

Sargon of Akkad and his son Naram-Sin were creatures of myth, and that the description of their campaigns in Syria and Canaan, and of the empire they established in Western Asia was altogether 'unhistorical.' But once more the excavator has been at work; the monuments of Sargon and Naram-Sin have been found, and written tablets have been disinterred dated in the years when Syria, 'the land of the Amorites,' was conquered. Wherever archaeology has been able to test the negative conclusions of criticism, they have dissolved like a bubble into the air.

The criticism of the Old Testament, which has ended in negation and preferred the results of its own subjective theorizing to the external testimony of tradition, had a twofold basis. It started on the one hand from Wolf's assumption that the use of writing for literary purposes was unknown before the classical period of Greek history, and on the other hand from Astruc's inference that the employment of different names for the Deity in the Book of Genesis indicated diversity of authorship.

It was in 1795 that Wolf's *Prolegomena* to Homer was published, and the foundations laid