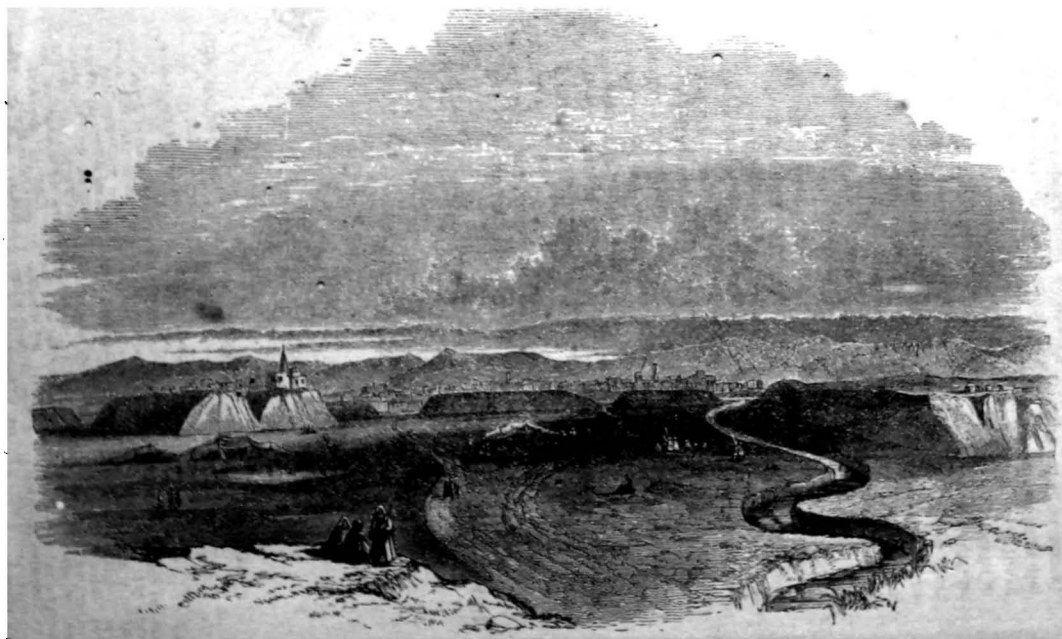


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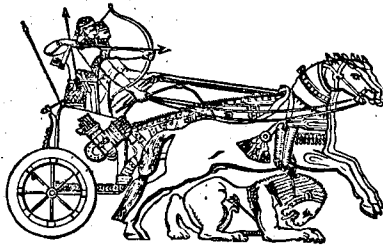
THE EAST, ^{SERVANTS OF INI}
~~SOCIETY,~~

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE CONQUEST BY
ALEXANDER THE GREAT.

INCLUDING EGYPT, ASSYRIA, BABYLONIA, MEDIA, PERSIA,
ASIA MINOR, AND PHENICIA.

BY PHILIP SMITH, B.A.;

AUTHOR OF THE 'HISTORY OF THE WORLD.'



Early Assyrian Chariot.

ILLUSTRATED BY ENGRAVINGS ON WOOD.

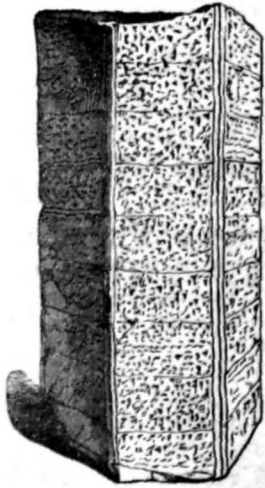
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JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

1885.

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ASSYRIAN CYLINDER.

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PREFACE.

A KNOWLEDGE of the History of the East is indispensable to the student of Classical Literature. In the earliest records, he meets with doubtful traditions—and further study reveals undoubted signs—of older forms of civilisation, which helped to determine those of Greece and Rome. Egypt and Phœnicia loom up, however vaguely, in what he learns of the origin of Greek society, arts, and letters. The earliest and noblest poetry of Greece and of the world, as well as the legend of Rome's original, bring him at once in contact with an Asiatic kingdom, of whose real existence, however, he is left in doubt. As his first reading of Greek poetry excites his curiosity about Troy, so his earliest lessons in Greek prose plunge him into the midst of the history of Persia, and into the heart of the region of the great eastern empires. His first guide to the history of Greece is an author who—with a wise prescience of that method of study which we have only learnt of late—carries him at once to Assyria and Babylon, Egypt and Libya, Lydia and Persia, that, in the light of the knowledge of the East, he may see the true meaning of the victories which form the glory of the history of Greece. And, at every succeeding step, he finds himself in contact with Oriental forms of government and civilisation, and he learns that the victories of Alexander, Scipio, and Augustus

• INC. HIST.

were the decisive steps in the great conflict between Eastern and Western principles of social life.

Clearly, therefore, he has learnt but half the lesson of ancient history, so long as he sees the Oriental element only in that background which is all that can be allotted to it in the special histories of Greece and Rome. To present the other half is the object of the present Work, which is designed to be at once a necessary supplement to those histories, and a sketch of the Oriental states which deserve study for their own intrinsic interest.

That interest has been immeasurably increased, within the period of one generation, by those wonderful discoveries in hieroglyphic and cuneiform literature which—at least in the principles of interpretation and in a large mass of positive results—have outlived the stage of incredulity, and become a recognised branch of ancient learning. That the results thus gained may be made more clear and interesting, the present Work contains some account of the processes of discovery. How much the interest of these discoveries is enhanced by the light they throw upon Scripture history, will be apparent to every reader of the following pages.

The diversities of interpretation—though based on the same essential principles, and leading to results for the most part wonderfully consistent—have given rise to what may be almost called two schools of cuneiform scholarship: the English, headed by SIR HENRY C. RAWLINSON, and the French, headed by M. JULES OPPERT. The authorities quoted in the following pages will show the desire of the Writer to use the best results of the labours of both schools. The nature of these inquiries—so novel, and still in a state so progressive—has made it necessary to give authorities and explanatory notes more fully than in other volumes of this series. The advanced student,

for whom this Work is designed, will thus be aided to distinguish certain from doubtful results, and will see the lines along which his further studies should be directed.

The work is based on an independent study of the ancient writers and a careful use of the best modern authorities. Great advantage has, of course, been derived from the invaluable materials collected in the Notes and Essays to PROFESSOR RAWLINSON'S Translation of Herodotus, by SIR GARDNER WILKINSON, SIR H. C. RAWLINSON, and the Editor himself; and from PROFESSOR RAWLINSON'S 'Five Ancient Monarchies.'¹ For *Egypt*, besides the works of Sir Gardner Wilkinson, PROFESSOR KENRICK'S 'Ancient Egypt' has been constantly consulted; and so, also, has the same author's scholarly work upon *Phœnicia*. The book on *Assyria and Babylonia* could not have been written without the works of Mr. LAYARD, and some invaluable results of the latest researches are due to the writings of M. OPPERT. Special acknowledgment has to be rendered of the use made throughout the work of M. CHARLES LENORMANT'S 'Histoire Ancienne de l'Orient.'² How little the present Writer has adhered slavishly to that work, the merits of which marked it as a good general guide, how often he has maintained other views, and how constantly he has expressed his own judgment on the events related, will be best seen by a comparison of the two books. Moreover, the present Work is brought down to Alexander's conquest, the true epoch at which the East yielded to the West; whereas M. Lenormant stops, with a somewhat startling abruptness, at the beginning of the Persian wars with Greece.

¹ The first editions of both these works are quoted throughout, except in a few special instances.

² It may be well to explain that the whole of this work was written, printed, and revised (excepting the two concluding chapters on Phœnicia) before the appearance of the English translation of M. Lenormant's history.

As the History of the Jews has been treated at length in the 'Student's Old Testament History,' the Writer has thereby acquired fuller space for the other branches of the subject. For the object has not been to draw up a mere skeleton or epitome, but a narrative full and circumstantial enough to possess life and interest, and to leave that impression on the memory which mere outlines can never produce; since a summary can only be of real service as an index to knowledge already acquired. To this narrative only so much has been added in the way of discussion as the nature of the subject seemed actually to require. In fine, an earnest effort has been made to produce a Manual, both for the student and the general reader, of the present state of our knowledge on a subject the interest of which is daily growing, its bounds enlarging, and its details becoming more definite and certain by the progress of enquiry.



Plants from Egyptian Sculptures.

CONTENTS.

INTRODUCTION.

	PAGE
THE NATIONS AND THEIR ABODES	1
<i>Notes and Illustrations :—</i>	
(A). Table of the Indo-European Family of Languages ..	11
(B). Table of the Semitic Family of Languages	12

BOOK I.

EGYPT AND ETHIOPIA.

CHAP.		
I.	THE COUNTRY, THE RIVER, AND THE PEOPLE	13
II.	AUTHORITIES FOR THE HISTORY OF EGYPT	26
<i>Notes and Illustrations :—</i>		
	Contemporaneousness of Dynasties	40
III.	THE OLD MEMPHIAN MONARCHY	41
IV.	THE MIDDLE MONARCHY AND THE SHEPHERD KINGD. ..	61
V.	THE NEW THEBAN MONARCHY.—THE EIGHTEENTH DYNASTY	82
VI.	THE NEW THEBAN MONARCHY (<i>continued</i>).—THE NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH DYNASTIES	96
VII.	NEW KINGDOMS IN THE DELTA AND THE ETHIOPIAN DYNASTY—DYNASTIES XXI.—XXV.—B.C. 1100 (ABOUT)—664.	112
VIII.	THE LATER SAÏTE MONARCHY—TWENTY-SIXTH DYNASTY—B.C. 665—527 OR 525	139
IX.	THE INSTITUTIONS, RELIGION, AND ARTS OF EGYPT	156

BOOK II.

ASSYRIA AND BABYLON.

CHAP	PAGE
X. THE REGION OF THE EUPHRATES AND TIGRIS,—PRIMITIVE KINGDOMS	191
<i>Notes and Illustrations:—</i>	
(A). Early Babylonian Chronology	214
(B). On the Chaldeans and the Akkad	215
XI. EARLY HISTORY OF ASSYRIA. THE MYTHICAL LEGENDS: AND THE EARLIER KINGS OF THE OLD MONARCHY	218
<i>Notes and Illustrations:—</i>	
On the Site and Extent of Nineveh	240
XII. THE OLD ASSYRIAN EMPIRE. B.C. 886-746	243
XIII. THE NEW ASSYRIAN EMPIRE, PART I. TIGLATH-PILESER II., SHALMANESER, AND SARGON. B.C. 745-704	266
XIV. THE NEW ASSYRIAN EMPIRE (<i>concluded</i>). SENNACHERIB AND HIS SUCCESSORS. B.C. 704-625	281
XV. THE BABYLONIAN OR CHALDEAN EMPIRE. B.C. 625-538	303
<i>Notes and Illustrations:—</i>	
‘Standard Inscription’ of Nebuchadnezzar	325
XVI. THE ART AND CIVILIZATION OF BABYLONIA AND ASSYRIA	327
XVII. THE CUNEIFORM WRITING AND LITERATURE, THE SCIENCE AND RELIGION, OF THE BABYLONIANS AND ASSYRIANS	348

BOOK III.

THE MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE, AND ITS SUBJECT COUNTRIES IN ASIA.

XVIII. THE PRIMITIVE ARYANS AND THE RELIGION OF ZOROASTER	373
XIX. RISE OF THE MEDIAN KINGDOM	397
XX. THE NATIONS OF ASIA MINOR—THE TABLE-LAND AND NORTH COAST	414
XXI. THE NATIONS OF ASIA MINOR—THE SOUTH AND WEST COASTS	429
XXII. EARLY HISTORY OF LYDIA	452

CONTENTS.

xi

CHAP.	PAGE
XXIII. LYDIA AND MEDIA.—FROM GYGES TO CYTAXARES AND ALY- ATTES.—ABOUT B.C. 716 TO B.C. 560.—THE CIMMERIAN AND SCYTHIAN INVASIONS OF ASIA	461
XXIV. THE MEDIAN EMPIRE OVERTHROWN BY CYRUS. B.C. 594 558	478
XXV. CYRUS THE GREAT AND CRGSESUS.—OVERTHROW OF LYDIA AND BABYLON.—B.C. 560-529	493
XXVI. CAMBYSES.—THE MAGIAN USURPATION.—RESTORATION OF THE MONARCHY BY DARIUS.—B.C. 529-522	502
XXVII. CLIMAX OF THE PERSIAN EMPIRE.—DARIUS, THE SON OF HYSTASPES.—B.C. 521-486	516
XXVIII. THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE PERSIAN EMPIRE.—XERXES I. TO DARIUS III., B.C. 486-330	529

THE HISTORY OF PHENICIA.

XXIX. PART I.—TO THE TIME OF TYRE'S SUPREMACY	541
XXX. PART II.—FROM THE AGE OF DAVID AND HIRAM TO THE TAKING OF TYRE BY ALEXANDER.—ABOUT B.C. 1050 TO B.C. 332	563
INDEX	581

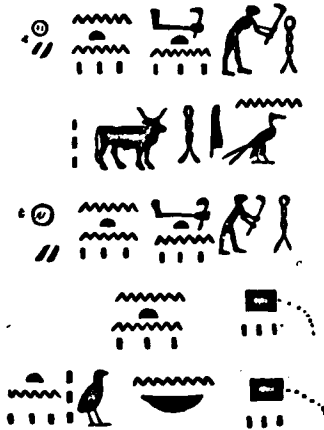


Head of a Persian King (Persepolis).

HIEROGLYPHICS.

AN EGYPTIAN THRESHING SONG.

(From a Tomb at Eleithyas.)



TRANSLATION. (By Champollion.)

- (1) "Thresh for yourselves (*twice*, a),
- (2) O Oxen,
- (3) Thresh for yourselves (*twice*, b),
- (4) Measures for yourselves,
- (5) Measures for your masters."—(From *Sir J. C. Huskinson*.)

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
Site of Nineveh	<i>Frontispiece</i>
Early Assyrian Chariot	<i>Title Page</i>
Assyrian Cylinder	<i>Back of Title Page</i>
Plants from Egyptian Sculptures	ix
Head of a Persian King (Persepolis)	xi
Hieroglyphics—An Egyptian Threshing Song	xii
Assyrian Pattern (Nimrud)	1
The Nile during the Inundation	13
Boat of the Nile	28
Ruins and Vicinity of Philæ	29
Hieroglyph of Menes	38
Sphinx and Pyramids	41
Quarry-marks on stones in the Great Pyramid	43
Plan of the Pyramids of Jizeh	44
Hieroglyph of Shafre	45
Hieroglyph of Memphis	52
Bull-Fight	61
Memnonium during the Inundation	82
Pavilion of Rameses III.	96
An Egyptian Archer carrying spare arrows	111
Allies of the Egyptians	112
Dress of an Egyptian King	139
Funeral Boat, or Baris	156
Hieroglyphic characters	186
Tomb at Sakhara, arched with stone, inscribed with the name of Psmatik II.	190
The Mound of Birs-Nimrud	191
Figures from the Signet Cylinder of King Urukh	217
The Mesopotamian Plain	218
Figure of Tiglath-pileser I. (From a rock tablet near Korkhar.)	239
Ruins of Nineveh	242
The Mound of Nimrud	243
Plan of the Mound of Nimrud	246
Plan of Palace of Ashur-nasir-pal	249
Black Obelisk, from Nimrud	256

	PAGE
Prisoners presented by the Chief Eunuch (Nimrud Obelisk)	257
Nebo (from a statue in the British Museum)	262
Excavations at Koyunjik	266
Glass Vase, bearing the name of Sargon, from Nimrud	280
King punishing prisoners (Khorsabad)	280
Assyrians slaying their Prisoners	281
Hound held in Leash (Koyunjik)	302
View of Babil from the West	303
Ancient Assyrian Cylinder in Serpentine	327
Babylonian Brick	329
Chaldean Reeds (from a slab of Sennacherib)	330
Bowariyeh	331
Temple of the Moon, Mugheir	335
Seal-Cylinder on metal axis	338
Serio-Comic Drawing. (From a Cylinder)	347
Fallen Rock Sculptures at Bavian	348
Cuneiform Characters	350
Hieratic Characters	351
Emblems of Aashur (after Lajard)	370
Royal Cylinder of Sennacherib	370
Emblems of the Principal Gods. (From an Obelisk in the British Museum)	372
Persepolis	373
The Persian "Ferouher"	396
The Rock of Behistun	397
Sculptures on the Rock of Behistun	413
Mons Argeus in Cappadocia	414
Rock-cut Lycian Tomb	429
Coin of Lycia	451
Tomb of Midas, King of Phrygia, at Nacolicia	452
Coin of Sardis	460
Ruins of Miletus f.	461
Tomb of Alyattes, Sepulchral Chamber	477
Tomb of Cyrus at <i>Murghib</i> , the ancient Pasargada	478
Ruins of Sardis	493
Double Griffin Capital (Persepolis)	501
Bronze Figure of Apis	502
Gateway to Hall of a Hundred Columns (Persepolis)	515
Tomb of Darius at <i>Naksh-e-Rustem</i>	516
Mound of Susa	529
Grand Range of Lebanon	541
Damascus	503
Bronze Lion, from Nimrud	560

I N D E X.

ARCHITECTURE

- A**
- A, hieroglyphical origin of the letter aleph, 186.
- Aamu, the race which preceded the Canaanites in Phœnicia, 550.
- Aahmes, conqueror of the Shepherd kings and founder of the Theban monarchy, 83. His marriage with an Ethiopian princess, the ground of claims made by his successors to Ethiopia, 87. His Asiatic wars, 87.
- Abou-simbel, rock-hewn temples of, 99.
- Accadian language, 356.
- Achæmenes, meaning of the name, 488.
- Achæmenidæ, the, 487.
- Adulterer and adulteress, Egyptian punishment of, 166.
- Afrastab, Turanian cult of the serpent, 380, 396.
- Africa, circumnavigation of, under Neco, 448. The most signal achievement of ancient maritime discovery, 448.
- Agglutinative dialects, 8.
- Ahab marries Jezebel, daughter of Ethbaal, 567.
- Ahaz, King of Judah, made tributary, 272.
- Ahriman, the evil principle, the serpent emblem of, 360. Anglo-mainyus, the author of evil, 387. His six Darvands, 389. His antagonists to Ormazd's angelic hierarchy, 390. The author of the temptation and fall of man, 391.
- Ahuramazda or Ormazd, the good spirit and supreme God, titles of, 384. His six Councillors, 389.
- Ahuras and Daëvas, 384.
- Akkad (the), and their literature, 216.
- Alexander the Great's conquest of the Persian empire, 538. Its rapidly accounted for, 538. His siege of Tyre, 578.
- Alexandria, site of, 19. Founded, 155.
- Almanacks, prophetic Chaldean, 364.
- Alphabet, its probable Egyptian origin, 551. Brought to Phœnicia by the return of the Hyksos, 551.
- Alphabets, source of all, 542.
- Alyattes, his long reign, 468.
- War with the Milesians, 468. Drives the Cimmerians out of Asia Minor, 470. Tomb of, 477.
- Amasis, 143. Ends the royal line of Egypt, 152. Anecdote illustrating his change of condition, 152. Prosperity of Egypt under him, 153. His law for suppressing idleness, 153. Architectural works, 154. The ally of Croesus against Cyrus, 155. Deceives Cambyses, 505.
- Amemenes II., killed by his eunuchs, 64.
- III. builder of the Labyrinth, 66.
- Amenhotep III., conquests and monuments of, 93. His titles, 94. Identified with the Memnon of Homer, 94. His statue, the "vocal Memnon," described, 94.
- Aneni, pictures and epitaph on the tomb of, 70.
- Amestris, chief wife of Xerxes, 530.
- Ammeris's invasion of Egypt, 138.
- Amun, the supreme god of Egypt, 172.
- Anatis, her worship confounded by Herodotus with that of Mithra, 394.
- Anarian cuneiform writing, 351. Difficulties of the Anarian texts, 354.
- Anatolia, now Anadolli, 418.
- Angro-mainyus, or Ahriman, the author of moral and material evil, and of death, 387.
- Animal worship, Egyptian, 173.
- Antalcidas, peace of, 533.
- Antediluvians, their possession of all the essential germs of material civilisation, 2.
- Anthropomorphism of the Egyptian deities, 171.
- Anti-Taurus mountains, 417.
- Anu, the supreme god of the Babylonians and Assyrians, 208.
- Anysis, the blind king, 138.
- Apis, Egyptian worship of the bull, 175. The incarnation of Ptaha, 175. Wounded by Cambyes, 508.
- Apollinopolis and Latopolis, the Nile at, 17.
- Apries, King of Egypt, 149. His expedition against Cyrene, 149. The Pharaoh-Hophra of Scripture, 151.
- Araba, governed by queens, 269.
- Aradus, island and city of, 554.
- Ararat, Mount, the cradle of the post-diluvian race, 3.
- Arbela, city of, 229. The Persian empire ends at the battle of, 538.
- Arca or Casarea Libani, 554.
- Arch, its use in Assyrian architecture, 345.
- Archers, Egyptian infantry chiefly, 161.
- Archilochus of Paros, the Iambic poet, 571.
- Architecture of ancient Egypt, 179. Four great classes of buildings: pyramids, tombs, palaces, and temples, 179. Description of an Egyptian temple, 180. The relation of architecture to religion 340. Distinctive features of Babylonian, 340.

Ardys, son of Gyges, reign of, 484.
Aresus (the) of Herodotus, 398.
Argesus (Mons), now Argish Dagh, 417.
Ariana = the later Persian Iran, 398.
Artach, King of Ellasar, 2108.
Αροα of Herodotus, Why called Aryans instead of Arians, 374.
Arithmetical notation, Chaldean system of, 365.
Armenia, description of, 481. Minor, 417.
Armenian campaigns of the Assyrian Kings, 483. Alliance with Persia against Media, 481.
Arrow-headed characters, a combination of two cuneiform elements, 349.
Arsee, King of Persia, 516, murdered by Bagoas, 517.
Arsinoë, now called the Fyâm, 18.
Art, contrast between Assyrian and Egyptian, 346. Periods and styles of Assyrian, 346.
Artabanus, usurpation of, 530.
Artabanus's rebellion in the reign of Ochus, 519.
Artaxerxes I. (or Artaxerxes) Longimannus, 530. Reason of the nickname, 531, n. His commissions to Ezra and Nehemiah, 531. Explanation of the name Artaxerxes, 531, n.
 — II. Mnemon, 533. Marries his daughter Atossa, 534.
Artimelia builds the mausoleum, 447.
Aryan language, 8. Aryan type of cuneiform writing, 351.
Bactria the ancient home of the race, 395. Divided into the elder branch the Aryas, and the younger the Yavanas, 375. The primitive Aryans a pastoral people, 376. Their social life, morals, and religion, 376. Primitive religion, 377. Its monotheistic basis, 377. Corruption into dualism and pantheistic nature-worship, 376. Conflict of Aryans and Turanians, 379. Iranian and Indian branches of the race, 395. Their religion developed into Brahminism, 395.
Arvandus baniakî by Darius, 524.

Assalon takes and destroys Sidon, 561.
Ashdod, war of, 130, 144. See Azotus.
Asia Minor, its importance in ancient history, 415. Geographical structure, 415. Climate and productions, 418. Dimensions of the peninsula, 419. Remarkable mixture of populations, 420. Nations of it holding successively the supremacy of the sea, 456. — Upper and Lower, 223.
Aspadana = Isfahan, 404.
Aschur, the hero-eponymus and supreme deity of Assyria, 220. Inquiry respecting the name, 368. The supreme god, 360. Explanation of a curious emblem of, 370.
Aschur-bani-pal's capture and sack of Egyptian Thebes, 136. His name suggestive of Sardanapalus, 204. A great conqueror and magnificent monarch, 204. His systematic care for literature, 204. Homage to him by Gyges King of Lydia, 204. Wars in Susiana and Babylon, 204. Horrible cruelty, 205. Palace at Koyunlik, 205. Domestic scene in his bas-reliefs, 205. Corresponds to the "warlike Sardanapalus" of the Greeks, 206. His library, 356. Mr. Layard's account of its discovery and value, 356.
Aschur-naer-pal, King of Assyria, 244. Plan of his palace, 249. Conquests of, 250. His great inscription, 241. Receives tribute from Phœnicia, 568.
Assyria, like Egypt, yielding up long-hidden history, 191. Its population Semitic, 207. The Assyria of the Greek historians, 219. The Semitic Aschur, 219. The four heroes of the Greek legend of, 220. The true heart of Assyria, 226. Ruins of its four capitals, 227. List of kings, 232. Its oldest contemporary records, 233. Old and new empire, 244. Extent of the empire, 260.
Assyrian conquest of Egypt, 135. Of Ethiopia, 137. Upper and Lower dynasties, 233. Elements of royal names, 234. Their Semitic character, 235.

Cruelty of the kings, 254.
Luxurious people who cultivated the useful arts to the highest pitch, 253. In dress, furniture, and jewellery not much behind the moderns, 251. New discoveries in its antiquities more and more confirmative of Scripture history, 257. Seven kings of the New or Lower Empire, 267. Canon, lately discovered, 282. The Empire reached as far West as the Halya, 294. Its character, 299. Sacerdotal character of Assyrian and Babylonian kings, 305, 350. What remains to be done in Assyrian exploration, 328. Difference between Assyrian and Babylonian sculptures, 319. External features of Assyrian palaces, 342. Plan of the true Assyrian temple, 343. Grammatical literature, 355. Great cuneiform work on grammar, 357. Twelve great gods, 372. Genii and inferior deities, 372.
Ashtar or Ashiorth the chief goddess of the Phœniciana, 504.
Assyriology, primarily astronomy, 373.
Astronomy, Egyptian, 189. Chaldean, 194.
Astronomy, Egyptian knowledge of, exaggerated, 189. Chaldean or Babylonian, 361.
Astyages, a title rather than the proper name of the last king of Media, 408. His reign, 479. Description of his court, 480.
Aychia, law of, 122.
Aphrodite, 171.
Atossa, daughter of Cyrus, 503. Urges Darius to undertake the conquest of Greece, 535.
Aturia, its physical features, 226. Name = Assyria, 16.
Atys and his sons Lydus and Forrhebus, 449. Herodotus's poetical treatment of the story of Atys and Adrastus, 456.
Avaris of the Shepherd kings, the Zoan of Scripture, 77. Usually identified with Pelusium, but proved to be Tanis, 77.
Azotus (Ashdod) taken after a siege of 20 years, the longest on record, 144.

B

Baal, the chief god of Phoenicia, 564.

Babel, city and tower of, 199. Origin of the word, 199. Babel and Babylon, local and not ethnic names, 200. Tower of Babel at Borsippa, and the ruins of Birs-Nimrud on its original foundation, 201.

Bab-Il, the gate or house of God, 156.

Babylon, earliest use of the title of king of, 211. Its rivalry to the empire of Assyria, 238. Fall of, 325. Its buildings, 328. Extremities resorted to during Darius's siege of, 520.

Babylonia, contrast between its ancient and present state, 198. Southern tetrapolis of, 206. Indications of the existence of two tetrapoles, 206. Its four great races, 210. Three classes of inscriptions in, 224.

Babylonian ruins, objects found in, 205. Note on the early chronology of the Babylonians, 214. Internal ornament of temples, 335.

Bagistam, city of, stood at the foot of the rock of Behistun, 403.

Bagoas, the eunuch, minister of Ochus, 534. Poisons Ochus, 536. Murders Arses, 537. Compelled to drink the poison he had mixed for Godomannus, 537.

Bahr-Yuseuf, the canal of Joseph, 18.

Bardes or Smerdis, son of Cyrus, 503.

Βαυλιεύς, mode of installation of an ancient, 377.

Behistun, transcription of the trilingual rock-inscription of, 352. The famous record of Darius, 404. Its account of the revolution of the pseudo-Smerdis, 509. Its contents relating to Darius, 523.

Bellerophon, legend of, 472.

Belshazzar's defence of Babylon, 324. His festival, 324. Slain, 325.

Belus, the hero-eponymus of Babylon, 208.

Beni-hassam, tombs of, 60.

Berosus, his history of Baby-

lon or Chaldea, 203. Dynasties of, 204.

Berytus, city of, 554.

Bias of Priene, apologue of to Cressus, 494.

Bibla, Egyptian origin of the word, 183.

Birs, the prefix, 200.

Birs-Nimrud, mound of, 200. Identified with the temple of Bel-Merodach or Nebo at Borsippa, 200, 319. Inscription found among its ruins, 200.

Bitumen, a characteristic production of Babylonia, 331.

Black obelisk king, the, 250.

Bocchoris transfers the Egyptian capital to Sais, 124.

Burnt alive by Sabaco, 124.

Borsippa, the northern seat of the sacred learning of the Chaldeans, 208. Great temple of Nebo at, 119. Description of the temple at, 332. Curious proportions of the building, 333.

Borsippent and Orchoënt, two schools of the Chaldeans, 360.

Bosphorus (corrupted into Bosphorus), the etymological equivalent of Ox-ford, 415.

Botta's (M.), discoveries at Khorsabad, 244.

Bricks, the pyramid of Dashoor the first example of a building constructed of, 66. Brick pyramids, 66. Brick-making by Egyptian captives, 92. Description of Babylonian bricks, 329.

Bubastis, capital of Egypt, 116. The sacred city of the goddess Pasht, 118. Described by Herodotus, 118. Temple of the goddess Bubastis, 118. Her festival, 119.

Byblus or Gebal, an ancient religious city of Phoenicia, 554.

C

Caducei, war of Artaxerxes against the, 514.

Calah (Nimrud), ruins of, 227.

Calendar, the Egyptian, 88.

Callinus of Ephesus, the Ionian poet, 467.

Cambe, the site afterwards occupied by Carthage, 559.

Cambyases, father of Cyrus,

and king of the Persians, 488.

Cambyases, son of Cyrus, 504. Puts to death his sister-wife, 503. Formation of his name from the Persian original, 503. His attack on Egypt, 155. Obtains the safe-conduct of the "King of the Arabs," 505. Takes Memphis, 506. Defeats Psammetichus, 506. His sacrilege in killing the Apis, 176. Assumes the full style of an Egyptian king, 506. Defiance by the Ethiopian king in reply to his embassy, 507. He marches into Ethiopia, 507. Destruction in the desert of a detachment of his army sent against the Ammonians, 507. Returns to Thebes, 507. His madness ascribed to his sacrilege, 508. Opinions on his alleged madness, 508. Addiction to drunkenness, 509. Secures the submission of Egypt, 509. His suicide, 511.

Canaanites, their boundaries, 547. Hieratic Egyptian Papyrus fixing the date of their establishment in Palestine, 549. Their settlements in Phoenicia, 554.

Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, 126.

Candaules and Gyges, three forms of the legend of, 462.

Cappadocians, why called Syrians, 421. Their Aryan origin, 421.

Carchemish, city of, 89. Victory of Nebuchadnezzar over Neco at, 307.

Carians, the, 442. Two accounts of their origin, 443. Their connection with the Leleges, 445. Their trade of mercenary soldiers, 446. The kingdom of Caria, 447. Carian used synonymously with slave, 447. Among the most ancient inhabitants of Asia Minor and the Grecian peninsula, 445.

Carthage, its first appearance in general history, 506. Foundation of, 508. Its treaty of commerce with the infant republic of Rome, 580. Its fall decides the conflict between Eastern and Western civilisation, 580.

Cassiterides (the Scilly Islands), Phoenician voyages to the, 572.

Caste, three conditions of, 157. Caucasian race, limits of their primary settlements, 6. How the term Caucasian is to be understood, 6. Caucasians, account of them by Herodotus, 441. Caveh, Aryan legend of, 379. Centenarian reign of Phlopa, 56. Cheronea, battle of, 356. Chaldaea, the land of Shinar, 196. Restriction in using the name, 213. Chaldean marshes (the), 198. Astronomical science of the priests, 206. Northern and southern seats of their sacred learning, 206. Note on the Chaldeans and the Akkad, 215. The Chaldeans a branch of the great Hamitic race of Akkad, 215. The kings of Babylon Chaldaean, 305. Ascendancy of the Chaldean caste, 305. Oldest towns, 335. Domestic architecture, 316. Three kinds of tombs and modes of burial, 336. The Chaldeans a priestly caste, 358. The Rab Mag (Archimagus) of the order, 359. Initiation into it of the Assyrian kings, 359. The caste in the book of Daniel, 359. The most ancient of the Babylonians, 359. Their name a byword for prophetic and magical imposture, 360. Astronomy, 361. Influence of their predictions in public and private life, 365. Triads of their theology, 371. Chalysba, the, 421. The first iron-workers, 466. Champollion - Figeac and Dr. Young, their respective claims as discoverers of the lost key to hieroglyphics, 184. Chedorlosner, conqueror of Babylon, 209. His kingdom Elam, 210. Choops and Cephren, their names detected by the Egyptians, 54. Cheu, priest-kings of, 111. Chimera, signification of the legend of the, 432. Chinese, the great type of an isolating language, 8. Christ, genealogy of, 311. Sicilia, Greek colonies in, 431. The nest of all the pirates in the Levant, 432. Clickans of the Semitic race,

430. Their Phoenician origin, 430. Cimmerian invasion of Asia, the great, 292. The Cimmerians invade Asia Minor, 464. Their native land in Europe afterwards called Scythia, 464. Cimmeria, Scythia, and Sarmatia applied to the same region, 464. The name survives in the Crimea or Crim-Tartary, 465. Conquest of the country by the Scythians, 465. The Cimmerians probably progenitors of the Cymry of Wales and even of all the Celtic races, 466. First named as the Gomer of Genesis, 466. Hebrew prophecy relating to Cimmerian and Scythian invasions, 475. Circumcision, Egyptian rite of, 177. Climax Tyrorum, 544. Commerce between Europe and India, highway of, 5. Coptic language, 27. Etymologies of the word, 27. Probably the ancient form of the word Egypt, 27. Complete disappearance of the language, 27. Coronation stone, Scottish, 177. Cosmical year of the Chaldeans, 361. Cosmogony of Moses, its parallel in the Egyptian religion, 171. Of Hesiod and Ovid derived from the pantheistic religion of the Aryans, 378. Misuse of the word, 391. Cosmogonic deities, 371. Croesus and "Cave no eae," 442. Relation of the story to the pronunciation of Latin, 442. Crest, earliest use of, 161. Criminal code, Egyptian, 165. Crocodile, symbolism of the, 175. Croesus succeeds Alyattes, 494. Ambiguous reply of the Delphic Oracle to him, 495. A curious chapter in the history of superstition, 495. His retreat to Sardis after defeat, 497. Cyrus's treatment of the conquered king, 498. Ctesias's history of Persia, 204. Mythical legend of, 219. An untrustworthy witness on Oriental history, 219. Cuneiform and hieratic

systems of writing, resemblance between, 307. Turanian origin of cuneiform writing, 307. Arrow-headed character, 216. Nature of cuneiform writing, 210. Experimentum crucis of cuneiform science, 219. Cuneiform writing formed from the hieratic by pressure of the style, 349. Origin of the term cuneiform, 349. Essential identity of the hieratic and cuneiform characters, 350. Cuneiform writing always from left to right, 351. Discovery of a key to its interpretation, 351. System of interpretation established, 354. The archaic, modern, and cursive stages of cuneiform writing, 350. The Persian cuneiform alphabet, 354. Immense mass of undeciphered literature, 372. Cyrus takes Nineveh, 298. Great battle between him and the Lydians, 301. Overthrows the Assyrian empire, 306. His great war against Alyattes, king of Lydia, 307. The first who gave organisation to an Asiatic army, 413. The true founder of the Medo-Persian kingdom, 412. Testimony of Aeschylus, 412. His reign, 470. Massacre of the Scythians 471. Cybele, the mother of the gods, names of, 426. Cyclopean or Pelagian structures, 425. Cyrus, its dimensions and production, 419. Cyrus the Great, legend of his birth and early life 489. His rebellion vindicates the religion of Zoroaster against that of the Magi, 499. Different accounts of his displacement of Atyages, 491. His generosity to the conquered Atyages, 492. Accession, 491. Of mixed Persian and Median birth, 495. Hence the "mule" of an oracle, 495. Invites the Ionians to revolt from Croesus, 496. Conquers Lydia, 498. Asia Minor and Upper Asia, 499. Restores Babylon, 524. Inverts the course of the Euphrates, 524. Conquest of Babylon, 499. Falls in battle with

the Massagetae, 499. His tomb at Pasargade identified, 500. Ideal picture of the Cyropædia, 500. His noble qualities, 500. Vast change effected in the Persian nation by his conquests, 500. His two sons and three daughters, 502. Cyrus the younger, his claim to the throne from "royal birth," 512. Falls at Cumæa, 533.

D

Dagon, the fish-god, 551.
 Damascus, destruction of the kingdom of, 271.
 Daniel the prophet's impersonation of the Medo-Persian kingdom, 413.
 Dardanians of Troy, 452.
 Darius, the head of seven conspirators, slays the pseudo-Smerdis, 512. Names of his associates in the enterprise, 512. Remarkable agreement of Herodotus and the Behistun inscription, 512. His right to the crown by descent, 513. Privileges granted to his confederates, 514. Debate among the chief friends, 514. Massacre of the Magians, 515. The second founder of the Persian empire, 517. His marriages, 517. In the Behistun inscription represents himself as the hereditary champion of the Achæmenids, 517. Restores the Zoroastrian worship, 518. Extent of his kingdom, 519. Revolts during his first six years, 519. List of the countries conquered by him, 519. Takes Babylon after a siege of twenty months, 520. Defeats, mutilates, and crucifies Phraortes, 522. His Zoroastrian zeal, 523. Conquest of the Indians, 525. Approximate date of his Indian expedition, 525. His Scythian expedition, 526. Crosses the Hellespont by a bridge of boats, 526. Present from the Scythian prince to the invader, 527. His escape from the Scythians, 527. Contrast between the adventures of Darius and Napoleon in Knæsia, one of the most striking parallels in his-

tory, 527. Death of Darius, 528.

Darius II., Nothus, 532.
 — III., Codomannus, the last king of Persia, 537. His flight from Issus and Arbela, 537. Alexander throws his cloak over the corpse of, 528, 538.
 Date-palm, its 360 uses, 198.
 Days of the week, origin of the names of, 362.
 Dead (the), Egyptian judgment of, 177.
 Deloese, king of Media, 407. The hero-eponyms of the Medæ, 408. The despot's mode of life and government, according to Herodotus's ideal picture, 410.
 Deities, three orders of Egyptian, 173. Fable accounting for their animal shapes, 174. Theory that the animals were consecrated for benefits derived from them, 174. Supposed analogies between the attributes of the gods and the specific qualities of the animals, 175.
 Delta of the Nile, 18. Its dimensions, 19.
 Deluges, among the oldest traditions of the Aryan race, 378.
 Democedes, sent by Darius to Greece as a spy, 525.
 Deresto, the great goddess of Ascalon, 221.
 Desert song (the great) and its interruptions, 4.
 Despotism, a misfortune for all who inherit, a crime in all who seize it, 509.
 Dewâ = *θεός*, the Aryan name of the Supreme Being, 377.
 Dido = the fugitive, 568.
 Diodorus on Egyptian history, 31.
 Dodecarchy of Egypt, 140.
 Dominion of the world transferred from the despotism of the East to the free spirit of the West, 528.
 Dualism the religion of the Iranians, 386.
 Duplication of events or persons to get over a difficulty, 283.

E

Ecbatana, building of the capital city, 408. The modern Hamadan, 410.
 Eclipse of Thales, 476.
 Egypt, Upper and Lower, 13.

The granary of the ancient world, 20. Causes of its early prosperity, 21. Difficulty of invasion, 21. Abundant supply of food, 21. Facility of communication, 21. Etymology of the word, 28. History begins with Egypt, 29. The real records of Egyptian history her own monuments and books, 32. Classification of Egyptian monuments, 34. Two classes of records of especial historical value, 34. The seven divine rulers of Egypt, 37. Division between Upper and Middle Egypt, 168. Difficulties of the Egyptian language, 9.

Egyptians civilised before any other people, 14. Their astronomical and geometrical discoveries, 22. Symbols of life and death the Nile or Osiris, and the evil power or Typhon, 23. Speculations on the origin of the Egyptians, 24. Belonged to the Caucasian, not the African, race, 26. Their names Chem and Mizraim, 27. Succession of kings according to Herodotus, 38. Lists of Manetho, 39. Question of whether his dynasties were successive or contemporaneous, 39. Table of contemporaneousness of dynasties, 40. Eight broad divisions of the whole history of Egypt, 40. Introduction of animal worship, 42. First three dynasties, 42. The real history begins with the fourth dynasty, 43. The life of the Egyptians represented on the tombs surrounding the pyramids, 48. Mechanical arts and moral virtues of the oldest Egyptians, 50. Policy towards subject states, 88. Wretched condition of the native peasantry, 103. Razzias to kidnap negroes, 104. Decline of power, 105. Political division of Egypt, 128. Submits to Alexander the Great, 155. Becomes a Roman province, 155. Permanence of the Egyptian character, 157. Seven classes enumerated by Herodotus, five by Diodorus, 158. Great variety of

classes of artisans seen on the monuments, 159. Priests the highest class, 160. The military class, 161. The government an absolute monarchy qualified by laws, 162. Theory of the king's royalty, 163. His divinity and rules of daily life, 163. Duties, 163. His insignia, 163. Mistake about his posthumous judgment, 164. The succession hereditary, 164. Judicial administration, 167. Government in the hands of the two privileged orders, priests and soldiers, 169. Egypt revolts from Darius, 328. Regains its independence, 533. See Architecture, Sculpture, Painting, Hieroglyphics.

Elephantine, island of, 17.

Eleutheria, Smyrnanean festival of the, 464.

Embalment, from belief in the resurrection of the body, 177.

Eneteis and Muntops, monuments of the, 63.

Era of Nabonassar nearly coincident with the foundation of Rome, and the first recorded Olympian victory, 267.

Eratosthenes on Egypt, 31.

Erythraean sea of Herodotus, 550.

Esar-Haddon, king of Assyria and Babylon, 290. Cylinders in the British Museum, containing records of his nine campaigns, 290. Destroys Sidon, 291. Invades Egypt, 291. His palaces, 291.

Emnassar, king of Sidon, inscription of, 575.

Ether, the Jewish queen of, 300.

Ethiopia forms a new dynasty at Tyre, 507.

"*Ἐθιοπία*," 289.

Ethiopian winds of Egypt, 22.

Ethiopia, great sacerdotal kingdom of, 16. The priests send a sentence of death to the king when they think he has lived long enough, 127. "The vile race of Cush," 124. Name, description, and limits of Ethiopia, 125. Egyptian derivation of the word, 125. The anstrung bow a symbol of, 507. "Ethiopia above Egypt"

annexed to the Persian empire, 508.

Ethnology and comparison of languages, light thrown by them on ancient history, 5.

Euphrates, course of the, 194. Derivation of the word, 194. Ancient canals connecting it with the Tigris, 197.

Evagoras's rebellion in Cyprus, 533.

Evil-Merodach, reign of, 522.

Exodus from Egypt, calamities attending it, 106.

Eye-doctors, Egyptian, 155.

F

Fairy-isle, the oldest in the world, 189.

Feridûn, king of Persia, 379.

Feruber, the symbol of deity, 370, 393. Engraving of the emblem, 396.

Fervers and Yazata, 389.

Fire-worship, 396.

Fish-god, names of the, 371.

Fyûm (the) or nome of Arsinoë, 67.

G

Gades founded by the Phœniciana, 562.

Gâthâ of the Zendavesta, 381.

Genesis, its four principles of classification of races, 9. Agreement of its records with the results of comparative philology, 10.

Geographical mile, the only natural measure of the earth's surface, 419. Its commensurability with the stadium, 419.

Geometry, origin of, 22. Egyptian practical, 189. Chaldean geometry and arithmetic, 367.

Gimiri (= Cimmericians), meaning of the term, 472.

Glass, Assyrian, 280. Tyrian, 518.

Glaucus, a Chian artist, his silver bowl at Delphi, 459.

God, Egyptian doctrine of one self-existing, 170. The name in the sacred books of Egypt "I am that I am," 170.

Gomates, the true name of the Pseudo-Smerdis, 509.

Umpre the crown of Persia, 516.

Gordian knot, the, 451.

Grotefend's decipherment of

the cuneiform character 352.

Gyza, king of Lydia, 204. His ring, 461. Oracle that vengeance for the Heraclida would fall on his fifth descendant, 461. Dates of the five generations, 461.

H

Hadad (Edomite prince) protected by Pharaoh, 114. Returns to reclaim his birthright, 120.

Halicarnassus, kingdom of, 447.

Haiys (the), the boundary of the Median and Lydian empires, 301, 474. A great ethnic and historical boundary, 418.

Ham, fulfilment of Noah's prophetic curse on, 7.

Hamath or Epiphania, city and kingdom of, 553.

Hamite race, its four branches, 6.

Hanging gardens of Babylon, 318, 319.

Harpagus's conquest of the Asiatic Greeks, 499.

Harry tomb, the, 448.

Hatasen (queen), monument of her splendor in the palace of Karnak, 89.

He-brews, end of their captivity, 499.

Hebron, building of, 215.

Hellenism, a temple for the Greeks in Egypt, 253.

Hermetic books of the Egyptians, 188.

Hermotybians and Caisians, 161.

Herodotus's account of Egyptian life and manners, 10.

Heros-eponymi of nations, artificial arrangements of, 417.

Hildokol of Edon, the Tigris, 104.

Hieratic writing, examples of, 149.

Hieroglyphics, their interpretation discovered independently by Dr. Young and Champollion, 16. Three forms of Egyptian writing, hieroglyphic, hieratic, and demotic or enchorial, 184. Discovery of the key to hieroglyphics, 184. Particulars of the discovery, 185. The characters partly phonetic and partly ideographic, 186. Illustrations of the system, 186.

Hiram, king of Tyre, his alliance with Solomon, 565. His great works at Tyre, 566. Letters between him and Solomon, 566.

Histaeus, the Milestan General, 527.

History, when seen Ar begins, 1. Sacred, 2. The field of ancient history divided by mountain-chains and tablelands into three portions, 2. — (ancient), its two different streams and two antagonist principles, 11. New materials for the authentic history of the East, 11. Important synchronisms between sacred and secular, 120. Coincidence of sacred, secular, and monumental, 282.

Homa, ceremony of offering the juice of the plant, 392.

Hophra (Pharaoh) of Scripture, the Apries of Herodotus, 149.

Horses, Nissan breed of, 402.

Hur, the supposed capital of Chaldaea, 208.

Hytases or Shepherd kings invade Egypt, 62, 73. False identification with the Hebrews, 75. Their race Semitic, 75. Conquer Egypt, 76. Their expulsion, 79.

Hytasades discover the means of taking Sardis, 498.

Hystaspes (= Victaspas and Gushtasp) father of Darius, 381, 487, 513, 522.

I

I or Ilou, the supreme god of the Assyrio-Babylonian pantheon, 368.

Inarus and Amyrtæus, rebellion in Egypt under, 371.

Incarnation of the Egyptian gods in the bull Apis, the bull Mnevis, and the goat at Mendes, 175.

Indo-European or Indo-Germanic languages, 8. Table of the Indo-European family of languages, 11.

Inflectional languages, two families of, the Indo-European and the Semi It, 8.

Inscriptions, Persian trilingual and bilingual, 357.

Insignia of the king of Egypt, 151, 164.

Ionians, the Egyptian name for the Greeks in general, 144. Ionian colonies in Asia Minor, 453. Revolt against Darius, 528.

Ionic capital, type of, in an Assyrian temple, 341.

Iran, the table-land of, 375.

Irony of history, example of the, 289.

Isaurians, their long independence, 434.

Israel under Solomon, empire of, 240. Captivity of the Israelites east of Jordan, 270. The whole population removed to Mesopotamia, 272. The remainder carried away captive, 274.

Issus, passes or gates of, 416.

Iva-Lush or Vul-lush, reign of, 261.

J

Jacob, group of Jebusites formerly taken for the family of, 71.

Japhetic race, 374.

Jehoiakim put to death by Nebuchadnezzar, 310.

Jehu, king of Israel, 257.

Jemshid, mythical reign of, 378.

Jeroboam's rebellion, 120.

Jerusalem, according to Manetho quoted by Josephus, built by the Shepherd kings of Egypt, 80. The date of its investment by Nebuchadnezzar a Jewish fast, 314. Epoch of the destruction of, 315. Besieged by Sennacherib and defended by Hezekiah, 285.

Jewish kingdom named on the monuments of Sheshouk, 120. Likeness between the Jewish and Egyptian codes, 165.

Jewa, sympathy of Cyrus and Darius for their pure monotheism, 518.

Josephus's account of the invasion of Egypt by the Shepherd kings, 74.

Joseph's Pharaoh, 78. Joseph brought into Egypt under the Shepherd-king Aphiops, 79.

Josiah, death of, 146.

Judaea, promise of its complete liberation from Assyria fulfilled, 287.

Judah, the great captivity of, 311.

Judith (book of) one of the earliest examples of historical fiction, 408. Its substratum of historical truth, 522.

Jupiter Belus, temple of, 200.

K

Kanats or underground canals for irrigation, 402.

Karnak and Luxor, monuments of, 85. The numerical wall of Karnak, 90. Description of the Hall of Columns, the triumph of Egyptian architecture, 97.

Khorsabad, M. Botta's discovery of inscriptions at, 278. Mounds and platforms, 341. Palace of Sargon, 342.

Kileh-Sherbat (Asshur), ruins of, 228.

Knuphis or Noum = the Creator, 171.

L

Labyntus, king of Babylon, 496.

Labyrinth, the Egyptian, 66.

Lachish, site of, 287.

Lampe, feast of, in honour of the goddess Neith, 141.

Languages, comparative, the best test of national affinity, 7. Three classes of the form of languages, 8.

Layard's (Rt. Hon. A. H.) discoveries at Nimrud, 244.

Leather Standard, the sacred, 379.

Lebanon, cedars of, 546.

Leleges and Pelasgians sister races, 445. The earliest known inhabitants of Samos, 445. Sprung from the stones of Deucalion, 446.

Lelex the first native king of Laconia, 446.

Letters of the alphabet brought from Phœnicia into Greece by Cadmus, 560.

Λεωκόροπος, 421.

Libyans and the militia of Egypt, 123.

Lunar eclipses alone predicted by the Chaldeans, 363.

Luxor and Karnak, monuments of, 85.

Lycian art, remains of, discovered by Sir C. Fellows, 436. Greek legends of the origin of the Lycians, 436. Language and inscriptions, 438. Three tribes, 418. Tremilis the name of their principal tribe, 439. Sculpture and architecture, 439. Tomb of Palafa in the British Museum, 439. "Inscribed Monument," 440. Federal government, 441.

Lydia, gold of, 494. Lydia Proper and Torthebia, 449. Lydians, the, 448. Their colonisation of Éturia, 450. Origin and antiquities of the race, 451. Mythical genealogy of the brothers Lydus, Mysus, and Car, 451. Kingdom of Lydia, 456. Its three dynasties, 456. Genealogy of the kings of the first dynasty, the Atyade, 456. The second dynasty, the Heronidae, 457. Theory of the Assyrian origin of the dynasty, 458. Semitic origin of the Lydians, 458. The third dynasty, the Mernnada, 460. War between Lydia and Media, 475. Lygdamis, leader of the Cimmerians, killed, 468.

M

Meonia, poetical use of the word, 449.
Meonians, the, 448. Expelled by the Lydians, 449.
Magian religion mistaken for Zoroastrianism, 306.
Magophonia, festival of, 515.
Maikín's Historical Parallels, 305.
Mau-bull a symbol of the divine power, 343.
Manasseh's captivity, 291. Restoration, 192.
Manetho's history of Egypt, 31. List of Dynasties, 31.
Manichæism a perversion of Zoroastrian doctrine, 388.
Manu, Indian laws of, 377.
Marathon, battle of, 528.
Marsyas, mythical conflict of Apollo with, 426.
Mathematical and astronomical discoveries due to Babylonians rather than to Egypt, 358.
Mastien, the, 422.
Maut, the universal mother, representing inert matter, 371.
Masara or Cesarea, capital of Cappadocia, 419.
Maximism the religion of Zoroaster, 384.
Media, signification of the name, 207. Limits of, 399. Media Atropatene, and Media Magna, 400. Its imperfect subjection to Assyria, 405.
Medes, their three distinct attacks on Assyria, 297. And Persians both branches of the Aryan race, 374. Their affinity with races

of northern India and with European races, 335. Origin of the Medes, 401. Foundation of the Median monarchy, 406. Their six tribes, 408. War with the Lydians, 476.
Medicine (Egyptian) empirical and often absurd, 189.
Medo-Persian empire, its nature, 492.
Megabazus's conquest of Thrace and Macedonia, 528.
Megabyzus retakes Memphis, 531. Revolta, 531.
Meicarth, the Phœnician Hercules, 576.
Meles, charm of king, 498.
Memnon, the vocal, 85. Description of the statue, 94. Explanation of the sound emitted from it, 94.
Memphis, the earliest seat of the Egyptian kingdom, 42. The Memphian monarchy a period of civilisation which had no known infancy, 51. The site identified, 52. The Memphite necropolis, 51. The Memphian dynasties, 51. Fall of the monarchy, 57.
Menephtah, the Pharaoh of the Exodus, 104.
Menes, first (human) king of Egypt, 31. Affinities of the word, 37. His engineering works, 51. Turns the course of the Nile, 51. Builds Memphis, 51. Founder of the empire of Egypt, 55. Era of Menes, 59.
Mentor transfers his services from Sidon to Persia, 539. Defeats Nectanebo, king of Egypt, 536.
Mensaleh, the Pelusiac mouth of the Nile, 18. The great lake, 115.
Mermnad kings of Lydia, 463.
Merodach and Bel, the tutelary deities of Babylon and Borsippa, 212. — Beladan conquered by Sargon, 277.
Merô, island of, 16. Capital of Upper Ethiopia, 126. Different opinions on its origin, 126. Honours to Amun and Osiris at, 127.
Mesopotamia compared with Egypt, 192. The empire, first of Assyria and afterwards of Babylon, 193. Mesopotamia Proper, 196. Early ethnology of, 202.
Métomic or golden cycle known to the Chaldeans, 363. Its exact period, 363.

Metric system (French) at variance with history, nature, and science, 361.
Midas, king of Phrygia, 483. A type of the wealth and fall of the kingdom of Phrygia, 481. Legends of, 454. As son of Orpheus a type of the cultivation of music among the Phrygians, 454. Historical elements in the legends, 454. Inscription on his tomb, 455. His suicide, 427, 467.
Milk, intoxicating drink from, 473.
Mina, values of the Attic and Egimæan, 164.
Mithra (the Sun) and his antagonist Mithras the Bad, 390.
Mithraic worship, 390.
Mitrasm the Semitic name of the Egyptians, 6.
Moabite inscription, newly discovered, 381.
Mœria, lake, described, 67. Its use, 68.
Mohammed's way extended over the middle of Hell, 391.
Monarchies, connection between Lydian, Median, and Babylonian, 479.
Monolith chamber, transportation of an Egyptian, 154.
Monogamy of Egyptian priests, 161.
Month, the Sun-God, 173.
Moon, temple of the, at Mughier, 134.
Moschici Montes, 416.
Moses, his name Egyptian, 102. Initiation into the wisdom of the Egyptian priests, 164.
Mouse (the), a sacred emblem, 132.
Myosœa, lion gate of, 422.
Myrcerina, piety and deification of, 34.
Mylitta, Alitta, or Mitra, mode of sacrificing to, 394.
Mysian language a mixture of Phrygian and Lydian, 423.

N

* Nabathæan Architecture," a book written at Babylon, 213.
Nabonassar, era of, 221. Its exact epoch, 264. Destroys the acts of the kings before him, 304. List of kings of Babylon from the era of, 304.
Nabonadius or Nabonidus,

last king of Babylon, 202, 323. His alliance with Cressus, 202, 323. Defeated by Cyrus, 324. His flight to Borsippa, 324. Motive for associating Belshazzar in the sovereignty, 324. Surrenders to a king is favoured by Cyrus, 325.

Nabopolassar causes himself to be proclaimed king of Babylon and overthrows the Assyrian empire, 306. His great engineering works at Babylon, 307. End of the dynasty of, 323.

Nahum, striking prophecy of, 177.

Natri, country of the, 239. Their tribes, 231.

Napata, sacerdotal kingdom of, 123. City of, 126. Its commerce, 126.

Nations of the ancient world, two great groups of, 10. Eastern and Western distinguished by immobility and energy, 10.

Nebo, chief of the gods, 225. His statue, 262.

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, 147. The one great monarch of the Babylonian empire, 205. Without him the Babylonians would have had no place in history, 308. Created the empire of Babylon by the victory of Carchemish, 308. Signification of his name, 308. Campaign against Tyre, 309. Takes Jerusalem, 309. Destroys the temple, 313. His vision of the colossal image of the empires of the world, 312. Destroys Jerusalem, 315. Contrasted with Titus, 316. Invades Egypt twice, 317. Conquers Egypt, 317. His great works at Babylon, 318. Built the great wall, 318. His madness, 319. Marvellous activity and energy, 319. The greatest type of the Oriental despot, 319. His lycanthropy, 320. Recovery and death, 321. Decline of the Babylonian empire after his death, 321. Translation of his inscription, 201. "Standard inscription," 325. His account of his works at Babylon, 325. Description of his edifices, 339.

Neco, the Pharaoh-Necho of

the Bible, 146. His attempt to complete the canal connecting the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, 147. His fleets in the two seas, 448.

Nectanebo, the last king of independent Egypt, 155. Neith identified with Athena or Minerva, 143.

Nedjef, inland sea of, 198.

Nicolas of Damascus, the historian, 258.

Nile, "Egypt the gift of the Nile," 14. Cataracts, 15, 16. Physical phenomena, 15, 16. Formed by the junction of the White and Blue rivers, 15, 16. Junction with the Black River, 15, 16. Paludes Nili, 16. Branches of, at the Delta, 18. Periodical inundation, 19. Its cause, 20.

Nilometers, 20.

Nimrod, Cushite kingdom of, 7. Kingdoms of Nimrod and Asshur, 202. Etymological connection of Nimrod and Nipru, 208.

Nimrud, mounds of, 245. Plan of the mound, 246. Mr. Layard's description of the North-West palace at, 247. Standard inscription of, 249. Pyramid of, 253. Nimrud identified with Calah, 254.

Nin, the Assyrian Hercules, after whom Nineveh was named, 220. Ninus and Ninyas impersonations of, 220.

Nineveh or Niniveh, site of, 227. Note on the site and extent of, 240. Its fall and evidence of its destruction, 263, 296, 297. Its destruction described by the Jewish prophets, 300. The epoch of its fall, 146, 223. Still unsettled, 301. Contents of the Royal Library of, 357. Nineveh taken by Cyaxares, 476.

Niniva Claudopolis, 212.

Ninip, the Assyrian Hercules, 371.

Ninus, the hero-eponymus of Nineveh, 220.

Ninyas, son of Semiramis, 222. A politic and self-indulgent ruler, 222. His profound policy, 222.

Nitocris, queen of Babylon, 152, 321. Regarded as a queen regnant by Herodotus, 308. Her vengeance and suicide, 36.

Nomes, division of Egypt

into, 168. Their numbers increased under Roman emperors, 168. Their nomarchs and toparchs, 168. Delegates of the nomes lodged in the labyrinth, 169.

Nubian eye, elongated, 125.

Numerals, Egyptian, 189.

Nyanza, Albert and Victoria, 16.

O

Oannes and other fish-men, 204. The fish-god, worshipped in Philitista, 221.

Oasis of Ammon, 168. And the Great Oasis, 507.

Obelisk (the Black) of Shalmaneser II.

Obelisks, dimensions of Egyptian and Assyrian, 255.

Ochus or Artaxerxes III, 534. His cruelty and blood-thirstiness, 534. His ministers Bagoas and Mentor, 534. Poisoned by Bagoas, 536.

Ophthalmia always one of the plagues of Egypt, 155.

Oppert's (M.) Cuneiform grammar, 354.

Ormazd or Ahuramazda, the Greek Oromasdes, titles of, 384. His creation of man and the corruption of the work by Ahriman little different from the similar account in Genesis, 390.

Orceus, treason and punishment of, 524.

Osiris and Typhon, the good and evil principles, 37. Osiris, Isis, and their son Horus, 172. Boat of Osiris, 172.

P

Pacification, Roman idea of, 201.

Padan-Aram or Ororène, 196.

Painting, Egyptian chiefly a decorative art, 182. Illustrations of the Ritual of the Dead, 183. Assyrian painting, 347.

Pamphylians, their name indicative of their mixed race, 415. Origin of their Hellenic element, 435.

Pantheistic Sabæism of Babylon, 367.

Paphlagonians, their ethnic affinity to the Cappadocians, 427.

- Papyrus reed, description of writing on it, 113.
- Parysatis, wife of Darius, 11, 512. Her wickedness, 531. Unbounded appetite for cruelty, 533. The she-wolf of Persia, 534.
- Pasargadae, the Persian capital of both Cyrus and Cambyses, 486.
- Pasht, the goddess of fire, identified with Artemis, 118.
- Pelasgians, the earliest known inhabitants of Greece and Southern Italy, 424. Connection of the Pelasgians in Asia Minor with those of Europe, 424. Their peaceful agricultural character, 425.
- Periods of time personified by ancient writers, 362.
- Persia Proper or Persia, 399.
- Persians divided into three classes, 380. The national heroes, Rustem, Kul-Khosru, and Farrukhzad, 395. Position of Persia under the Median supremacy, 485. Their ten tribes and three social classes, 486. Conquest of Egypt, 526. Constitution of the empire, 539. Royal judges of Persia, 539. Despotism of the Great King, 540.
- Phanes of Halicarnassus, his advice to Cambyses, 505. His sons killed before their father's eyes, 505.
- Pharaoh of the Exodus (see Menephtah), 105.
- Phadimus discovers the imposture of the pseudo-Smerdis, 512.
- Phileas, the burial-place of the god Osiris, 16.
- Philip of Macedon, death of, 537.
- Phoenicia, description of, 543. Climate, 545. Etymology of the word, 545. No native history of, 547. Its population before the migration of the Canaanites, 548. Chief cities, 557. Its history divided into periods of Sidonian and Tyrian supremacy, 557. Phoenicia before the Exodus described in an Egyptian papyrus, 557.
- Phoenician civilization connected with Egyptian, 81. The connecting link between Greece and Egypt, 81. The great maritime force of the Persians empire, 504. The Phoenicians refuse to serve against Carthage, 507. The chief remnant of the Canaanites, 548. Phoenician league under the supremacy of Tyre, 542. The seat of trade in the oldest biblical records, 542. The Hyksos or Shepherds called Phoenicians, 551. The Phoenicians Semitic, 551. Their language and the Hebrew differed only as dialects, 551. Settlements on the southern coast of Spain, 562. In Africa, Sardinia, and Sicily, 563. Relations to Assyria, 569; conquered by Aesur-bani-pal, 571.
- Phraortes attacks Assyria, 297. Succeeds Belooes, 410. A Mede of the same name heads a rebellion against Darius, 411. A pretender to the crown of Darius, 521. His punishment, 411.
- Phrygia, etymology of the name, 428.
- Phrygia, Greek legends traced to, 436.
- Phrygians of Aryan or Japhetic origin, 422. Their language represents the older stock from which both Greek and Latin sprang, 429. Their relationship to the early population of Greece, 424. Remains of architecture, 425. Reduced to narrow limits, 427. Supremacy at sea, 427.
- Phtha, the Egyptian deity, the worker by the energy of fire, 37. His temple, 51. The patron deity of Memphis, 52. The all-working power of fire, 171. Identified with Hephaestus, 171.
- Piankh, the Ethiopian king, invades Egypt, 121.
- Place (M.), his discoveries at Koyunjik, 342.
- Polycrates of Samos, historical episode of, 154. Legend of his friendship with Amasis, 524. Put to death, 524. Schiller's ballad 'the King of Polycrates,' 524.
- Polygamy forbidden to Egyptian priests, 161. And incestuous marriage of the Persian kings, 501.
- Polybistor (Alexander), works of, 310.
- Polythelm, origin of Egyptian, 171.
- Priestesses in Egypt, 161.
- Priests of Egyptian temples, 180.
- Propylaea of Egyptian temples, 180.
- Psaemmetichus defeated and put to death by Cambyses, 455.
- Psaemmetichus, his fulfilment of 61 oracles, 140. Makes himself king of Egypt, 141. His Hellenising policy, 143. Favours heaped on his mercenaries, 144. Deserted by the Egyptian class of warriors in number 300,000, 144.
- Pseudo-Smerdis, the, 511. Establishes the Marian system, overthrowing the Zoroastrian worship, 511. His imposture discovered, 512. Blaine by Darius, 512 (see Gomates).
- , a second, 523.
- Psychostasy of the Egyptian dead, 177.
- Pteria, battle of, 497.
- Ptolemies, Egypt under the, 155.
- Ptolemy, canon of, 313.
- Pul of Scripture (the), question concerning, 265.
- Punjab conquered by Darius, 525.
- Pygmalion and Eliza (Dido), 567.
- Pyraethra or fire-towers, 306.
- Pyramid, the Great, the highest building in the world, 175.
- Pyramids of Jizeh, 41. Discovery of workmen's hieroglyphics in the centre of the mass of the great pyramid, 43. The pyramid of Cheops the first monumental link in not only Egyptian but universal history, 44. Plan of the pyramids, 44. Pyramids of Cephren and Mycerinus, 45. Series of pyramids from Jizeh to Isabour, 45. Artistic motives for their size and form, 46. The temple-tombs of defunct kings, 46. Skill and art in building the pyramids evidence of high civilization, 46. The great plain of the pyramids, 51. Astronomical calculations to determine the date of the great pyramid, 59. The Pyramid of Degrees at Sakkara, 333.

R

Ra, the meridian Sun, 371.
 Races of mankind, four physiologically distinguished, 6.
 Rama, the Egyptian symbol of the Creator, 171.
 Ramayána, the most ancient Sanscrit epic, 377.
 Rameses, the city of, papyri recording the Hebrews by name as its builders, 102.
 — I., or Rhamsees, 97.
 — II., son of Seti I., 97.
 His exploits recorded in the Greek legend of Sesostris, 98. Conquests, 99. The Louis XIV. of the Egyptian monarchy, 99.
 The Rameseid, an epic by Pentaur, 99. Personal exploits of Rameses told in a true, Homeric spirit, 100. Treaty with the Hittite king, 101. His enormous harem, 101. One of his wives his own daughter, 101. The great oppressor of the Israelites, 101. His great buildings, 104. His colossal statues, portraits of himself, 104. Bust of one of them in the British Museum, 104.
 — III., restores the Egyptian empire, 107. His campaigns, 108. Victory of his fleet, 109.
 — XII., collecting tribute in Mesopotamia, marries a chief's daughter, 110.
 Rawlinson's (Sir H.), transcription of the trilingual yack-inscription of Behistun, 353.
 Rehoboth's submission to Egyptian sovereignty under Sheshonk, 121.
 Religion (Egyptian), next to the divine unity, the immortality of the soul, the dogma most characteristic of, 171. Three orders of deities, 173. The eight great gods, 173. Twelve of the second order, 173. Two systems of religion, 169. Secrets of Egyptian theology, 169.
 — of Assyria and Babylon, 367.
 Resen, site of, Rhaga, or Rhages, the chief city of Rhagiana, 402.
 Rhagiana, district of, 403.
 Rig-Veda, hymns of the, 377, 388.
 Ritual of the dead, Egyptian,

145, 178. The Egyptian bible, 187. Contains a complete account of the Egyptian doctrine of the future life, 188.
 Rock-city, a town cut out of the natural rock near the Halys, 425.
 Rock-hewn temples of Egypt, 179.
 Rosetta stone, the, 36, 185.
 Rotennou in Mesopotamia, the general name of, 212.

S

Sabaco II., identified with the priest-king Sethos of Herodotus, 129.
 Sabacos the Ethiopian conqueror of Egypt, 128.
 Sabean worship of the heavenly bodies, 206.
 Sabæism explained, 367.
 Sabarina, the Phrygian name of Dionysus, 425.
 Saccæ, the Persian name for all Scythians, 473. The Saka Tigrakhuda and Saka Humawarga, 473.
 Sadyattes, reign of, 468.
 Sagartha revolts against Darius, 522.
 Sais, the last capital of the Pharaohs, 117, 142. Its remains, 117, 142. Connection with Athens, 143. Greek population, 143. Solon's visit to, 143.
 Saite kings of Egypt, 141. The monarchy reached its acmé under Pharaoh Necho, 146.
 Saïtes, the first of the shepherd kings, 77.
 Samaria, the kingdom of, destroyed, 273.
 Sâa, plain and ruins of, 117. The site of the ancient Tanis, 117.
 Sanchoniaton's Phœnician history a forgery, 547.
 Sandanuis's expostulation to Croesus, 496.
 Sangarius and Halys, the rivers, 416.
 Sanscrit, the sacred language of India, 8.
 Saracus burus himself with his palace, 299.
 Sardanapalus collects his treasures, constructs a funeral pile, and perishes with his wives and concubines, 222.
 Sardis, capital of Syria, 448. Pronunciation of the word, 448. Siege of, 498. Captured by Cyrus, 324.
 Sargon, founder of the dynasty of Buzabista, 117.
 Sargon, or Sarkin, a military adventurer, 274. His campaigns, 275. One of the most splendid kings and successful warriors of Assyria, 275. His annals exist in two forms, 275. Victory over the Egyptians at Raphia, 275. Expeditions against the Medes, Parthians, and other nations, 276. Capture of Ashdod, 276. Embassies to him from Cyprus and Assun, 278. Assassinated, 278. His description of his palace at Khorsabad, 279. Fruitless siege of Tyre, 279. Expedition against Cyprus, 271.
 Sassanids, their sacred leather standard, 379.
 Satellite of Jupiter seen with the naked eye, 364.
 Satrapes, Persian, 538. Explanation of the word satrap, 538.
 Scribes, Egyptian corporation of, 168.
 Sculpture, Egyptian style of, 69. The product of religion, 181. Its spirit symbolism and repose, 181. Harmonious rhythm of like postures of several figures, 182. Five different periods of the art, 182.
 Scylax's voyage down the Indus, 525.
 Scythian domination over Asia, 298. Their dominion lasted for twenty-eight years, 471. Three significations of the name, 472. How it is applied by Hesiod and Æschylus, 472. Derivation of the word 473. Asiatic and European Scythia, 464, 474.
 Seals, ancient Assyrian, 355.
 Seal-cylinders, 338.
 Semiramis, legend of, 220. Her divine birth, 220. Exploit for which Ninus married her, 221. Becomes sole queen, 221. Her prodigious edifices, 221. Reproached for her debaucheries and threatened with crucifixion by the Indian king, 221. Her own record of her deeds, 221. Stories of her amours, 222. Apothecis of, 222. An historical Semiramis, 262.
 Semitic languages, 9. Divided into Semitic proper and Sub-Semite, 9. Table

of the Semitic family of languages, 12.

Sennacherib, reign of, 283. His recovery of a signet-ring of an ancient predecessor, 233. Reconquers Babylon, 283. And Phœnicia, 130, 283, 571. Victory at Altaku over Egypt and Ethiopia, 131, 286. Besieges Jerusalem, 285. And Lachish, 286. His army destroyed by a miracle, 132, 287. His fleet built on Phœnician models, 288. Murdered by his two sons, 225, 289. A type of oriental despotism in its unmitigated ferocity, 225, 289. His faith in astrology, 365. His royal cylinder, 370a. Rock-inscription at Bavian, 238. Lesson of his reign, 290. His palace at Kouyunjik (Nineveh), 290.

Seraglio, disorders of the Persian, 530.

Serapeum (the temple of Apis), a misnomer, 176.

Serapis, worship of, 176.

Serbonis, morass of, the Serbonian bog, 19.

Sesostris I., founder of, Egyptian Thebes, 64.

— II., prototype of the Greek Sesostris, his deification, 65. His brick pyramid of Dashoor, 66.

Sesostris of the Greeks traced in Sesostris, 63; and in Ramesses the Great, 98. Various accounts of him, 65. A personage made up of several kings of different epochs, 65. Greek legend of, 98. His law *μὴδεια καταλαβὴν τῆν πατριὰν τέχνην*, 158.

Set or Soutekh (the Egyptian name of Baal) the God of the Hittites, 78.

Setos, the priest-king of Herodotus, 122.

Seti I., king of Egypt, 97. His magnificent build, 99, 97. Reliefs and inscriptions in the Hall of Columns, in the palace of Karnak, a Setheid of his exploiting, 98. Began the canal uniting the Nile to the Red Sea, 98.

— II. (son of Meneptha), regains the throne from the kings of Cheb, 107.

Shalmaneser I., the first known Assyrian conqueror, 211.

— II., statue of, 254. The Black Obelisk King, 254.

His campaigns, 259. Rebellion of his eldest son subdued by a younger, 260. Shalmaneser III., expeditions of, 261.

— IV. destroys the kingdom of Samaria, 273. His maritime campaign against Tyre, 274.

Shekel, its value, 114.

Shemite race, 7.

Shesbonk I., the first Pharaoh mentioned in Scripture by his personal name (Shishak), 120.

Shinar, land of, 213. The kingdom of Amraphel, 210. Shishak or Sheshonk, 120.

Sicily, Greek colonisation of, 570.

Sideral and Cosmic deities, 371.

Sidon, the most ancient city of Phœnicia, 553. Its colonies and commerce, 559. Destroyed by Esmarhaddon, 291. By Artaxerxes Ochus, 577. Still a place of considerable traffic, 580.

Sidonian, generic use of the name for Phœnician, 571. Superiority of the fleet, 377. The Sidonians burn their own city, 535.

Sikkis, breaking of the rocky bar of the Nile at, 68.

Sippara, huge reservoir near, 118.

Skulla, Persian and Egyptian compared, 505.

Smerdis, formation of his name from the Persian original, 503. Murdered by Cambyses, 504.

Sordiana, reign of, 532.

Soil in Sicilia, 412.

Solomon's affinity with Pharaoh, 113. His great commercial empire, 114.

Solon's visit to Sais, 143. His preaching to Croesus an anachronism, 494.

Solyml (the) in Lycia of Semitic race, 420. Conflicts of Bellerophon and other mythical heroes with them, 432. Origin of the name, 433. Their descendants akin to the Karamanians, 433.

Sosa, ner, and sar of Chaldean astronomy, 361.

Sparethra's (Queen) army of women, 499.

Sotic and vulgar (Egyptian) years, 22.

Sphinx, the colossal, 47. Symbolical of power united with intelligence, 48.

Stranger kings of Egypt, 98.

Stratford de Redclyffe (Lord) the collection of Assyrian monuments in the British Museum mainly due to, 245.

Suez canal, inscription stating that it was completed by Darius, 148. Route of the canal of M. de Lesseps, 148.

Suffices at Carthage and Tyre, 576.

Sultan denotes a rank below that of a king, 274.

Sun (the) Egyptian personifications of, 275.

Sundial and its nomenclature, 567.

Supreme Being, various names of the, 577.

Susa, chief capital of the Persian empire, 528.

Syene, the sun vertical at the summer solstices at, 17.

Symbolism in the whole religion of Egypt, 173. Three stages of, 175.

Symbols, Egyptian, suggested by the solar course, 171. Degenerating into the actual worship of living animals, 175.

Syria, derivation of, 219.

T

Tania, the Greek form of Zoan, the Avaris of the Shepherd kings, 114. Its ruins, 115. Becomes the capital of Egypt, 116. Description of its site, 117.

Tarsus, foundation of, 431.

Tatta Palus, the, 418.

Taurus, chain of, 416.

Taxation of land, three categories of Egyptian, 168.

Taylor cylinder in the British Museum, 282.

Tel-Hasta (the bill of Pasht), great mounds of, 119.

Temple (Egyptian), complete form of an, 180. Exterior appendages of sphinxes, obelisks, and colosses, 157.

Temple of Jerusalem burnt, 315. Dates of its building and destruction, 113.

Temple-towers (Babylonian), their astronomical character, 312. The Bird-Nimrud the most perfect example, 312.

Termila, a name of the Lycians, 438.

Teuthræan and Teuthrae, 428.

Thaoses gold mines of, 371.

Thebes (Egyptian), 17. Infancy of the monarchy of, 63. Its epithet breastom-

nylos, 81. Gates and warchariota, 81. Various names, 81. Site marked by the villages of Karnak, Luxor, &c., 84. Principal edifices, 85. Vast necropolis, 85. Trade, manufactures, and religion, 86. Linen fabric, 86. The sacerdotal capital of all who worship Ammon, 86. Its fall, 86. Succession of its kings, 87.

Theft, curious Egyptian law of, 166.

Thirty, Egyptian supreme court of, 167.

Thothmes I. begins the temple of Karnak, 89.

— III., his reign the climax of the power of Egypt, 90. Extent of her empire under him, 90. The Numerical wall of Karnak the record of his exploits, 90. His victory over the Assyrians at Megiddo, 90. Conquest of Coele-Syria in his sixth expedition, 91. Conquest of Nineveh and Babylon, 91. Maritime power, 91. Record of his conquest of (115) African tribes, 92. General view of the nations subdued by him, 92. Head and arm of his colossal statue in the British Museum, 93.

Thrace, much of Greek poetic culture traced to, 26. Thracians akin to the Teutonic family, 426.

Thrasylbulus, tyrant of Miletus, 469.

Thyni and Bithyni, 427.

Tifal king of nations, 210.

Tiglath-pileser, meaning of the name, 225.

— I., his cylinders inscribed with cuneiform characters, 235. Annals of, 235. Five camelpans, 236. First organised Assyria as an empire, 236.

— II., an obscure adventurer, 267. Records of his wars, 269. Reduction of Syria and Palestine, 269.

Tigranes of Armenia, 484. Story of his conquest of Assyria, 484.

Tigris, course of the, 194. Etymology identifying it with the Hiddekel of Eden, 194. Its junction with the Euphrates, 195.

Tirhakah, King of Ethiopia regains his power over all Egypt, 135.

ANC. HIST.

Tissaphernes's policy of creating division among the Greek States, 522. Sacrificed to the revenge of Parysatis, 533.

Tnephachthus, curse on Menes pronounced by, 124.

Tomyris's (Queen) vengeance on Cyrus, 500.

Transplantation of populations, Assyrian policy of, 277.

Triads of Egyptian deities, 173. The universal triad of Osiris, Isis, and Horus, 173. Each triad consisting in the worship of father, mother, and son, 171. The triad of Thebes, 172. Of Memphis, 173. Of Hermonthis, 173.

Tripolia, the threefold Phœnician colony of, 557.

Turanian family of languages, 8. Turyas or Turanians represented by the Tatar and Finnish tribes, 379. A Japhetic race, 379. The Moschi and Tibarent, 420.

Turin papyrus, the chief extant specimen of Egyptian historical literature, 188.

Tyre, its antiquity inferior to that of Sidon, 552. Old Tyre, 556. Connection of its form Sarra with Syria, 556. Distant voyages to the West, 562. Succession of kings, 564. Three sieges by Sargon, Nebuchadnezzar, and Alexander, 570. Ezekiel's historical picture of its resources, 572. Its exultation over the fall of Jerusalem, 573. Wealth and power before its fall, 316. Thirteen years siege of, 316, 574. Captured by the Saracens, 578. Its present state, 579.

Tyrian purple, 546.

U

Uruk and Ugi, inscriptions of, 208.

— seal of king, 338.

Urumiyeh, Lake, 402.

V

Van, lake and kingdom of, 483.

Vesdates, the second Pseudo-Smerdis, 523.

W

Walls of Babylonian forts and cities, 344.

Weights and measures handed down through Phœnicia and Greece, 360.

West (the), the land of darkness and death, 53.

Wheat indigenous in Mesopotamia, 198.

White Syrians, 421.

— wall of Memphis 531.

Word (the Creative) dialogues of Zoroaster with Ahuramazda respecting, 385.

Writing of immemorial antiquity in Egypt and Mesopotamia, 349. Babylonian, originally hieroglyphic, 349. First departure from strict picture writing, 349.

X

Xanthian trophy, 440.

Xanthus, defence and capture of, 439.

Xerxes, derivation of the name, 522. Genealogy of, 487. Preferred to his elder half-brother by the influence of his mother Atossa, 528. Murdered by Artabanus, 530.

— II., murdered, 531.

Xisuthrus, deluge of, 204.

Xoite kings, dynasty of, 72.

Y

Yavanas, the branch of the Aryan family which spread over Europe, 375. Their name preserved in the Javan of Genesis, and in the Greek Ionians, 375. Their immigrations westward, 378.

Yasatas and Fervers, 389.

Yexidis or devil-worshippers, 396.

Young's (Dr.), discovery of the phonetic nature of hieroglyphics, 184. The key to hieroglyphics found by him applied by Champollion, 194.

Z

Zarvaniana, the (represented by the Guebres and Parsees), their tenets, 388.

Zedekiah's rebellion against Nebuchadnezzar, 313. His league with Pharaoh-Hophra, 314.

Zeno the Laurian, 434.

2 Q

Zend language, one of the oldest forms of Aryan speech, 383. Its remains, 383.

Zend-avesta, the essential elements of the Medo-Persian religion in the, 381. Its contents, 381. The revelation of Mazdaism made to Zoroaster, 384. Its doctrine of rewards and punishments, 391.

Zicharbaal, the Sichsus of Virgil, 368.

Ziggurats or temple-towers, Assyrian, 257, 332. Relation between the Babylo-

lonian temple-towers and the Egyptian pyramids, 332. The siggurats quasi-religious, 341.

Zopyrus, self-mutilation of, 519.

—, rebellion of, against Artaxerxes, 531.

Zoroaster, meaning of the tradition that he reigned as conqueror at Babylon, 207. His dualistic doctrine of opposite divine principles, 378. Great religious reform, 380. Remote date, 381. Legends of his personal history, 381. The scene of his mission Bao-

triana, 381. Marvels recorded as attendant on his birth and career, 382. His doctrine a reaction from polytheism and pantheistic naturalism, 382. Dialogue with Ormazd, 385. Zoroastrianism a pure monotheistic religion, 386. Its perversion into dualism, 386. Morality of the Zoroastrian faith simple and pure, 392. Its abhorrence of all idolatry, 391.

Zur (the ancient Tyre), now a miserable village.

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