

**THE LIGHT OF OTHER
DAYS; OR, THE
LESSON OF NINEVEH**

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The Light of Other Days; Or, the Lesson of Nineveh by T. Dalton

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T. DALTON

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LIGHT OF OTHER DAYS;
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THE LESSON OF NINEVEH.

This is the rejoicing City, that dwelt carelessly, that sold in her heart,
I am, and there is none beside me:—How is she become a desolation!

ZEPH. ii. 15.

BY T. DALTON,

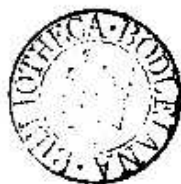
AUTHOR OF "MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS BELIEF," &c.

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1832.

221. c. 37.



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PREFACE.

IF from a love of originality, or a fear of incurring even the suspicion of plagiarism, a writer or speaker make up his mind to remain silent until he stumble upon some new and untrodden literary ground, the resolution might possibly consign him to an eternal taciturnity; so true it is, that upon all or most subjects of importance many minds will be simultaneously employed.

Nineveh, for example, has been the theme of many an abler pen than the one that now takes up her eventful narrative; and the recent exhumation of her long-buried, and all but forgotten remains, has been the signal for a long and brilliant array of able lectures, sermons, and essays, such as would seem to indicate that all has been said that can be said to profit.

Such thoughts at first deterred the writer from his purpose of appearing before the public, but second thoughts, which all are wont to call the best, urged him to his task, and the more earnestly when

he considered that how many soever might have handled his subject, there could be but few recent writers who had in reality preceded him, forasmuch as the historic material of the following pages formed the substance of a lecture delivered long before the publication of Mr. Layard's book; being one of a course of lectures on the book of Jonah. The writer also conceived that something on this subject was wanted, of a character to find its way readily into the hands of young Christians, Sabbath school teachers, and the elder scholars; and which, by affording a condensed view of the celebrated Nineveh, might serve to concentrate the scattered rays which have for ages past so dimly illuminated the page of Assyrian story.

There may be errors in the work, but if there be, they are not the fruit of carelessness, nor the first that have appeared upon the subject, by perhaps many a score, and from abler hands. I do verily believe that much that is quoted as of authority on ancient history is not worthy of credence; and from what I have read and thought upon this and kindred topics, I am led to conclude, that the closer we can stick to Scripture narrative, while searching out the origin of nations, and seeking to penetrate the obscure and fabulous of historians, the more likely we are to come at the truth.

Nineveh is eminently a Scripture theme; so much so that, this branch of evidence aside, we

might look in vain to every other source for a detailed or regular account. Bearing this in mind, while I propose to consider the subject in its general, historical and political aspects, I shall at the same time, and primarily, endeavour to bring out its great moral lessons: a use of the subject but little exhibited by any of the writers whose works have fallen into my hands.

It will be observed that I have not largely quoted from the published accounts of the recent discoveries by Mr. Layard. I thought it hardly fair to do so, especially as the able work of that gentleman is now well known and easily obtained; and feeling assured that no brief extracts from volumes so completely crammed with interesting matter could give a fair representation of their worth, I should much prefer, that such of my readers as may desire more information upon this particular branch of the subject, would go at once to the fountain head.

To sum up in few words the scope and design of the following pages, I may say, that my aim throughout, has been, the practical improvement of the subject,—a desire to hold up Nineveh, in her earlier glory and later desolation, as a great moral lesson, which men and nations would do well attentively to ponder, and from which the Christian, in particular, may rise with mingled feelings of humiliation and thankfulness, and by which he may be quickened in his search after that “city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”