

Sept. 15

### THE YEAR 8896.

#### Our Earth Much Older Than We Thought.

"Whosoever removes this inscribed stone, may Bel, Shamash, and Ninna root him out and destroy his posterity."

This Sargon, the great Semitic King, had engraved in hieroglyphics on the door of the temple at Nipur, and the oldest known city in the world. But it has proved to be no terror to nineteenth century science, for archæologists, exploring in the ruins of that ancient city, have, in addition to unearthing the above curse, made some wonderful discoveries. The ruins of Nipur, in Babylon, have long been known, but some hundred feet beneath them have been found the remains of another city, evidently those of previous Nipur. From this latter

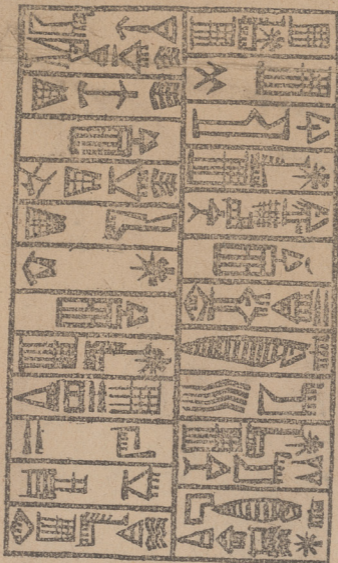
HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO LIGHT

tablets which prove that the world is much older than we thought, and that a high state of civilisation existed 7,000 years before the birth of Christ, or 3,000 years before the date generally believed to be that of the Creation. This is given in almost any concordance as 4004 B.C., and arrived at by the ingenious method of taking the united ages of Adam and his descendants as a basis of calculation. Hitherto positive proof that man existed before that date has been lacking, but the writing on the tablets discovered upon the very spot where the Garden of Eden was thought to have been situated, and a few miles from the Tower of Babel, where variety of language is believed to have had its origin,

IS NOW BEING DECIPHERED,

and would seem to prove that men not only lived, but could read and write seven thousand years before the birth of Christ. This would make the present year 8896, but as some tablets yet to be deciphered, are believed by the explorers to date back even farther, the world may be much older than this.

In all, over 30,000 separate relics have been excavated from Nipur. The writing on one of the tablets we are able to reproduce herewith. Others tell in detail the story of the rise and fall of dynasties, whose existence was unknown



WRITTEN 8,896 YEARS AGO.

the modern world. Some of the records tell of commercial transactions, such as the purchase of a slave or sale of a camel.

Others, again, describe the intention of various rulers of the country to build new palaces. Still others proclaim, in accordance with the custom of ancient times, the virtues and

#### CONQUESTS OF VARIOUS KINGS,

or describe proclamations of laws or announcements of religious feasts. All these are dated, the day of the month and the year invariably being given, the months bearing the same names as those in the present Jewish calendar.

The existence of the second city of Nipur, from which these marvellous records have been made, was not suspected up to three years ago.

When the explorers reached the brick platform upon which the upper city stood they supposed they were standing on its foundation. In two or three places where this brick platform was dug through for a short distance nothing but earth was found below. It was never imagined that a thick layer of earth and sand underlay this upper city, and separated it from the lower city, because no such phenomena had ever previously been encountered in the progress of the excavations among the ruins of Egypt or elsewhere.

But when excavations were commenced below the platform they quickly began to reveal the most interesting relics.

And as the work progressed

#### THE ARCHÆOLOGISTS WERE AMAZED

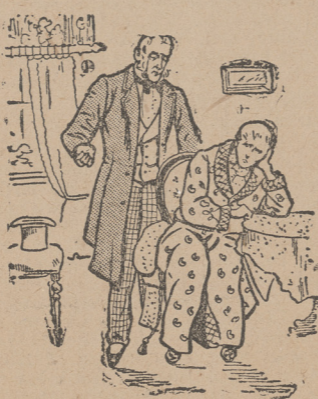
to find that the lower city seemed to have enjoyed a higher form of civilisation than the upper one, which appeared to have been built 5,000 years later.

So surprising have been the discoveries that the attention of archæologists in all nations has been drawn to the spot, and it is not improbable that further expeditions will be sent out to dig in the surrounding country. It is even suggested by some that a third Nipur may be discovered, but this is only conjecture.

MBER 15, 1896.

# LITTLE LIVER PILLS

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DROWSY?  
VERY OFTEN.



IN THE MORNING.



BILIOUS?  
HORRIBLY. I



WHAT WILL THAT DO?  
CLEAR AWAY THE WHOLE  
TROUBLE.

## LITTLE LIVER PILLS

ALL PILL. SMALL I

- BOYS** (several strong) want work.—Address the Secretary, the Boys' Home, 11, Greville-street, Hatton-garden, E.C.
- CARETAKER**; no children.—Mrs. Sharboes, 32, Southampton-road, N.W.
- CARETAKER**, offices, place of trust; m.m.; high references.—879, "Daily Mail."
- CARETAKER**, warehouseman, porter, or any place of trust; used to horses; married; disengaged; good character.—Mitchell, Llwyn Celyn, Lisvane, Cardiff.
- CARPENTER**, joiner's work, house repairs, or constant job, at moderate wages.—G. G., 22, Kay-road, Stockwell.
- CLERK** (junior), situation wanted; 4 years' experience; age 19; references.—Atkin, 35, Victoria-road, Wisbech, Cambs.
- CORN TRADE**.—Young man (20) requires situation; shop assistant; long experience; good character.—Apply 85, Maplin-street, Mile-end, E. Smith.
- (Experienced), mechanical, requires expeditious.—911,

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THE LEISURE HOUR,

56, PATERNOSTER ROW,

Sunday

Hans.

London, E.C. Sept 16, 1896.

P.S.

My dear Sir,

I send me  
enclosed from one of  
our popular London  
dailies, not as of  
special value, but  
as an indication  
that may interest

you. Yours faithfully,

James Tumble

A acknowledgment

W. Stevens

these letters. We

shall understand that I have

to be sent after I am returned