

CHALDÆA AND ASSYRIA.

POLITICAL HISTORY.

In the single valley formed by two rivers, the Euphrates and Tigris (now belonging to Turkey, but to-day an almost ruined country), we find again the natural process by which the more fertile lower river valley was the earlier seat of empire. The Prov-



An Assyrian Palace (Restoration).

ince of Chaldæa (the lower valley), capital Babylon, was the first seat of empire. The province of Assyria, capital Nineveh, was the later military and governmental centre. About 1250 B. C. the transfer was effected, and the rise of Assyria is thus contemporary with the decline of the external power of the New Empire of Egypt.

In distinguishing the Chaldæan Empire from the Assyrian, not much more difference is implied than that between the