

**HISTORICAL
ILLUSTRATIONS OF
THE OLD TESTAMENT**

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Historical illustrations of the Old Testament by G. Rawlinson & H. B. Hackett

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G. RAWLINSON & H. B. HACKETT

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OF

THE OLD TESTAMENT.

BY THE

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CARDEN PROFESSOR OF ANCIENT HISTORY, OXFORD.

WITH ADDITIONS

BY

PROF. H. B. HACKETT.



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PREFATORY TO THE AMERICAN EDITION.

THIS volume is one of the recent publications of the "Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge," so well known for its activity in England. It has already passed there through repeated editions in the short time since its appearance. Rev. George Rawlinson, Camden Professor of Ancient History in the University of Oxford, is well known as the author of our ablest works relating to the old Asiatic monarchies connected with Jewish history and occupying so prominent a place in the Old Testament. A work like the present, from such a source and so approved elsewhere, deserves republication here. The book gives us the results (yet duly authenticated by appropriate references) rather than the processes of scholarship, and thus brings the important questions with which it deals within the reach of all intelligent readers.

During the last fifty years, and especially the latter part of this period, we have entered on a new epoch of Biblical knowledge and illustration. Cities that for ages lay buried in ruins have been disinterred. The pyramids have broken their long silence and spoken to us. The Assyrian inscriptions, which go back to the age of the earliest patriarchs, have been read, and have yielded up their hidden meaning. Papyri, as old as the Hebrew Exodus, by the aid of modern science have been deciphered. Geographical explorations, more or less complete, have been made in all parts of the Holy Land, enabling us to judge of the accuracy with which the sacred writers speak of the relative situation of cities and villages, and of the scenery and agricultural or nomadic adaptations of this singular country, so diversified in its aspects and characteristics.

It is the object of Professor Rawlinson's "Historical Illustrations of the Old Testament," to state to us within a brief compass the results of this cross-questioning of such witnesses "from the dead," and show us how fully within the limits of such a comparison

their testimony supports the truthfulness and credibility of the Old Testament records.

It is hoped that the few additions which the Editor has made in the body of the work and in the Appendices will be found to harmonize with the author's design, and may prove acceptable to the reader. These additions are distinguished from the original text by brackets, or the writer's initial. With that exception this edition is a scrupulous reprint of the English work, both in form and contents.

H. B. H.

ROCHESTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, May, 1873.

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