

frequently in the Old Testament.

We have already noticed the great interest of ~~Asurbanipal~~ in the collection of a library. He was greatly interested in the peaceful arts and sciences, but was as cruel in his attitude toward his enemies as any of the preceding kings.

One picture that has come down to us shows him seated at his table in a garden with his wife seated across from him and many choice viands spread upon the table. Around them are trees and flowers and it seems like a very peaceful scene until we notice that the king's gaze is directed at a tree in front of him and above and there is pictured the head of the conquered king of Elam, hanging in the branches.

The iron policy of the Assyrians, while it built up a great empire, required that this empire should be held under constant check, if it was to endure. The vigor of the Assyrian nation was sapped by constant military expeditions during several centuries. The nation had to be recruited from other races and eventually it became but an empty shell. It seemed to be at the apex of its greatness under ~~Asurbanipal~~ who succeeded in conquering Elam to the East which had always been one of the great enemies of Mesopotamia and even led ~~the~~^{his} victorious soldiers through the great cities of distant Egypt, but a few years after the death of ~~Asurbanipal~~, we find uprisings in many parts of his empire and unions of foreign nations against the Assyrians and the Assyrian Empire disappears within a comparatively short time.

As we have already noticed, its capital city of Nineveh was destroyed and became a mere heap of ruins in the desert and soon the very place where it had been was forgotten.

For a time the traditions of the Assyrian Empire were preserved by what is known as the ^{New} Babylonian Empire. One of the forces