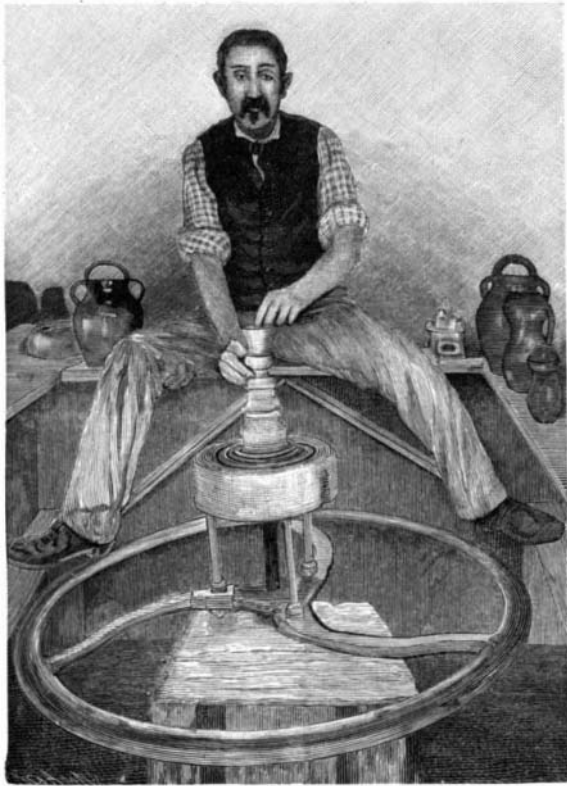


THE POTTER OF "OLD BERRY" AT THE EXPOSITION.

The tools of the potter have remained the same through ages, says Lectures pour Tous. It may be said that they are as old as the world. This is doubtless because, in their simplicity, they are admirably adapted for the use for which they are designed. The Egyptian potter who lived 2,000 years before Christ made use of nearly the same lathe and of the same wheel that was employed by the potter who was installed in



THE POTTER OF "OLD BERRY."

that part of the Exposition reserved for the exhibit of the French provinces of "Old Berry." A placard that swung from a nail in front of the shop gave the name of its occupant as:

"Alaphillipe, dit Charliton.
Potier, à Verneuil (Indre)."

Upon entering, the potter was seen seated upon a wooden bench, in his shirt sleeves, and in trousers soiled with clay. He was in the act of working upon the wheel of his lathe (which was actuated with his foot) a large ball of clay that had previously been tempered with water and kneaded in such a way as to form a very homogeneous mass. Giving the wheel a rotary motion, he seized the ball of clay between his fingers, under the pressure of which it was seen to elongate, turn around, and assume thousands of varied forms. It became successively a pot, a cup and a slender flagon, and then again a large-bellied pot. It was with this last creation that he stopped. Then he arrested the motion of the wheel, detached the object with a spatula, and added handles to it.

After allowing it to dry for two or three days, he glazed it with a mixture of ashes and clay, and baked it for thirty-six hours in a kiln. Such pottery, when finished, is somewhat dull of aspect, but excellent for domestic purposes. The potter avoided giving it that brilliant aspect that attracts the purchaser, since to that effect it would have been necessary to employ harmful substances.

A New Grain.

A new grain which has been grown to a limited extent in Manitoba this year is called spelt. It is said to be a Russian grain, and is grown in that country and in Germany. The seed was obtained from a foreign settlement in Dakota. It was sold in Winnipeg last summer to a number of farmers, and they all speak favorably of it. Though the season was a try-

ing one, it produced good crops, as much as 50 bushels being obtained from one bushel of seed. It is claimed that spelt produces a heavy crop, is easily grown, and stands drought much better than most other grains, that it ripens early, and makes a superior feed grain for animals. The straw is also said to be better for feed than straw of other grains grown in Manitoba.

POD CORN.

Our engravings represents the sacred corn grown by a North American Indian tribe, the Abenikis. We are informed by the Division of Botany of the United States Department of Agriculture that this corn is well known under the name of pod corn, *Zea tunicata*. It has several vernacular names, such as California corn, cow corn, Egyptian corn, forage corn, husk corn, Oregon corn, primitive corn, Rocky Mountain corn, stock corn, in Africa "manigette," and in Buenos Ayres "pinsingallo." Each grain is completely covered by a separate husk. This kind of corn is not commonly grown, but our ordinary varieties, especially flint corn, often have one or more kernels covered with a separate husk. In rare instances, nearly all of the kernels on some ears have been covered in this manner. The origin of this corn, like that of our ordinary cultivated varieties of *Zea mays*, is not definitely known, but it is supposed to come from the region of Mexico or tropical America. In 1623 Bauhin obtained seed of *Zea tunicata* which was said to have come from Africa, but it is not at all probable that this plant is native on the eastern hemisphere. An account of this corn is contained in Bulletin 57 of the Office of the Experiment Stations of the Department of Agriculture.

EXCAVATIONS AT NIPPUR.

BY REV. ALBERT T. CLAY, PH.D.

The University of Pennsylvania in 1888 sent out an expedition to excavate Nippur, an ancient city of Babylonia. It is situated midway between the Tigris and Euphrates, about fifty miles to the southeast of Babylon. All that remains of the city is an extensive group of mounds, which rise on an average of about sixty feet above the plain. The mounds represent the accumulations of millenniums, the lowest stratum of which is found thirty feet below the present level of the plain, owing to the gradual filling in during the past ages.

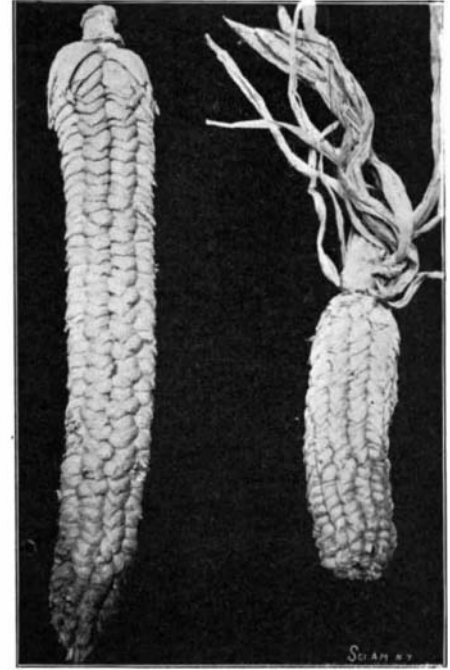
For eleven years, including interruptions, the "death-like stillness" which brooded over this ancient city (the probable site of Calneh, Genesis, 10: 10) with its treasures of long-forgotten millenniums has been dispelled, and the place has been the scene of much activity on the part of the American expedition. Though much has been accomplished in the laying bare of ancient buildings and the gathering of the exceedingly rich harvest of antiquities, yet at the present rate of operations, although on an average several hundred Arabs have been employed, it will require fully one hundred years to excavate thoroughly this ancient city.



THE STAGE TOWER OF THE TEMPLE OF BEL—WORKMEN ON THE TEMPLE OF SARGON.

The staff of the recent campaign, which has been the most remarkable for the richness of its finds and for the importance of its far-reaching results, consisted of Prof. H. V. Hilprecht, Ph.D., D.D., LL.D., Scientific Director; J. H. Haynes, Sc.D., Field Director; Messrs. Valentine Geere and Clarence Fisher, architects. Concerning the results of the campaign Prof. Hilprecht has been able to report that the most sanguine expectations have been realized.

City Wall.—Several years ago a trial trench was cut through the wall of the city, but recently a con-



SACRED CORN GROWN BY A NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBE (ABENIKIS).

Each grain is completely covered by a separate husk.

siderable portion of the wall was thoroughly excavated. It was ascertained that the first wall was built in the early pre-Semitic period (prior to 4000 B. C.). Upon this structure Naram-Sin (3750 B. C.) raised up his wall to a considerable height, using the characteristically large bricks of his period. Upon the remains of this splendid structure lie the bricks of Ur-Gur (2800 B. C.). The uppermost stratum contained the remains of a Jewish settlement, belonging to the late period. Rooms or shops for traders were built on the inside of the wall. From business records discovered Prof. Hilprecht infers that they were occupied during the third millennium before Christ.

The great city gate, known as *abullu rabu* in the inscriptions, which was sought for, was discovered. It had been built originally by some pre-Semitic builder in a very substantial manner, who laid up his bricks in bitumen. It has three divisions or entrances; the one in the center, which was the largest, was for animals, those on either side were for the people. While the whole structure was considerably above the plain, approachable by a gradual ascent, the middle entrance was lower than the side passageways, which were reached by steps.

Pre-Semitic Palace.—In tracing the southern limits of the city a large palace of the pre-Semitic period (prior to 4000 B. C.) was discovered. No mound marked its site. It was clearly below the present level of the plain. Only one façade of the building was cleared. It is nearly six hundred feet long, built with two stories, having small windows near the ceilings. A large open terra-cotta vase, several tablets of the earliest known period, a substantially constructed well, and many other antiquities were discovered. Prof. Hilprecht is of the opinion that the complete excavation of this