

of evolution of which the 'higher criticism' has dreamed.

But in truth the archaeological discoveries of the last half-dozen years in Egypt and Krete have once for all discredited the claim of 'criticism' to apply its theories of development to the settlement of chronological or historical questions. It is not very long since it was assuring us that the civilization of Egypt had little or no existence before the age of the Fourth Dynasty, that no records had been kept or monuments preserved of so 'prehistoric' a period, and that the kings whom tradition assigned to it were but the 'half-fabulous' fictions of later centuries.

And yet these half-fabulous fictions have turned out to have lived in the full blaze of Egyptian culture; their tombs and public works were on a grandiose scale, their art was far advanced, their political organization complete. The art of writing was not only known, but an alphabet had been invented, and a cursive hand formed. A chronological register of time was kept year by year, and the height of each successive Nile minutely recorded. The civilization of Egypt in the reign of Menes was as