

The oldest civilizations of the world were Turanian, that is, they were neither Semitic nor Aryan. Semitic writing is old, and Semitic speech was adopted by non-Semitic peoples, such as the Phœnicians. But the rulers of men were Turanians. Such were the primitive Egyptians whom we would now call Malays; and the Accadians of Chaldea, who might be termed Uralians. The latter, representing the Northern Turanians of postponing grammar, and vocabulary that mediates between the



PLATE II.

Basque and the Japanese, are popularly supposed to have had no other form of writing than the cuneiform of Babylonia, and the Hittite hieroglyphics. This is a radical misconception. They possessed a phonetic syllabary, not an alphabet, from before the time of the patriarch Abraham. Over 3,000 inscriptions in it are found from the Sinaitic Peninsula, and east of Jordan up into Syria. They have been called Sinaitic, Nabatean, and many other names, and, because men have failed to decipher them, they have been set aside as worthless. Most of the native syllabaries of Asia Minor, such as the Phrygian and Lydian, are of the same character.