

# 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 .

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THE fifth volume of the "RECORDS OF THE PAST" contains translations from the Assyrian, Babylonian and Persian cuneiform inscriptions. Most of these are from historical monuments as being of the greatest value to ancient history. In the present volume are several of the most important Babylonian inscriptions, amongst them that of Nebuchadnezzar of whose history unfortunately but few contemporary documents are at present known, while of the earlier kings of Babylon mere fragmentary notices remain. The student as well as the general public will find this volume equal in interest to the preceding and the amount of new information considerable. Issued simultaneously with the fourth of the series in order to meet public demand and expectation, the rapidity with which it has been brought out is due to the cordial co-operation of the Assyrian scholars who have worked indefatigably for its production, and have in so short a time prepared or revised their different translations. Although historical texts have first engaged the attention of scholars, an unexhausted supply of literary or scientific import, as well as mythology and official records, still remain for selection, many of which have been as yet untouched. Amongst them are the so-called Izdubar legends comprising the account of the Babylonian and Assyrian Cosmogony, the creation of the world, and

of man, his fall, the war of the gods in heaven, the deluge, and other traditions some of which have been translated, but others have not as yet been published. Some of these will form the material of subsequent volumes and afford a general idea of the mythology of the two great Semitic empires and will prove of great value for the comparative study of mythology at present so little understood on account of the investigations having been restricted to the myths of the Aryan nations. If freedom, eloquence and philosophy have had their home in the West, religion has always from the most remote ages had its cradle in the East. From the East originated germs of thought which grew up into blossoms amongst other races long after the parent stem had lain a sapless trunk in the distant regions of the Euphrates and the Nile. It must be again repeated that it is impossible to know the sources of Hellenic and Italian civilization by enquiries directed into purely Aryan sources. The orbit of vision has been enlarged, the decipherment and interpretations of these dead and extinct languages, like the discovery of the telescope in astronomy, carry the eye to the farthest realms of space, to enlarged human vision. So this newly acquired instrument of interpretation has pierced the hitherto unseen period which transcends the secondary history of the West. The classical and biblical scholar, alike require the valuable information now placed at their disposal as elements of primary instruction for their studies.

S. BIRCH.

*London, 1st July, 1875.*

# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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