

# THE HOMILETIC REVIEW.

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## REVIEW SECTION.

### I.—LIGHT FROM THE TEL-EL-AMARNA TABLETS ON PALESTINE BEFORE THE EXODUS.

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It was in 1887 that the cuneiform tablets of Tel-el-Amarna were discovered among the ruins of the Record-Office of an ancient Egyptian city. The mounds of Tel-el-Amarna lie on the eastern bank of the Nile, nearly midway between Minieh and Assiut, and cover the site of a city which had a glorious but brief existence of about thirty years. Toward the close of the eighteenth Egyptian dynasty the court of the Pharaoh became semi-Asiatic, the Egyptian kings married Asiatic wives, and finally Amenophis IV. ascended the throne while still a boy under the tutelage of his mother Teie, who was of Asiatic descent. Like his mother, Amenophis IV. was a devoted adherent of an Asiatic form of religion which saw in the solar disk the visible emblem of the one supreme God, and he endeavored to force his belief upon his subjects. A long struggle ensued with the powerful hierarchy of Thebes; but the king, who had changed his name to Khu-n-Aten, "the glory of the Solar Disk," was eventually obliged to quit the capital of his fathers and build himself a new city on the spot where Tel-el-Amarna now stands. Here he was surrounded by the adherents of the new faith, a large part of whom were Asiatics from Canaan. The highest offices of state were filled with Syrians, and even art assumed an Asiatic dress.

When Khu-n-Aten left Thebes he took with him the state archives. These and the further additions made to them during his own reign constitute the collection of tablets which has been found at Tel-el-Amarna. They consist of letters and despatches from the kings of

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NOTE.—This periodical adopts the Orthography of the following Rule, recommended by the joint action of the American Philological Association and the Philological Society of England:—  
Change **d** or **ed** final to **t** when so pronounced, except when the **e** affects a preceding sound.—  
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