

IRELAND: UR OF THE CHALDEES

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Ireland: Ur of the Chaldees by Anna Wilkes

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ANNA WILKES

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PREFACE.

THE material that has engaged my attention in the following pages is principally taken from the Mosaic, the Koran, Talmud, and Celtic references to the first peoples and places.

As far as possible I have avoided loading the subject with technical terms and problems to be met with in Anthropology—a science necessarily contributing considerable matter to the text—but have preferred to use in it history, tradition, folk-lore, and other interests that go towards a proof that the *first* human families must have migrated from the west of Europe to Asia, and *not* from Asia to the west of Europe.

This may appear strange to some people; but it will occur to the reflecting and intel-

ligent mind that it is quite possible to do over again, some of the work of Scripture commentators and interpreters, and be at the same time, in perfect harmony with the Bible. For instance, the sites of the *principal* countries, cities, and places mentioned in that book, are by their own confession, up to the present, *unascertained*. Therefore the necessity existed for re-considering the *teachings of men*, as distinguished from the lessons of the Bible, which, for my part, are accepted as correct and veracious.

In the following pages there is no allusion to the doctrine of "Independent development," but they admit that human beings multiplied from a *first pair*.

As far as I know, I have not offended the prejudices of any people or creed. In making much reference to the first inhabitants of the British Islands, there has been an endeavour

to show that a great deal of the past—the pre-historic as well as the historic past—is marked by their actions. From this it is advised, that their descendants, as well as those esteeming themselves of Saxon, Danish, or Norman blood, should remove the race asperities that so frequently operate against one another, and join with the Celt in mutual respect and prosperity.

Because thousands of years have passed away with man, and the correct register of his first existence and efforts here—so, like others, but not in a general way,—I have felt obliged to labour, and to particularise, and bring together, out of the confused yet evident relationship of primeval man, the similarities of his thoughts as they are written, of his speech as it is known, and of the signs that endure from his chisel and pen.

How I have succeeded in this is now to be

judged by my critics. It may be the task I have undertaken will appear to them too difficult for the grasp of woman's mind. That it has been difficult I willingly confess, and perhaps the pages will indicate this more than I am conscious of. They are, however, the product of years of reading and reflection, and as such have been thought worthy of publication.

Whether this book be or not successful—and its success cannot be reckoned by its completeness—there are such quantities of like material yet unused, that it will be at no distant date drawn upon and put forth in a periodical.

I cannot allow this volume to go to the world without expressing my sincere and heartfelt acknowledgments of the ready and kind assistance that I have never ceased to receive from my husband throughout the whole of my work and investigations: His constant reading of Biblical history—his profound and unalterable

faith in that Book of books, has enabled me to supplement, to illustrate, and to enforce my convictions on the subject which I have undertaken; whilst his devotion to the cause we have both at heart, rendered his suggestions doubly valuable, and more than doubly welcome.

ANNA WILKES.

UPPER NORWOOD,

September, 1873.

