

Map Explanation.—The line of the "Four Great Powers" represented on the map is that of the division of the Assyrian Empire into the Empires of Media and Babylonia. The two additional great Eastern powers of this time were Lydia and Egypt.

The earlier Chaldean Empire, in its greatest extent, corresponded to the dimensions of "Babylonia" on this map. The extent of the Assyrian Empire would be obtained by uniting the States of Babylonia and Media as here represented. The extent of the Persian Empire would be obtained by uniting all four Great Powers with the addition of the countries on the East, as far as the Indus. The extent of the Persian Empire is also indicated on the map for the Empire of Alexander the Great, which corresponded in extent to the Persian, with the addition of the Greek states.

In the use of this map, and all others, it is very desirable to make comparison with the maps of a modern geography, and to exercise the historical knowledge gained, by pointing out the same facts on a modern map.

TABLE REPRESENTING THE RELATIONS OF THE ANCIENT EASTERN EMPIRES.

Egypt.

Chaldea.—Assyria.— { Babylonia.— } Persian Empire.
Media.— }

TABLE OF DATES FOR THE HISTORY OF THE TIGRIS EUPHRATES VALLEY.

Chaldean Empire,—Unknown beginning to about.....	B. C. 1250
Assyrian Empire,—Ends.....	" 625
Median	
Babylonian { Empires.—End about.....	" 555
Persian Empire.—Ends with a Greek conquest about.....	" 333

CIVILIZATION OF CHALDÆO-ASSYRIA.

Interest in Assyrian and Chaldean history was awakened in the 19th century by the discoveries of Sir Henry Layard, an English traveler and diplomatist. It appears from his excavations that the architecture of the Chaldeans and Assyrians was exclusively of brick. Hence heaps of shapeless ruins are all that remain of their structures, as opposed to the still existing massive stone remains of ancient Egypt. In the immense mounds, scattered here and there below Babylon, may still be traced, however, the original form of the Chaldean temples.

The temples were immense circular cones ascended by an external spiral staircase, on the summit of which the priests made their astronomic observations and offered sacrifices. The bricks of these structures are stamped with the names of the reigning kings.

The Chaldean writing is known as cuneiform (wedge-shaped), because