

TOPICS IN ANCIENT HISTORY

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Topics in ancient history by Clara W. Wood

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CLARA W. WOOD

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ANCIENT HISTORY**

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ARRANGED FOR USE IN MT. HOLYOKE SEMINARY
AND COLLEGE

By CLARA W. WOOD.

BOSTON:
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1888.

Behold, the puny child of Man
Sits by Time's boundless sea,
And gathers in his feeble hand
Drops of Eternity.

He overhears some broken words
Of whispered mystery,
He writes them in a tiny book
And calls it History.

— EBENS.

All history is prophecy. — BACON.

Nothing in the past is dead to the man who would learn
how the present came to be what it is. — STUBBS.

The whole interest of History depends on the eternal
likeness of human nature to itself, and on the similarities or
analogies which we in consequence perpetually discover
between that which has been and that which is.

— F. W. NEWMAN.

History does not admit of the cogent proof of mathe-
matics, precisely because her province is an infinitely higher
one, that of mental and moral conviction. — BUNSEN.

. . . Through the ages one increasing purpose runs,
And the thoughts of men are widened with the process of
the suns.

— TENNYSON.

No doubt vast eddies in the flood
Of onward time shall yet be made.

— TENNYSON.

Sit at the feet of History — through the night
Of years the steps of virtue she shall trace
And show the earlier ages, where her sight
Can pierce the eternal shadows o'er their face.

— BRYANT.

"A Humanity."

ANCIENT HISTORY.

WHAT is History? Define Ancient History. What is Philosophy of History? Meaning of the expression "Science of History." Contrasts between Ancient and Modern History. Unity of History. Divisions of the only Historic Race; their general characteristics. Importance of the Aryan Family. Great Oriental Civilizations. Universal Monarchies of Prophecy. Tests of Civilization. Our indebtedness to the Orient.

Fisher, Introduction.

Swinton, Introduction, and pp. 69-72.

Rawlinson, Ancient Monarchies.

Lenormant and Chevallier's Manual of the Ancient History of the East.

Rawlinson's Herodotus.

Schlegel, Philosophy of History.

Littell, Vol. 123, p. 195.

Freeman, Outlines of History.

Freeman, Methods of Historical Study, Lect. III.

Smith, Goldwin, Lectures on the Study of History.

Book of Daniel, chaps. 2, 7, 8, 11.

Cowles, Commentary on Daniel.

Every age is a Sphinx, which sinks into the earth as soon
as its problem is solved. — HEINE.

O fools and blind ! Above the Pyramids
Stretches once more that hand,
And tranced Egypt, from her stony lids,
Flings back her veil of sand.

And morning smitten Memmon, singing wakes ;
And listening by his Nile,
O'er Ammon's grave and awful visage breaks
A sweet and human smile. — WHITTIER.

"The Wisdom of the Egyptians."

EGYPTIAN HISTORY.

HISTORICAL outline. Great dynasties. The Hyksos. Civilization of the Egyptians. Religion. Characteristics of Egyptian civilization. Our claim to civilization compared with the Egyptian.

Fisher, pp. 33-42, 69-72.

Swinton, chap. 2.

Sheldon's General History, p. 10.

Myers' Ancient History, pp. 26-44.

Eclectic, Vol. XII, p. 401.

Wilkinson, Manners and Customs of Ancient Egyptians.

Osburn, Monumental History of Egypt.

Bunsen, Egypt's Place in Universal History.

Smyth, Piazzi, Our Inheritance in the Great Pyramid.

Rawlinson, History of Ancient Egypt.

Rawlinson, Herodotus, Vol. II, chap. 6.

Birch, Ancient History from Monuments, Egypt.

Littell, Vol. 123, p. 707, "The Egyptian Book of the Dead."

May Century, 1887, "Finding Pharaoh."

Ebers, Uarda, Egyptian Princess, The Sisters.

Ye Gods of Greece ! Bright Fictions, when
Ye ruled of old, a happier race —
And mildly bound rejoicing men
In bonds of Beauty and of Grace ;
When worship was a service light,
And duty but an easy bliss,
And white-hued fanes lit every height,
Then — what a sparkling world was this.

* * * * *
And while these Gods so deigned to share
Our mortal pleasures, downward bending,
We too to their Empyrean air
In noble strife were upward tending.
Ah ! generous Creeds that blossomed forth
Mid Southern Græcia's softer bowers,
What blight-wind from our bitter North
Hath seared your hues, and shrunk your flowers !
— SCHILLER (Kenyon's Translation).

Truth is large. Our aspiration
Scarce embraces half we be.
Shame ! to stand in His creation
And doubt Truth's sufficiency !
To think God's song unexcelling
The poor tales of our own telling.
When Pan is dead. — MRS. BROWNING.