



THE MOABITE STONE.

PERHAPS it would hardly be an exaggeration to say, that there are two antiquities: an antiquity of the Past and an antiquity of the Future. One is the inspiration of history; the other the burden of prophetic song. If this were not so, how could Abraham have seen the day of Christ, or Christianity become venerable before its founder was born? And both of these periods belong to the antiquary, if he wills it so.

At the present time there are too many vague views abroad in regard to what constitutes the antiquary and his vocation. First

NOTE.—This paper was contributed to the AMERICAN QUARTERLY CHURCH REVIEW, to appear in July, 1871. It was based on the following works:

The Moabite Stone; a Fac-Simile of the original Inscription, with an English Translation and a historical and critical Commentary.

The Palestine Exploration Fund: Quarterly Statement, No. VI.

The Recovery of Jerusalem: an Account of Recent Excavations and Discoveries in the Holy City. By Captain Wilson, R. E. and Captain Warren, R. E., with an Introductory Chapter by Dean Stanley.

It was the aim of the author of this paper to give a *resumé* of the whole question, and present the facts connected with the Moabite Stone in a form adapted for general use, and free as possible from technicalities. The article includes all the facts known to the author down to the present time (June 13); but it is stated that Dr. Ginsburg is already preparing a second edition of his learned and valuable work. It is not apprehended, however, that he will find anything of importance to recall, but it is thought that he may give us additional light in regard to the closing portions of the inscription. It is to be hoped that this paper may contribute something to the interest already felt in the American Palestine Exploration Fund, at least among those students of Biblical Antiquities into whose hands it is likely to fall.