

**HERODOTUS AND THE
EMPIRES OF THE EAST: BASED
ON NIKEL'S HERODOT UND
DIE KEILSCHRIFTFORSCHUNG**

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Herodotus and the Empires of the East: Based on Nikel's Herodot und Die Keilschriftforschung
by Herbert Cushing Tolman & James Henry Stevenson

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HERBERT CUSHING TOLMAN & JAMES HENRY STEVENSON

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THE VANDERBILT ORIENTAL SERIES
EDITED BY
HERBERT CUSHING TOLMAN AND JAMES HENRY STEVENSON

HERODOTUS

AND

THE EMPIRES OF THE EAST

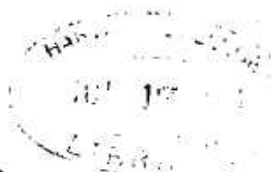
BASED ON
JOHANNES NIKEL'S HERODOT UND DIE KEILSCHRIFTFORSCHUNG

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HERBERT CUSHING TOLMAN
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JAMES HENRY STEVENSON

TO

William J. Vaughn, LL. D.

ἀνδρὶ ἀγαθῷ

τετραγώνῳ, ἀνευ ψόγου τετυγμένῳ

PREFACE.

THE aim of the present work is to furnish the classical student such material as will enable him to appreciate the fascinating narrative of Herodotus respecting the nations of Western Asia.

Herodotus has been criticised unjustly, we think, by some modern scholars. A well-known Assyriologist has even gone so far as to call Herodotus a mere *λογόποιος*, who "pilfered freely and without acknowledgment," who "assumed a knowledge he did not possess," who "professed to derive information from personal experience and eyewitnesses which really came from the very sources he seeks to disparage and supersede," and who "lays claim to extensive travels which are as mythical as those of the early philosophers." Such extreme views are as harmful as they are unfair. While we do not profess to claim for Herodotus absolute historical accuracy, yet we are convinced that recent investigations in the native literature of the Eastern nations have confirmed the trustworthiness of many statements which were formerly regard-

ed as absurd, and have established on a firmer basis the reputation of the great historian.

If this volume can add to the charm of the simple style of Herodotus an appreciation of the historical value of his statements, the purpose of the editors will be fulfilled.

HERBERT CUSHING TOLMAN,
JAMES HENRY STEVENSON.

December 24, 1898.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

INTRODUCTION.		Page
THE GREEK SOURCES OF THE ASSYRO-BABYLONIAN HISTORY.....		9
THE GREEK WRITINGS IN THE LIGHT OF ASSYRIOLOGY..		11
TOPOGRAPHY.		
THE FRUITFULNESS OF BABYLONIA.....		12
GEOGRAPHY OF BABYLONIA.....		17
THE SIZE OF BABYLON.....		20
THE BASIN OF SIPPARA.....		34
THE CITADEL AND "TEMPLE OF ZEUS BELOS".....		36
HISTORY OF THE EMPIRES OF WESTERN ASIA.		
SEMIRAMIS AND NITOCRIS.....		43
THE DURATION OF THE ASSYRIAN POWER IN WESTERN ASIA.....		52
THE FOUNDING AND DURATION OF THE MEDIAN EMPIRE.		58
SENNACHERIB'S EXPEDITION AGAINST EGYPT.....		70
THE FALL OF NINEVEH.....		71
THE GENEALOGY AND THE NATIONAL DESCENT OF CYRUS.		73
THE DECLINE OF THE MEDIAN POWER.....		79
THE FALL OF BABYLON.....		81
DARIUS.....		86