

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. X.

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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.



THE success which has attended the publication of the "RECORDS OF THE PAST," and the favour with which they have been received by the European students and enquirers, has led to their continuation as far as the present volume. Containing, as they do, the translations of the most important historical texts, they afford to the general enquirer access to most of the sources from which he may derive contemporaneous information. The student finds them invaluable for the purposes of reference and comparison, when sufficiently advanced to essay the depths of this archaic literature without being buoyed up by original documents transliterated and translated. The fact that nearly all the principal Assyriologists and Egyptologists have contributed to their pages is sufficient to demonstrate that the "RECORDS" have been regarded as an international enterprize, and available for all the purposes proposed wherever the English language is read or understood, which comprises at least a hundred millions possible readers. The present volume will be found to be very rich in the translations of mythological texts, a branch of enquiry which begins to attract more attention as the mine of historical documents becomes exhausted. The mythologies of Assyria and Egypt are particularly

valuable for the due comprehension of ancient religions, as they are the oldest of which contemporary documents have been preserved. Whatever may be the antiquity of the Aryan mythologies, the Greek, the Etruscan, or the Hindhu, it is evident they only appear centuries after the Assyrian and Egyptian, and had not been committed to writing till a period comparatively recent compared with their venerable predecessors. When there are no texts of the period prior to the formation of a canon afterwards implicitly followed, and when all the documents of the age have disappeared, the question of the exact texts of the older versions must always remain in doubt. In Assyria and Egypt alone are found duplicate texts with those variations which show that here are the real sources of ancient history and mythology. Although they stand distinct from the Aryan mythology, yet their influence on Semitic religion and thought was transmitted to the West. Babylonia has left behind it documents at least fifteen centuries before Christ, and Egypt at least two thousand years. They vouch their own antiquity, and are the fixed stars of ancient literature, at an incomparable distance from the mythology of Greece, not represented by writing till the Roman Empire; or the Vedas and Puranas, only found in a written form in times fabulously modern.

S. BIRCH.

25th June, 1878.

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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