

# TABLET REVEALS BABYLONIAN LAW

## Precepts of 2300 B. C. Deciphered From Ancient Stone.

### HAD BANKRUPTCY CODE.

According to Experts of the University of Pennsylvania, Who Now Have Venerable Relic, It Is Oldest Record Extant of Ancient Legal Code. Found Near Susa.

What is said to be an archaeological discovery of great interest to scholars the world over is announced by the museum of the University of Pennsylvania.

It is a shattered tablet, upon particles of which, pieced together, are inscribed many of the missing laws from the code of King Hammurabi, who ruled Babylonia at a period estimated about 2100 to 2300 B. C.

Most of the laws, as deciphered, refer to financial transactions, and one contains the germ from which, perhaps, sprang all bankrupt laws of the last 4,000 years. No criminal statutes are expounded.

The tablet, which is believed to be part of the oldest collection of laws and precepts extant, was found at Susa in the winter of 1901-'02 by M. de Morgan, a French archaeologist, and brought to this country recently by an expedition of the University of Pennsylvania, returning from Nippur, an ancient city in Babylonia, where the university has made extensive excavations.

**Ancient Bankruptcy Law.**  
Dr. Arno Poebel of the University of Breslau, a distinguished oriental scholar, deciphered the much worn Babylonian characters. The law relating to bankruptcy says:

"If a man has borrowed grain or money from the merchant and has neither grain nor money to pay back, but he has movable goods, he shall give whatever he has to the merchant in the presence of witnesses, according as (words missing) the merchant shall not refuse; he must accept."

Another law, dealing with interest, says:

"If the merchant lends grain upon interest he shall take one-fifth of a ger of grain for each ker as interest. If he lends money upon interest he shall take a sixth and six grains of silver for each shekel as interest."

**Interest at 20 Per Cent.**  
This would have required borrowers to pay interest at the rate of 20 per cent. Another law provided that if a merchant charged compound interest he should lose the principal and six times the amount of interest as forst.

The borrower who had been robbed and had nothing with which to repay was compelled to go to the temple and take oath to his losses, after which he was permitted his freedom. Provision was made in the ancient law for the business man who met with failure, for it is set forth in the tablet that if an agent returning from a tour has made no profits the merchant may not claim interest on goods for money advanced.

### MUSIC BOX BAIT FOR BASS.

Combined With a Pretty Girl's Face It Lures Fish.

E. E. Wright and Pyatt Hubler, two disciples of Izaak Walton, of Sharon, Pa., have invented a musical minnow for bass fishing. The new device is described as a wooden minnow, and instead of the usual spinner in front there is carved out the face of a pretty girl. In front of the face is a miniature electric light, the power for which is furnished by a dry battery carried in the pocket of the fisherman. There is also a small clamp in front the hook to throw light on the bait, which hangs on the under side. The minnow is painted red, and with it is a tiny music box, the playing of which is regulated by the fisherman as he casts his line. The inventors say they adopted the device because they found while fishing the Tuscarawa river that the bass were attracted by the ringing of a cow bell. They declare that the music box is a great improvement on that idea and that they have had marked success with it.

### COATLESS CHURCHES ON WAY

Editor Predicts Negligee Style For Men In Summer Is Coming.

Coatless church in summer soon will be a common sight, according to Rev. E. Mez Swem, pastor of the Centennial Baptist church of Washington. He was commenting upon the example of the Baltimore pastor who preached a sermon recently in shirt sleeves.

"When I first preached coatless sermons to coatless men last summer I was severely criticised," said the Rev. Swem, "but the example is being followed today in Ohio and Wisconsin. It seems that Baltimore is also getting in line."

"I find that the women of my congregation do not object in the least to men in comfortable attire. I will admit that I felt queer the first time I preached in shirt sleeves, but that feeling soon passed."

### 'SPOONING PARLORS' IN CHURCH

The Rev. John R. Gunn, of North Baptist Church, New York, Behind Scheme.

Free "spooning parlors" with a tactful chaperon within call, a plan to stir sentimentality, a safe reminder that marriage means thrift or disaster, expert advice on how to propose and every other wholesome aid that warm love for his fellow man may suggest are part of the scheme of the Rev. John R. Gunn, pastor of the North Baptist church, No. 234 West Eleventh street, New York City. His is no sudden notion, but the result of long and prayerful thought.

"There are countless working girls living in furnished rooms who cannot receive young men in them and keep their reputations," Mr. Gunn said. "They are entitled to have some place where they may enjoy the advantages that help their more fortunate sisters to happy wifehood."

"The Church baptizes the infant, confirms the young, weds men and women and performs the last rites over the dead. There is no reason that it should not take up this other important office for humanity."

"Spoonings parlors" is the name Mr. Gunn has chosen after giving the subject careful consideration. He believes in calling things by their right names and as his purpose is frankly to supply a place for young men and girls to gather with an idea of promoting affection that may spring up to its natural and proper result, he has resolved not to seek any mask of title for the scene of those activities.

Two large rooms, with a wide opening between them, in the rear of the prayer meeting hall of the church are to be the "spooning parlors." They are comfortably furnished and provided with an ample supply of sofas. These rooms have been little used in the church work heretofore, but Mr. Gunn expects them to change entirely in this respect within a few weeks.

### Yes, There Will be Lights.

Illumination of the spooning parlors is one of the details on which this clerical confederate of cupid has not yet decided. The rooms are now supplied with both electric light and gas fixtures. Everybody knows that electric lights can be covered with shades and gas lights can be turned low.

"We will have to see how things go before we can decide about the lights," Mr. Gunn said. "But all such matters will arrange themselves I am sure."

"Look at these two, comfortable rooms! Isn't it a shame to have hundreds of young men and women of the right sort sitting on park benches even in the coldest weather when they might be in here?" "May they hold hands? Of course they may," and he smiled at Mrs. Gunn. Their courting was done not so many years ago in the South. It was quite evident while Mr. Gunn talked of his first aid for sweethearts' project that he regards matrimony as the most blessed human state. His three fine children presented convincing arguments to back his views.

"How about kissing?" the reporter said rather apologetically. Maybe Mr. Gunn did not hear the question. It is still unanswered.

Getting ready this laboratory for the making of two hearts to beat as one is the summer vacation of Mr. Gunn. His most careful thought is being given to the means whereby the "spooning parlor" may attract those for whose benefit he has designed it.

Some changes already have been made in the fittings of the rooms where love is to be welcomed. They are comfortable and homelike and the several pictures hung on the walls are of subjects likely to turn the mind toward thoughts of peaceful domesticity.

The piano ought to help, Mr. Gunn thinks, and he is going to leave it in the parlor. There are many girls who never owned a piano who have fine voices, and if they want to help along by singing "Annie Laurie" or "Every Lassie Had Her Laddie" they will have a chance to play an accompaniment. If all goes well that piano will be almost able to play "Here

Comes the Bride" by itself before next summer.

### Moving Pictures to Aid.

"We have decided to leave that safe there in the corner," Mr. Gunn said. "It may help to remind young men to be saving, especially if they hope to wed. After we get the 'spooning parlors' well under way we are going to think about opening a provident savings association in the church. It will be not only for the young and unmarried, but for the older folk, married or unmarried."

Not every evening of the week will be available for use of the spooning parlors for their appointed purpose. Prayer services are held in them every Friday evening and Christian Endeavor meetings every Tuesday evening. Sunday evenings the young folk will be expected to attend the services in the church.

Realizing that youth, even though loving is often coy, Mr. Gunn has prepared to make easy the way to the "spooning parlors" so that those who seek them may not be marked. It is going to be perfectly easy to go there without being the subject of jest or jealousy. Moving picture shows will be given.

Moving pictures were a masterly thought, because if all the lights except those in the camera are not turned very low or extinguished one cannot see the pictures on the screen. Thus will the spooners be made happily ready for the spooning parlor in action. When the entertainments in them are over those who are not eligible for the subsequent proceedings will be expected to tactfully depart. Mr. Gunn is going to see to this personally, and if any one thinks that jests about those who may remain are going to be permitted they are totally unfamiliar with the purposes of the presiding genius of this Cupid's bower.

"How to Get a Husband and How to Keep Him" and "How to Get a Wife and How to Keep Her" are subjects of a series of sermons which Mr. Gunn has been preaching with gratifying success. He says there is no meat for a sermon in how to be happy though single, because there is no such thing.

"I haven't much use for an unmarried man or maid," he said. "Everyone should be married. Should a girl pray for a husband? Of course she should. Why should not she? Every girl ought to have her chance to win the love of a good man, and I am going to help as many to do so as I can reach."

### Clergyman's Wife to Help.

His idea is to do with these parlors what social settlements are doing in providing a suitable meeting place for young women and men, and what other ministers have advocated that churches do. But I think our church is the first to really do it.

"I am going to begin the autumn work with an evangelistic campaign and have an organized force go from house to house and invite them all to come. Then when the young people are in the proper spiritual condition, I am going to open these parlors. I will be on hand and Mrs. Gunn will aid in the chaperoning. Everything will be under refined influences."

"Those parlors will be a place for the young people to meet in a social way—a place for them to do their spooning, if they want to. Wednesday night will be the principal night, although the rooms will be open on other evenings."

"I believe the Church ought to be interested in everything that affects humanity. Then why not in mating hearts? In a big city like New York there is an absence of community life, such as found in smaller places. My idea is that the Church should supply that need."

"Mrs. Gunn and I will not only chaperon these young people, but we will be ready for consultations and welcome them. If a young man does not know how to propose to a girl I will tell him how."

"I have no sympathy with this talk about the high cost of marrying. The less a pair have to start housekeeping on the greater chance there is for the development of two fine characters."

"And I have not one speck of patience with the idea of a minister requiring a health certificate before he will wed a couple. That is the business of the State. I am interest-

ed in the study of eugenics, however, but from an educational standpoint."

Mr. Gunn also is arranging to rent a house across the street from the church and furnish it as a home for working girls who do not live with their parents, and is preparing to open a night school in theology for young men who desire to become preachers but must work in the daytime to support others dependent on them. He has procured the promise of some New York Baptist ministers to teach.—New York Herald.

### TWENTY HOT-WEATHER DON'TS FOR DRIVERS.

1. Don't fail to read this.
2. Don't forget that your horse helps to earn his living.
3. Don't forget that he will repay you for his cost if you treat him right.
4. Don't stand him in the sun when by moving across the street or around the corner you can find shade.
5. Don't put the same load on him when the thermometer is at 90 as you do when it is just above the freezing point.
6. Don't fail to give him water at short intervals.
7. Don't fail to bathe his head with cold water.
8. Don't give him whisky unless advised by a veterinary surgeon.
9. Don't take any yourself. Whisky heats the blood and much of the abuses of animals are directly traceable to intemperance.
10. Don't fail to wash your horse's mouth out.
11. Don't fail, if he shows signs of exhaustion, to give him a half hour's rest.
12. Don't fail, if heat exhaustion continues, to bathe his entire body with water.
13. Don't fail, in extreme cases, to apply ice to the head and ice water to the body so as to reduce the temperature.
14. Don't lash your horse when he is doing the best he can.
15. Don't lash him at any time. He'll do better if you are kind to him.
16. Don't swear at him. Profanity is offensive and never does any good.
17. Don't forget that a horse has feelings like yourself, and can feel either the lash of your whip or of your tongue.
18. Don't forget that he is a faithful servant if treated properly.
19. Don't hesitate about employing veterinary aid when your horse shows signs of being sick.
20. Don't take advice from the man in the crowd who "knows it all" and is always on hand. People who really know are not very free to offer advice unasked.

### MONUMENT TO ADAM.

This monument erected to the memory of Adam, the first man, is the only one of its kind in America, and probably in the world. It was erected in 1900 by Mr. John P. Brady, a well-known contractor and builder, of Baltimore, at his country place, "Hickory Ground," near Gardenville, in the northeastern suburbs of Baltimore, Maryland. It is composed of stone, bronze, and cement, and is surmounted by a very large and accurate sundial, especially calculated and constructed for the latitude in which the monument is erected, N. Lat. 39 degrees, 20 minutes. Surrounding the hour figures, in a circle on the dial, is the motto, "Sic Transit Gloria Mundi" (So Passes the Glory of the World), and the date, 1909, and on either side of the shaft is a sunken panel with sunken letters, the two readings:—"THIS, THE FIRST SHAFT IN AMERICA, IS ERRECTED TO THE MEMORY OF ADAM, THE FIRST MAN."

The monument has naturally attracted much attention. Mr. Brady has stated, among other things, in a newspaper interview, that "where so many others of lesser worth have been honored, he thought it about time that something was done for Adam."—Strand.

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