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THE PRIMITIVE HISTORY OF THE IONIANS.

BY JOHN CAMPBELL, M A.,

Professor of Church History, &c., Presbyterian College, Montreal.

The only people of antiquity of whom we possess a continuous authentic history is that of Israel. The history of the nations that dwelt within the areas of the Tigris and the Euphrates and along the shores of Nile is now in process of construction on the basis of the materials afforded by the written monuments of Babylonia and Assyria, and of Egypt. The antiquity, I do not say of these monuments, but of the times and persons they treat of, exceeds that of the patriarch Abraham, with whose story the annals of Israel begin. No such antiquity has been claimed for the Greek tribes as integers among primitive nationalities, because they are supposed to have arisen into a state of civilization in Hellas, many centuries after their ancestors, as savage nomads, had taken possession of that land. The unanimous voice of tradition and history, with that of a candid reasoning from analogy, is opposed to such a gratuitous hypothesis. The Greeks, whether Javan or any other son of Japheth be their ancestor, struck out for themselves no new track of migration through the inhospitable wilds of Armenia and Asia Minor in quest of the peninsula of Europe, which became the home of some of them in the accepted historical period. They simply followed in the westward course of the families of mankind from the plain of dispersion. First to move in that direction were the descendants of Ham, who peopled Arabia, Egypt and Palestine. Into these same countries other emigrants from Shinar found their way. There is little evidence that the children of Shem, with the exception of the family