

RECORDS OF THE PAST.

VOL. XII.

EGYPTIAN 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
ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS
OF THE
ASSYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN MONUMENTS.

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OF
THE SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL ARCHÆOLOGY.

VOL. XII.
EGYPTIAN TEXTS.



Multæ terricolis linguæ, cœlestibus una.

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P R E F A C E.

THE present volume, which completes the present series, closes the translations of the principal Assyrian and Egyptian texts. Those which here appear are equal in interest to the others which have gone before, but many that have been discovered have not found a place in the present work, and necessitate the production of a new series, which might be undertaken if the idea was favourably entertained by the translators. It has been already pointed out the great benefit which the "RECORDS OF THE PAST" have conferred on the advance of the researches into ancient Oriental mythology and literature, by laying before the general reader results obtained by the labours of all the leading students into the philology and inscriptions of the greatest Eastern nations of antiquity. Such results are the more valuable because

they are derived from primary sources and from contemporaneous documents, in many cases official, and in all public, so as to invest them with the character of contemporary witnesses. In fact, without the knowledge of such texts as those published in the "RECORDS," it is impossible to comprehend the history of Egypt and Mesopotamia, or to adequately realize the historical narrative of Scripture. It must be borne in mind that whatever differences may exist in details, the general impression conveyed to the mind by these translations will always remain the same. The present volume is accompanied by an alphabetical list of the contents of all the twelve volumes, prepared by Mr. W. H. Rylands; and the series will hereafter be accompanied by a thirteenth or supplementary volume, containing a copious alphabetical index of the proper names and leading points of interest, which Mr. Rylands has also drawn up, and which will be found of great advantage to those consulting the "RECORDS OF THE PAST."

S. BIRCH.

LONDON, *3rd February* 1881.

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