

TADUKHEPA'S DOWRY.

By MAJOR C. R. CONDER, R.E., D.C.L., &c.

THIS list of presents sent to Egypt with the bride of Amenophis III, is highly important as indicating the civilisation of the fifteenth century, B.C., extending to Armenia, and indicating trade with central Asia. It is contained in the tablet numbered B26 of the Tell Amarna collection, and though this tablet is much injured, and will no doubt require very special knowledge to translate fully, a good deal of its contents are easily understood. At the bottom of the left-hand column at the back (lines 44 to 50) the following passage occurs:—

“These are the (treasures?) of the female slaves, all the things that Dusratta, King of Mitani, gives to Amenophis III, King of Egypt, his brother, his relation by marriage . . . for Tadukhepa, his daughter, to the land of Egypt, to Amenophis III for marriage, when he gives her he gives these.”

The list begins with a pair of horses, and a chariot, the whole plated with gold and set with some kind of precious stones, and with silver, with shafts and crossbars of gold, the weight of which is stated, and the details described, with the ornaments of the horses' harness. A litter for camels appears to follow, adorned in similar style; and cloths of purple and many colours, and one worked with gold, with a girdle fringed with gold, and rings of gold. Objects of bronze and of gold follow, and possibly a headdress adorned with gold, and other garments. A (crescent?) of rubies, emeralds, and other precious stones, and an arm band of gold and gems follow. The saddle for a horse is adorned with eagles of gold, and precious stones, apparently including turquoises. In the next column is enumerated a necklace of gold and gems, a bracelet of iron and gold with gems, an anklet of gold, and another ornament with 25 emeralds. Eyes of gold and rings of the same, and a collar in six rows, with other articles of gold and gems including emeralds. The dresses include one of purple, apparently of Phœnician work, and another from the city *Khat* (perhaps Hit on the Euphrates), another which was green, and a third dyed crimson. Ornaments of precious stones, including emeralds, follow, and a carved throne gilded, and veneered with wood supposed to be ebony, and a bracelet of silver, and vessels of copper with gold handles. The final objects appear to be chests to hold the presents—of stone.

On the back of the tablet some object of jade is noticed, and leaves of silver and gold, with cloths, for beds (or seats). A number of objects of bronze (or copper) are then enumerated, some of which belonged to a chariot; and on the right-hand column of the back, boxes of strong wood (ebony?) to hold the treasures, and some object adorned with gold lions, and set with emeralds, with other things of ebony, white wood,

silver, gold, and gems—Phœnician robes, and others from the city *Khat*, and bronze objects for horses.

Another long tablet (25B), giving a similar list, appears to be part of the same inventory. It is much injured on the left side, but the enumeration includes earrings with gems, and trinkets adorned with emeralds and other gems, which occupy the whole column. In the right hand column we find mention of a necklace of gold and gems, and eyes of precious stone, a bracelet of gold, an anklet of gold, and other bracelets, one of iron adorned with gold, and a clasp or brooch of gold and emeralds. After this, boxes to hold the treasures are enumerated, one being of alabaster, and another adorned with gold. Objects of silver follow to the end of the column.

At the back of the same tablet other objects of gold and silver come first, including an anklet and other adornments for the feet and body. On the right-hand columns, silver objects come first, and horns of the wild bull follow, adorned with gold, and other objects of ebony and gold. Finally, bracelets and anklets of gold are described in detail, and a "pair of earrings of gold with pendants of emerald and stars of gold," and as many as twelve bracelets and eight anklets of gold, and ten silver anklets for women, with silver adornments, and twenty earrings of gold with pendants of gems.

I am not aware that any translation of these tablets, or even an abstract of their contents, has yet been published. Those who are acquainted with the treasures found at Mycenæ and Troy, by Dr. Schliemann, in the lower parts of the ruins, which are supposed to be as old perhaps as 1500 B.C., will observe the resemblance between the art and materials of the objects which he discovered, and those which came from Armenia to Egypt. Wherever the precious metals and gems were found, jade was only to be obtained in Turkestan, and white jade only on the borders of China. This agrees with the mention of ivory among the presents sent to Amenophis III from Babylon. Dr. Schliemann found both jade and ivory in his excavations, and leaves of gold which are supposed to have adorned dresses, as well as the famous gold tiaras, and vessels of gold and of bronze. It has long been pointed out that this art was Asiatic and not European; and the double eagle, which is carved on Hittite bas-reliefs, was also an emblem found at Mycenæ, with the double axe which is distinctive of Carian coins. The art in question has been called Carian by some, and the early Carians appear to have spoken a Mongolic language. The connection with the contemporary art of a Mongol people not very far east in Armenia, casts, therefore, an important light on the character of the actually discovered treasures of Asia Minor.
