

## The Bible Confirmed.

## THE MOABITE STONE.

"This Moabite stone was a monument erected by Mesha, a contemporary of Ahab, who is called 'a sheepmaster' (2 Kings iii, 4). It is consequently as old as the ninth century before Christ, and was discovered in 1869, by Mr. Klein, a German missionary, among the ruins of Dhiban, the ancient Dibon. A translation of the text will show how historically important it is:—

"I Mesha was the son of Chemosh-Gad, King of Moab, the Dibonite. My father reigned over Moab thirty years, and I reigned after my father. And I erected this stone to Chemosh, at Kirkha, a (stone of) salvation, for he saved me from all despoilers, and made me see all my desire upon all my enemies, even upon OMRI, KING OF ISRAEL. How they afflicted Moab many days, for Chemosh was angry with his land; his son succeeded him, and he also said, I will afflict Moab. In my days (Chemosh) said (Let us go) and I will see my desire upon him and his house, and I will destroy Israel with an everlasting destruction. Now OMRI took the land of Medeba, and (the enemy) occupied it in (his days and in) the days of his son, forty years. And Chemosh (had mercy) on it in my days, and I fortified Baal Meon, and I made therein the tank, and I fortified Kiriathaim. For the men of Gad dwelt in the land of (Atar)oth from of old, and the king (of) Israel fortified for himself Ataroth, and I assaulted the wall and captured it, and killed all the warriors of the

wall for the well-pleasing of Chemosh and Moab; and I removed from it all the spoil, and (offered) it before Chemosh in Kirjah; and I placed therein the men of Siran and the men of Moch-rath. And Chemosh said to me, Go, take Nebo against Israel. (And I) went in the night, and fought against it from the break of dawn till noon, and I took it and slew in all 7,000 (men, but I did not kill) the women (and) the maidens, for (I) devoted them to Ashtar-Chemosh; and took from it the vessels of Yahveh and offered them before Chemosh. And the king of Israel fortified Jahaz, and occupied it, when he made war against me; and Chemosh drove him out before (me, and) I took from Moab 200 men, all its poor, and placed them in Jahaz, and took it to annex it to Dibon. I built Kirkha, the wall of the forest, and the wall of the city, and I built the gates thereof, and I built the towers thereof, and I built the palace, and I made the prisons for the criminals within the walls. And there was no cistern in the wall at Kirkha, and I said to all the people, make for yourselves, every man, a cistern in his house. And I dug the ditch for Kirkha by means of the (captive men) of Israel. I built Areor, and I made the road across the Arnon. I built Beth-Bamoth, for it was destroyed; I built Bezer, for it had been cut (down) by the armed men of Dibon, for all Dibon was now loyal; and I reigned from Bikron, which I added to my land, and I built (Beth-Gamul) and Beth-Baal-Meon, and I placed there the poor (people) of the land. And as