

**ANCIENT HISTORY FROM
THE MONUMENTS. ASSYRIA
FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES
TO THE FALL OF NINEVEH**

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Ancient History from the Monuments. Assyria from the Earliest Times to the Fall of Nineveh
by George Smith

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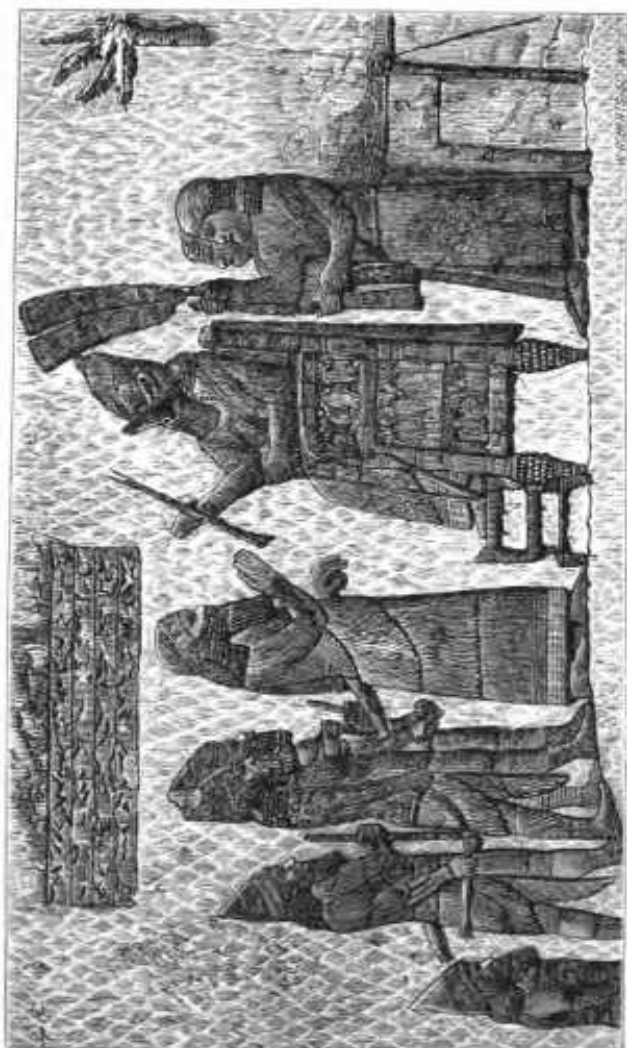
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BY

GEORGE SMITH

Of the Department of Oriental Antiquities, British Museum.

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PREFACE.

THE following history of Assyria is designed to give some of the results attained from the translations of the Cuneiform inscriptions, which contain the records of the Assyrian empire. Prominence has been given to the incidents of the period when Assyria came in contact with Palestine, and the bearing of some of these is pointed out; but it is rather intended that the reader should compare for himself the history here given from the Assyrian with the parallel account of the Books of Kings. Beside the direct account of persons and events given in the Bible, there is a mass of evidence and illustration on manners and customs, language and literature, tending to throw light on the earlier books of the Bible, which renders the study of Assyrian so important and desirable.

An examination of the dates in this history will show that many of them do not agree with the authorized system of chronology in the margins of the Bible. Here I must note that, although there is a striking agreement in the order and substance of the events mentioned in both histories, there sometimes appears to be considerable difference as to the dates. As this is an Assyrian history, I have taken the dates as they appear to stand in the Assyrian records; but it must be remembered that many of the Assyrian chronological documents are mutilated and incomplete, and that the Assyrians are not always correct in the statements of their histories.

It will be seen by this work that there are great and important periods of Assyrian history of which we know nothing or next to nothing; the reason of which is, that sufficient excavations and researches have not been made on the sites of the Assyrian cities. When Assyria is properly explored, there will no longer be the inequality and uncertainty which even now hangs over so much of her history.