

CHAPTER II.

BABYLONIANS AND ASSYRIANS.

OUTLINE : *Situation of Babylonia and Assyria — First Babylonian Empire — Assyrian Empire — New Babylonian Empire.*

SUMMARY OF EVENTS.

- I. — The lower part of the plain which extends from the Tigris to the Euphrates was formerly called Babylonia. Assyria was situated on both banks of the Upper Tigris.
- II. — Nimrod built Babylon and held it under his power, together with the neighboring lands and peoples. Several other cities were built later on and remained independent until the twenty-third century. They were then subjugated by Khammurabi, king of Babylon, the founder of the first Babylonian Empire. This Empire became a tributary of Assyria in the thirteenth century.
- III. — Ashur founded Nineveh, the first city of Assyria. This country, at first subject to Babylon, became its master in the thirteenth century. The Assyrian kings extended their empire considerably.
The history of the Assyrian Empire is divided into two parts : the first ends with the capture of Nineveh in 625.
- IV. — The second Babylonian Empire began after the destruction of Nineveh. It lasted till 538, when Babylon was taken by the Persians. This Empire attained the height of its prosperity under Nabuchodonosor II. who took Jerusalem and made Babylon a magnificent city.