.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY	
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ACC. NO.	1463
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Dear Sir William Dawson,

The sāmtu stone is, I believe, generally regarded by Assyriologists as the Shoham of Genesis, though Delitzsch does not refer to this comparison in his Handwörterbuch. In words transcribed from Assyro-Babylonian s often corresponds to the Heb. sh, and the fem. termination (as in tiamtu and sometimes falls away. t'hôm), sāmtu is evidently the same as the sāmtu which is fem. of sāmu, adj. "dark-coloured," applied to gold; to dogs and swine in contradistinction to "white"

and "black," & to a plant (called kiškanū, seemingly a kind of vine), or to its fruit, also in contradistinction to "white" and "black." The ideograph for this word sānu, fem. sāntu, is dir, an Akkadian root found in the compound im-dir, "cloud." I am rather inclined, therefore, to regard the stone sāntu as "grey chalcedony," unless there be any difficulty in adopting that rendering.

I do not know what to say about the chips of stone from Babylonia which you require. I doubt if there be in the B.M. any diorite available, we having received no stone monuments (as far as my memory goes) from Tel-

Loh. In any case, I think that you would be more likely to get specimens of stones if you applied direct, either to the Principal Librarian, Sir Edward M. Thompson, or to Dr. E. A. W. Budge, Keeper of the Dept of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. I should be exceedingly glad if I could do anything for you in the matter, but an underling like myself is always made to know his place in such a realm of red tape, and I hope that you will excuse my powerlessness.

Better, perhaps, than the B. M., would be a request addressed to the heads of the French Museums (Louvre, M. Heuzey)

or the Museum of Constantinople (Hamdy Bey, who, however, is not a good correspondent). M. le Rev. Père Schiel, who is superintendent of excavations in the employ of the Porte, would probably be the best of all to apply to (addressed to the Académie des Inscr. et Belles Lettres\*). Prof. A. W. Hilprecht (of Philadelphia, Pa.), now at Roberts College, Constantinople, might also be able to help you. He is superintendent of the American diggings at Niffer.

It is worthy of note that dealers in antiquities sometimes have cylinder-seals of haematite, jasper, crystal, carnelian, etc., for sale. It will give me great pleasure to make inquiries, if you desire it.

With kind regards and thanks for your letter, I am, Yours very truly  
Theophilus F. P. Ches.

\* His private address is 94, rue du Bac, Paris.