

One more difficulty remains to be dealt with: ~~th~~ Sennacherib's second expedition in 701 he is said to have fought with Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, Isa.37:9 || II K.19:9, who was not king according to Barton until 688.¹ But when we enter the Egyptian records the difficulty ~~dis~~appears. Wade agrees with Barton that there has been a mistake: "The writer of ~~this~~ narrative, if it relates to the year 701, has mistaken the name of the Egyptian king who in 701 was Shabaka."² Nägelsbach, writing in 1877, notes that the name Tirhakah had not been found among Sennacherib's inscriptions, but that his grandson Esarhaddon tells how he "directed his first expedition against the rebellious Tar-ku-u of Egypt and Meroc."³ The older commentaries (such as Delitzsch 4th ed., and Alexander) naturally are of no assistance.

It would seem strange that already in Esarhaddon's ~~reign~~ time a gross error ~~had~~ such as that which Barton charges against the Bible should have arisen. But notice that Esarhaddon does not call Tirhakah king of Egypt. He is merely Sennacherib's adversary in Egypt--a general of the Egyptian army, for instance. Likewise Isaiah (37:9) callse him not king of Egypt, but king of Ethiopia. Breasted's Ancient Records of Egypt has a good bit to say about Tirhakah or Taharka: he was a son of Piankhi (Vol.IV,p.455), who came to the throne of southern Egypt in 741 and made extensive campaigns against the North until he was lord of all Egypt (Vol.IV pp.40/-414). Taharka furthermore, according to Breasted's Records came into northern Egypt at the age of twenty with king Shabaka (712-700) (Vol.IV, pp.455 & 451) and acceded as king himself many years later, after the reign of Shabatka, Shabaka's successor, in 688. Now then, what solution of the difficulty is

1. op. cit. p.473.

2. Westminster Commentary series in.loc.

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