

**THE SOCIAL
LEGISLATION OF THE
PRIMITIVE SEMITES**

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The social legislation of the primitive Semites by Henry Schaeffer

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HENRY SCHAEFFER

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BY
HENRY SCHAEFFER, Ph.D.
Member of the American School for Oriental Study
and Research, Syria, 1908-09



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TO MY WIFE'S FATHER

PREFACE

The following work has grown out of a thesis presented in 1912 to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Doctorate. The author does not pretend to great originality in the views set forth in this volume, as will be apparent from the numerous references in the footnotes. However, it is but fair to say that the present writer was frequently obliged to choose his way between conflicting theories and arguments, and to collect the scattered rays of light from various sources. An endeavor has been made to present as clearly as possible the leading facts of a most interesting subject.

For obvious reasons, the transliteration of well-known Hebrew words, especially proper names (except Jehovah = Yahwe, pronounced 'Yahvay'), is in substantial agreement with the established precedents of the English Authorized Version. The system of transliteration employed in the case of other Semitic terms is almost identical with the one proposed by the International Oriental Congress (1894), as well as by the Royal Asiatic Society (see Appendix, *Jour. Roy. Asiat. Soc.*, 1896, 1912).

The kind attention of readers is invited to the list of principal abbreviations, to the index of biblical references, and to the index of subjects.

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