

## PREFACE.

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EGYPT was of old the scene of the most startling and extended series of wonders ever wrought by "the finger of God." The world still reads the narrative of these miraculous events with a thrill of awe and wonder; and, in our own day, this feeling has been deepened by the unlooked for corroborations and illustrations of the sacred history, brought to light by researches among the ruins of Ancient Egypt. It was a remark of Voltaire that "the Egypt of the Bible was a mistake." The sneering, sceptical philosopher fancied that an acquaintance with the monuments of the Nile-valley would speedily dissipate all faith in the veracity of the writer of the Pentateuch, and convict him of writing a romance, in utter ignorance of Egypt's history, geography, natural phenomena, people, laws and customs. In God's providence, old Egypt has been raised from the dust of centuries; her mysterious hieroglyphics have been deciphered; the broken links of her history have been restored; and now, after an interment of twenty centuries, she appears in court to confront the subtlest infidelity that has yet impugned the truth of the Bible. The result is all that the Christian could wish for, and far more than the most sanguine could have anticipated. Infidelity has, in this attack, been completely discomfited; the Bible has gained a fresh victory. The "Egypt of Moses" has been proved to be the Egypt of history. His picture of that land of wonders has been shown to be accurate in the minutest details. His references to Egyptian history, modes of life, natural history and physical phenomena, have all been confirmed by the most rigid and impartial investigations of modern research; and of each and all his statements the verdict