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MOHAMMEDANISM

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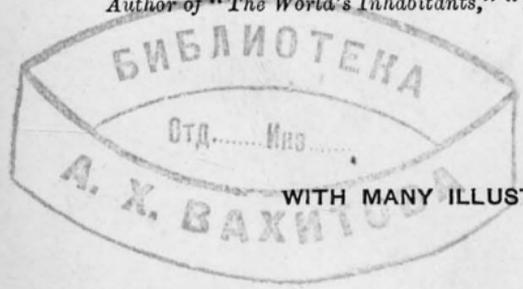
BEING A POPULAR ACCOUNT OF

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BY

G. T. BETTANY, M.A., B.Sc.,

Author of "The World's Inhabitants," "Life of Charles Darwin," etc.



WITH MANY ILLUSTRATIONS.

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ГОСУДАРСТВЕННАЯ
БИБЛИОТЕКА
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P R E F A C E.

THE countries surrounding the Eastern Mediterranean share with India the distinction of being the greatest originative centres of religion. Egypt, with its strange polytheism, animal worship, ancestor and king worship; Mesopotamia, with its worship of powers of the air and sea, its local deities, its sun and star worship and astrology; the early Greek and Roman religions, with their noble ideals of personal gods under a supreme ruler: all these furnish inexhaustible material for the student of religions. But they are surpassed by the interest growing out of the gradual approach to monotheism, and its assertion in Judaism and Mohammedanism, the one an early, the other a later product of Semitic races, both destined to influence a very large part of mankind.

In this volume will be found material of strange suggestiveness, whether studied by itself, or, better, in connexion and comparison with the history of primitive Chinese and Indian religions, on the one hand, or that of Judaism and Christianity, on the other. In the history of Mahomet we see a most remarkable combination of introspection, revolt against prevalent superstition, rapt prophetic trances, statesmanship, and worldliness, variously predominant at different periods of his life. The simplicity of the theology and worship taught and enjoined