

# Methodist Magazine and Review.

AUGUST, 1898.

## THE LOST EMPIRES OF THE EAST.\*

BY THE EDITOR.



SITE OF THE TEMPLE OF ASSUR-NAZIR-PAL FOUND AT NIMROUD IN 1878 A. D.

A great many readers of this magazine are actively engaged in Sunday-school work, and many more, we trust all the rest, are earnest Bible students. It is, in many respects, a liberal education in itself to follow the course of Sunday-school lessons from year to year. They come in close touch with very many points of sacred and secular history which are engaging the most earnest thought of scholars, explorers and interpreters of ancient monuments and ancient tongues.

\* "Asshur and the Land of Nimrod." Being an Account of the Discoveries made in the ancient ruins of Nineveh, Asshur, Sepharvaim, Calah, Babylon, Borsippa, Cuthah and Van, including a Narrative of Different Journeys in Mesopotamia, Assyria, Asia Minor, and Koordistan. By Hormuzd Rassam. With an introduction by R. C. W. Rogers, Ph.D., D.D. Cincinnati: Curts & Jennings. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. xiv.-432. \$3.00.

The recent lessons on the life of our Lord and of the early Church treat the most important themes in the history of our world and the most important aspects of human development. The studies for the current half year on the history of the Hebrew monarchy are also full of sacred and secular interest. The Hebrew people were brought into intimate relations with the great monarchies of antiquity. Thus Hebrew thought and development receive a permanent impress, and "the Law, which is a schoolmaster to bring men to Christ" greatly influenced the mighty Medo-Persian monarchy of Cyrus. In these lessons the history of the Chaldeans, of Assyria and Babylonia are brought directly under review. The labours of Layard, and Rawlinson, Smith, and Sayce, Hilprecht and Hormuzd Rassam, and other explorers and investigators throw a flood of light upon some of the profoundest problems of Old Testament history. We have thought it well, therefore, to treat in this, as well