

RECORDS OF THE PAST:

BEING

ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

OF THE

ASSYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN MONUMENTS.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE SANCTION

OF

THE SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL ARCHÆOLOGY.

ASSYRIAN TEXTS.



*Multæ terricolis linguæ, cœlestibus una.*

LONDON:  
SAMUEL BAGSTER AND SONS,

15, PATERNOSTER ROW.



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NOTE.

Every Text here given is either now translated for the *first time*, or has been specially revised by the Translator to the date of this publication.

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P R E F A C E  
TO  
THE SECOND EDITION.



THE success which has attended the publication of the "RECORDS OF THE PAST" has enabled a second edition of the first volume to be issued in the course of the year. The matter contained in it, the historical and literary importance of the texts translated, and the charm of being able to peruse a literature contemporary with so high an antiquity and of a nature so similar to the contents of the Bible has evoked a public sympathy as gratifying as it was unexpected. As the Translators of these Texts are still living they have had the opportunity offered them by this second edition of amending or improving any phrases or sentences which might appear necessary after the short interval that has elapsed since the first issue.

This work thus becomes more important to the student of Assyrian language and literature and a Text Book to all who desire to make a study of this novel and important branch of human learning, which has arisen at a time when the older study of the language and works of Central Europe, known by the name of Classical, has exhausted all that can be said new or critical upon their respective subjects. The immense material that still requires to be deciphered and the still greater treasures which it is thought still lie dormant under the alluvial land of the vallies of the Tigris and Euphrates will in all probability render this old Semitic literature and philology the favourite theme of another century, for the pleasure of examining the unknown has always surpassed that of acquiring what has become thoroughly understood or commonly current. Although the arduous acquisition of the knowledge of the languages will probably be always limited to a few, it will be a select number enamoured of a favourite pursuit, ardent enthusiasts in the search after new materials, and not a mass of

students drilled into the knowledge of literature and languages for which they feel no congenial sympathy, and abandon as soon as they have acquired. But the popular part, the matured fruit of their researches is by the fortunate circumstance of the publication of the "RECORDS OF THE PAST" placed at the disposition of all, and acquired without the labour of years, or the sacrifice of time demanded for the ordinary avocations of life. It is due to the Secretary of the Society of Biblical Archæology to state that the happy idea of the publication originated with him and that to his exertions with the Publishers Messrs. BAGSTER AND SONS it was undertaken, and that he has also on their part placed himself in communication with various Translators on the subject. It has not been possible in the first instance to arrange the texts chronologically, as the work is dependent on the voluntary efforts of Translators who select of course those inscriptions which appear to them the most important or with which they are best acquainted. The work will however contain all the most important

inscriptions, and will have at the end when complete a chronological index of contents to guide the reader to what is required. In order to meet the demands of the public and the wishes of the Translators the rate of publication may be doubled in the course of next year.

S. BIRCH.

1st *July*, 1875.

# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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