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HISTORICAL

AND

MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS,

FOR THE USE OF YOUNG PEOPLE;

WITH

A SELECTION OF

BRITISH AND GENERAL BIOGRAPHY, &c., &c.

BY RICHMAL MANGNALL.

REVISED AND CORRECTED

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A

PREFACE.

THIS work, which has for so many years been popular amongst teachers of the young, is again presented to them in a revised and corrected form.

I have kept to the original design of Question and Answer, which has been deemed by so many to be a safe and withal effectual *guide* to young students entering upon, and pursuing their course of Historical and Biographical reading.

In the work as it now stands, will be found the leading facts in Grecian, Roman, and English History, and also in the other subjects on which it treats, prominently put forward; these cannot fail to awaken in the mind of the student, an interest in the subject he is reading, and the consequent desire of searching deeper into that subject for fuller information.

Many valuable additions will be found in the present edition, which will, it is hoped, insure for "Mangnall's Questions" a continuance of the unwavering popularity it has for so long a time enjoyed as a School Book.

E. H. RICHES.

LLANFAIRFECHAN,
NORTH WALES.

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HISTORICAL

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QUESTIONS.

FROM THE EARLIEST TIME TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
IMPERIAL POWER IN ROME; COMPREHENDING A SKETCH OF
GENERAL HISTORY.

WHAT is History?

History is a continuous narrative of facts and events, which knowledge is obtained from the Bible and the records and traditions of nations.

How may History be divided?

Into two kinds, sacred and profane.

What is Sacred History?

Sacred History embraces all the events mentioned in the Bible, and also those mentioned by Josephus.

Who was Josephus?

He was a Jewish historian, born at Jerusalem A.D. 37, and was one of the generals of the Jews in their revolt against the Romans. He was taken prisoner by Vespasian, who spared his life at the intercession of Titus, with whom he was present at the siege of Jerusalem, and afterwards accompanied him to Rome, where he died about A.D. 100.

What is profane history?

The relation of events which have occurred in various parts of the world, collected from either written or traditionary sources.

How is profane history divided?

Into ancient and modern; the former is the account of events which happened before the birth of Christ, and the latter of subsequent ones.

Mention some of the most ancient monarchies.

The Babylonian or Chaldean, the Chinese, the Egyptian, and the ancient Assyrian.

When and by whom was the kingdom of Babylonia or Chaldea founded?

This kingdom was founded 2221 B.C. by Nimrod, the grandson of Ham. It received its name of Babylon from the Tower of Babel, and that of Chaldea from the Chaldeans, who were the *literati* of that country, and were skilled in astronomy and other sciences.

Where was the kingdom of Babylon situated?

It comprised the country lying on both sides of the river Euphrates, extending on the south as far as the Persian Gulf, on the north to Mesopotamia, on the east to the river Tigris, and on the west to Arabia. Babylon, the capital, was built on the banks of the Euphrates.

To what kingdom was Babylon subject for a long time?

To the kingdom of Assyria. Ninus, the king of that country, made war upon Babylon B.C. 2059, and conquered it. He and his wife Semiramis greatly enlarged and beautified the city.

What other countries is Ninus said to have added to his empire?

India, Hyrcania, Carmania, Media, Persia, Bactriana, with part of Syria and Asia Minor.

When did Babylon recover its independence?

B.C. 606, when Nabopolassar, the father of Nebuchadnezzar, with the aid of the Median king Cyaxarēs, overthrew the Assyrian monarchy, destroyed Nineveh, and afterwards divided the empire.

For what buildings was Babylon remarkable?

For the temple of Belus, which consisted of eight stories, gradually diminishing in width, and ascended by a flight of steps which wound round the whole building on the outside; and the "hanging gardens" of Nebuchadnezzar, laid out upon terraces which were raised above one another on arches.

When did this mighty kingdom fall into decay?

After the death of Belshazzar, who was killed when the city was attacked by the Medes and Persians under the command of Cyrus, B.C. 538. At the present day all its visible remains consist of mounds of earth, ruined masses of brick walls, and a few scattered fragments.

When is China supposed to have been founded?

About B.C. 2207 by Fo-hi. The Chinese were described as a wandering people, living upon the spoils of the chase. They dwelt in the forests of Shen-see, at the foot of the Tartar mountains. Swee-gin-shee, one of their chiefs, having accidentally discovered the production of fire by the friction of pieces of dry wood, taught them to worship Ti-en, the creating and destroying power.

What was the chief city of Egypt?

Memphis, built by Mizraim about B.C. 2188. Mizraim is supposed to have been one of Ham's grandsons.

What nation introduced regular government?

The Egyptians in the time of Jacob. They first gave mankind the principles of civil order, and to them we are indebted for the useful and elegant arts.

To whom did the Egyptians communicate their discoveries?

To the Greeks; the Greeks to the Romans, from whom the other European nations received their first ideas of civilization and refinement.

What people introduced the arts of commerce?

The Egyptians. They were also first acquainted with the implements of husbandry.

Who improved the state of commerce?

The Phœnicians, who lived in Palestine (the Holy Land), and were, even in the time of Abraham, considered as a powerful nation. Tyre was the name of their chief city, celebrated for its purple dye. Its most ancient city was Sidon (now called Saida), famous for its manufacture of glass.

When and by whom was Assyria founded?

This mighty monarchy is said to have been founded by Asshur, the grandson of Ham. Nineveh was its chief city. The Assyrians competed with the Egyptians for the honour of having invented alphabetic writing, and certainly from the few remains now extant of the writings of these two nations, a great similarity exists in the shape of their letters and also in their arrangement, viz., using them from right to left.

In what state was Europe at this early period?

The inhabitants were savage, wild, and barbarous, totally uninstructed and uninformed, having little or no intercourse with the civilized part of mankind.

What king improved the civil and military establishment of the Egyptians?

Sesostris; he succeeded that Amenophis (or Pharaoh) who was drowned in the Red Sea; and by the wisdom of his laws and government his kingdom became the most powerful then known.

What part of Europe was first civilized?

Athens, where Cecrops landed with an Egyptian colony, and introduced order and harmony among the original inhabitants.

Who was Amphictyon?

The son of Deucalion and third king of Athens, endowed with uncommon genius and strength of mind; he lived about 1496 years B.C., and contrived to unite in one common system of politics the states of Greece.

How did he effect this?

By engaging twelve of the Grecian cities to join for their mutual advantage, sending each two deputies to Thermopylæ twice a year, who debated there and were called the Amphictyonic Council.