

VOICES OF THE PAST

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FROM

ASSYRIA AND BABYLONIA

BY

HENRY S. ROBERTON

B.A., B.Sc.



XXII-7446

LONDON

GEORGE BELL & SONS

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PREFACE

THIS little volume has for its object to make a few difficult things easy—to peptonise, as it were, for ready assimilation certain valuable mental pabulum which is apt to appear hard of digestion.

To those who realise the essential unity of nature and of man no inquiry into the past can be entirely without interest; but there is, surely, a special charm in tracing the very beginnings of civilisation and the dawn of culture. Nowhere can this be done more satisfactorily than in Babylonia and Assyria.

In view of the elementary character of these essays, it has seemed unnecessary to cite authorities for every fact stated and theory expressed. None the less sincerely are thanks offered to all those scholars and authors—especially Professor Sayce, Dr Jensen, Dr Schrader, and Madame Z. A. Ragozin—whose published writings have aided in the preparation of the following pages.

In a work which lays no claim to high originality, perhaps the most novel parts are the attempts to give an exact, if simple, account of the nature of cuneiform writing, and to translate certain of the ancient poetic texts into English blank verse.

THE AUTHOR.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS,
September 1900.

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