

roads through the great land impassible. The conditions are different in the more inclement Assyria where the landscape quite frequently takes on a white wintry hue and recently temperatures almost to zero have been known. In February winter is succeeded by spring, hashish springs up which is so much enjoyed by the ows and other animals. As it grows warmer it is not long before the ears begin to come on the stalks of grain and soon become ript. In northern Irak the harvest begins about the middle of May. In ancient Babylonia the time seems to have been still earlier for at the time of the first Babylonian Dynasty it occurs that the harvest began already in Adar (about the close of April) and was generally ended by the beginning of Ijjar (May to June). In Assyria the cooler climate effected the time of the harvest. In Tammuz (July) was the month in which "the seed cord was set apart". Now the summer comes. In hot Ab (August) "The fire god come down from Heaven and combats with Samas," for heat. "The black headed ones build for protection a shady lodge," where they can protect themselves from the burning heat which nowadays rises as high as 122 in the shade. On the field everything burns and also in the garden. "The soft plant growth dries up," unless it is constantly watered. Now the dates ripen which can be picked in October. In Elul (September to October) comes the first cooling off, until the Tischri again the first rain starts in and the cycle of the year begins anew. The cultivated region of Babylonia was formerly greatly over-estimated. It has an approximate length of approximately 225 miles between Sippar and Eridu. The breadth would be scarecely more, on the average, than 45 miles. That is to say, it has approximately 11,000 square miles. The actual tillable area of Assyria would be at most, but half as great.

The land of Mesopotamia was naturally of varying quality. after it lay uncultivated, it soon turned into waste land. It grew into thorns or thistles, or in place of the plant growth the ground wa