

RECORDS OF THE PAST.

VOL. XI.

ASSYRIAN TEXTS.

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.

RECORDS OF THE PAST:

BEING

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OF THE

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VOL. XI.

ASSYRIAN TEXTS.



Multæ terricolis linguæ, cœlestibus una.

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P R E F A C E.



THE present volume is the last of the series which will contain translations from the Assyrian, and there will be found in it a series of texts of the highest interest by different Assyriologists. For besides those of historical import, which exhibit a monotonous style in narrating the important events known in their full details from the Assyrian annals, will be found several others which are literary compositions, prose or poetical, of great merit, and throwing light on the contemporaneous styles of other Semitic nations, especially prophecy and mythological narratives. This branch of the inquiry is by no means exhausted, and the time is fast approaching when a sketch of the Assyrian religion can be traced from the information afforded by the Assyrian inscriptions. Although the tablets and inscriptions found at Babylon have not presented so much of the history of that kingdom, especially for its later annals, yet the discovery of fragments of the age of Nebuchadnezzar afford promise that future excavations may

produce documents as important as those of Assyria. The writers in the present volume have, in some instances, copiously illustrated their translations by notes, and so supplied what some have conceived to be a want in the texts previously given. Besides the translations from Assyrian texts, a translation has been given by Dr. Ginsburg of the "Moabite Stone," now in the Louvre. It is a document so connected with Biblical Archæology that its place in this volume is most appropriate, as concluding the Semitic portion of the work. It is impossible to close this Preface without a deep expression of sorrow at the recent death of Mr. W. R. Cooper, who contributed so much to the success of the "RECORDS OF THE PAST" by his zeal and energy in collecting and arranging the materials of which they are composed. His position as Secretary of the Society of Biblical Archæology placed him in correspondence with the leading Assyriologists and Egyptologists of the day, whose co-operation he secured; and the Editor cannot omit this opportunity of expressing the value of Mr. Cooper's aid in carrying out the work to its conclusion.

S. BIRCH.

19th November, 1878.

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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