

**ANCIENT HISTORY FROM
THE MONUMENTS. THE
HISTORY OF BABYLONIA**

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Ancient History from the Monuments. The History of Babylonia by George Smith & A. H. Sayce

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BLACK STONE CONTRACT TABLET OF MARUDUK-NADIN-AHI,
page 102.

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THE
HISTORY OF BABYLONIA.

BY THE LATE

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PREFACE.

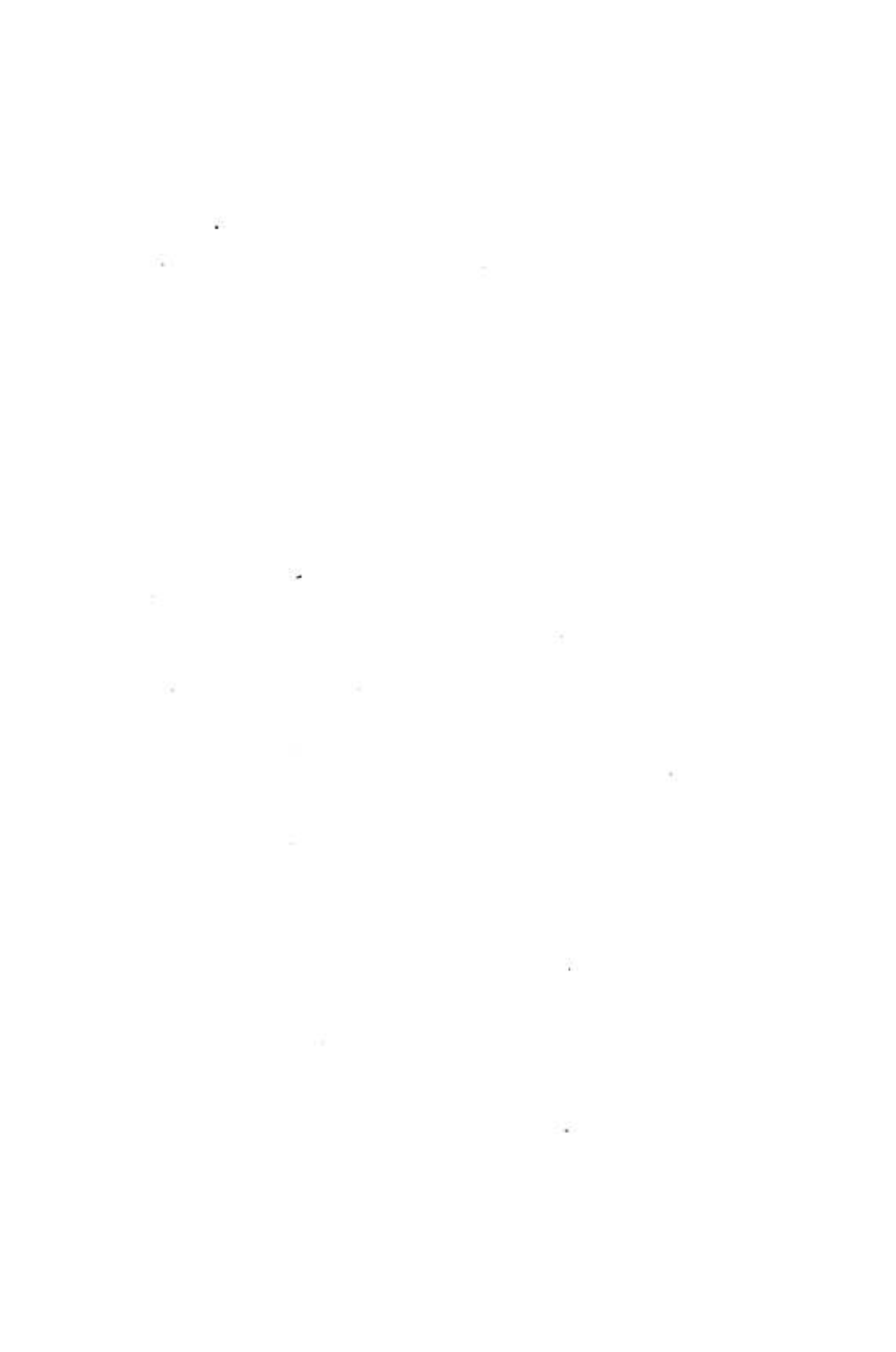


MR. GEORGE SMITH left his "History of Babylonia" in so nearly complete a state, that an editor had little more to do than to see it through the press, correct one or two errors, and make a few additions.

In the performance of this work, which has been one of mingled pain and pleasure, I have changed the author's words and spelling only where there was an obvious oversight, throwing other corrections into footnotes. My own responsibility for these, as well as for other footnotes containing additions to the text, is indicated by a capital S. I have also to take upon myself the responsibility of the Appendix upon the meaning of the proper names, as well as of the table of Babylonian kings and the larger part of the first introductory chapter, of which only the first page or two were written by Mr. Smith. Brackets mark the inserted portion. The Index is due to the kindness of Mr. Greenwood Hird.

Two expressions which will be met with in the book need a short explanation. The abbreviation W. A. I. denotes the series of volumes containing the cruciform "Inscriptions of Western Asia," published

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necessary correction is far less than might have been expected. In fact, with the exception of the account of the Deluge, I have left the translations contained in the first chapter untouched, as they are substantially correct, and a more or less exact rendering of a particular word is not of such great consequence to the general reader. I have, however, revised the translation of the Deluge tablet throughout, and brought it up to the present level of knowledge. Here the subject is one which makes it of importance that the sense of every word should be given with as great exactitude as possible, while it belongs to a class of literature the obscurities of which have been in great measure cleared away by the researches of the last half dozen years.

One of the most interesting results of Mr. Rassam's excavations has been the discovery of the great temple of the Sun-god of Sippara in the mounds of Abu-Habba. The site of Sippara, the Sepharvaim of Scripture, has thus been fixed, and the cuneiform documents found there have afforded valuable aid in the reconstruction of Babylonian history and chronology. One of them informs us that an image of the deity which had been carried away by the nomad *Sutu* during the reign of Simmas-sipak (the son of

Irba-Sin) had been subsequently recovered by the king Nebo-bal-iddin. An inscribed stone, again, sent home by Mr. Rassam gives an account of a war with Elam in the time of Nebuchadnezzar I. (B.C. 1150). In this way, little by little, the gaps in our knowledge of Babylonian history are being filled up, but we are still a long way from having that fulness of information in regard to it that we now possess in regard to the history of the sister-kingdom of Assyria.

A. H. SAYCE.