

THE ANCIENT
EMPIRES OF THE EAST

BY

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P R E F A C E.

THE following chapters were written to accompany an edition of the first three books of Hêrodotos. The discoveries which have been pouring in upon us of late years from all parts of the oriental world have made it possible to test the value of our chief classical authority for the history of the ancient East, and at the same time to give some idea of what that history actually was. So rapid, indeed, has been the progress of research, that not only have the essays attached to Rawlinson's translation of Hêrodotos already become antiquated, but even François Lenormant's well-known *Manual of Ancient History* has long since needed to be re-written. The genial author, however, had scarcely begun the task when it was arrested by a premature death. The charming *Histoire ancienne des Peuples de l'Orient*, by Professor Maspero, has equally been left behind by the advance of science. Much in his account of Egypt requires to be modified, more still in what he tells us of Assyria and Khaldæa, while