

PREFACE.

THE following work is substantially a reprint of articles contributed to the *Bibliotheca Sacra*, the last of them having appeared in January of the present year. Inasmuch as the ground taken up by it has been regarded by many influential scientists as properly closed to the practical worker, and an attempt to compare the Aryan and Semitic systems of language is often spoken of as mere dilettanteism, it seems necessary to say a few words by way of apology.

The investigation whose results are here presented has been carried on under the conviction that the field should not be abandoned until inquiry should be proved to be a search for the undiscoverable, or, in other words, until true scientific methods should be proved to be unavailing. If it appears that hitherto the full resources of science have not been called out, investigation would seem to be not only legitimate but necessary. The following considerations may be adduced as having controlled the purpose of the work :

(1) It is possible to compare the *forms* of the two systems better than has been done hitherto. Proto-Aryan forms, which are used on the one side of the equations, have been brought out of late years with ever-increasing definiteness and accuracy. A dictionary of Proto-Aryan roots, generally reliable for comparative purposes, not only may be, but has been, constructed, and the processes which are involved in its grand results are to be commended to the study of every trained and cautious etymologist. What the principles are which should lead to equally valid results in the search for Proto-Semitic roots cannot long be a matter of doubt; and a sound and sure Semitic morphology is certainly within reach. In Chapter IV. I have presented an outline of the