

Assyria the Heir of Early Babylonia.—A great part of the civilization of the Assyrians was inherited from the early



ASSYRIAN PALACE AT NINEVEH (Restoration)

Babylonians. It is true that these two peoples belonged to the same race; yet they were quite different in spirit. "The Babylonians were peaceful in disposition, given to agriculture, fond of literature, well educated and comparatively humane in the conduct of their wars. The Assyrians cared little for agriculture, their wars were undertaken for plunder and were conducted with ferocity." Still, many of the arts of peace developed by the Babylonians were taken up by the Assyrians. The Assyrians, for example, adopted the method of writing used by their older neighbours, and showed something of the same taste for literature. They acquired the same, if not superior, skill in the mechanic arts, and adopted the same scientific ideas. Their religion was in all essential matters the same as that of the Babylonians; and they generally adopted the same strict methods in their



WINGED BULL WITH HUMAN HEAD