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CIVILIZATION OF EGYPT.

One of the results of recent research has been to take Egyptology out of its isolation and to set it in organic relation with the contemporary civilization of the East. As Prof. Sayce says: It is no longer the dawn of civilization in which we find ourselves, but the full light of an advanced culture. The natives of the ancient East are no longer each pursuing an isolated existence and separately developing the seeds of civilization and culture on the bank of the Euphrates and the Nile. Asia and Africa have met in mortal combat. Babylonia has carried its empire to the frontiers of Egypt, and Egypt itself has been held in bondage by the Hyksos strangers from Asia. In return Egypt has driven back the wave of invasion to the borders of Mesopotamia, has substituted an empire of its own in Syria for that of the Babylonians, and has forced the Babylonian king to treat with its Pharaoh on equal terms. In the track of war and diplomacy have come trade and commerce. Western Asia is covered with roads, along which the merchant and the courier travel incessantly, and the whole civilized world of the Orient is knit together in a common literary culture and common commercial interests.

The age of isolation has thus been succeeded by an age of intercourse, partly military and antagonistic, partly literary and peaceful. Prof. Maspero paints for us this age of intercourse, describes its rise and character, its decline and fall. For the unity of Eastern civilization was again shattered. The Hittites descended from the ranges of Taurus upon the Egyptian province of Northern Syria

and cut off the Semites of the West from those of the East. The Israelites poured over the Jordan out of Eden and Moab and took possession of Canaan, while Babylonia itself, for so many centuries the ruling power of the Oriental world, had to make way for its upstart rival, Assyria. The old imperial powers were exhausted and played out, and it needed time before the new forces which were to take their place could acquire sufficient strength for their work.

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