

RECORDS OF THE PAST:

BEING

ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

OF THE

ASSYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN MONUMENTS.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE SANCTION

OF

THE SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL ARCHÆOLOGY.

EGYPTIAN TEXTS.



*Multæ terricolis linguæ, cœlestibus una.*

LONDON:  
SAMUEL BAGSTER AND SONS,  
15, PATERNOSTER ROW.



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VOL. VI.

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N O T E.

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.



THIS sixth volume of the "RECORDS OF THE PAST" contains a series of Egyptian translations of historical and other texts. Among those relating to history will be found the first half of the great Harris Papyrus, the largest and most important of its class of all hitherto discovered, and throwing great light upon the condition of Egypt in the reign of Rameses III. Besides the historical texts several mythological ones of great interest will be found in the volume, such as the Hymns to the god Amen, the Destruction of Mankind by the gods, and a curious Magical Text, embodying singular mythological ideas, and of some interest in connection with the study of ancient magic, which played a very prominent part in Egyptian science and ethics, and can scarcely be separated at the present day from its mythology. Besides the Magical Text poetry is represented by the Song of the Harper, and fiction by the Story of Saneha, and the Tale of the Garden of Flowers. The interest taken in this publication is shown by the authors of such pieces which originally appeared in French or

German having kindly prepared or revised the English translations, so that they appear in their last and most correct form. The publication itself has called forth the commendations of all interested in the study, especially those who have paid attention to Egyptian philology and history. It is in fact only by the perusal of these translations of original documents in their integrity that the mind of ancient Egypt can be appreciated and understood. Without such aids the dissertations or works on Egypt are after all compilations more or less imperfect, without the freshness and strange originality offered by perusal of the words of the original authors, scribes of thirty centuries and more ago, the first men of letters in the ancient world, who wrote these remarkable compositions in the valley of the Nile. The flourishing period of literature appears to have been the XIXth Dynasty, a golden age of history, poetry, and fiction, although these branches of literature flourished as early as the XIIth Dynasty, and ethical philosophy began about the period of the Vth Dynasty. Gradually developing, literature culminated under the native monarchs, but rapidly declined with the fall of the Ramessides. Specimens of the best period of writing will be found in the present volume, which completes the first half of the series proposed to be issued in this form.

S. BIRCH.

*3rd February, 1876.*

# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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