

**STUDIES IN EASTERN HISTORY. II.
CHRONICLES CONCERNING EARLY
BABYLONIAN KINGS: INCLUDING
RECORDS OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE
KASSITES AND THE COUNTRY OF THE SEA.
VOLUME 1. INTRODUCTORY CHAPTERS**

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AND THE COUNTRY OF THE SEA,

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PREFACE.

THE present volume is concerned with the discussion of the new historical information supplied by the chronicles which are published and translated in the second volume of this work. The texts here published and discussed for the first time include two Chronicles concerning early Babylonian kings; a new Babylonian Chronicle of events ranging from the eleventh to the seventh century B.C.; a Religious Chronicle referring to the eleventh century B.C.; a new Date-List of the kings of the First Dynasty of Babylon; and part of a Neo-Babylonian version of the "Omens of Sargon and Narâm-Sin." With one exception, the tablets from which the texts are taken date from the late Babylonian period, but they incorporate traditions referring to some of the earliest kings of Babylonia and Assyria. Much of the new information afforded by the Chronicles concerning early kings is given in the form of synchronisms, in which well-known names are found in unfamiliar combinations, and these will oblige us to revise some of our conceptions of early Babylonian and Assyrian chronology.

In the present work an attempt has been made to indicate the lines on which a reconstruction of the history of these early periods can be made, and we may here briefly refer to some of the more important

conclusions deduced from a study of the texts. One general result of our new information is a considerable reduction in the dates usually assigned to the earlier periods of Babylonian history. We now know that the kings of the Second Dynasty of the Kings' List never occupied the throne of Babylon, but established themselves only in the "Country of the Sea," on the shores of the Persian Gulf. Here they ruled over an independent kingdom, and carried on a series of wars against the kings of Babylon. The total elimination of this dynasty from the scheme of Babylonian chronology at once has the effect of reducing the date usually assigned to the First Dynasty of Babylon by three hundred and sixty-eight years. We thus obtain for Su-abu, the founder of the First Dynasty, a date not earlier than the twenty-first century B.C., and for Hammurabi, the most powerful and famous king of the dynasty, a date not earlier than the twentieth century B.C.

Confirmation of the correctness of this view is afforded by a new synchronism in early Babylonian and Assyrian history, which occurs on one of the Chronicles here published. We learn that Su-abu, the founder of the First Dynasty, was the contemporary of Ilu-shûma, an early Assyrian ruler whose name has recently been recovered at Sherghât. This early point of contact between the history of the two countries not only supports our conclusions with regard to reducing