

better perhaps than many of us know the state of "the dangerous classes", who are living side by side with us, in the hovels of poverty or the courts and lanes of our great cities. It is but a few years since the key to the mysterious hieroglyphics which cover their monuments, was discovered; and now these inscriptions can be read almost as readily and certainly as Hebrew or Greek. Their tombs present pictures of their arts and domestic and social life, so perfect as to leave nothing to be desired. Their pyramids have yielded up their secrets,—their temples have been explored—their sphinxes unriddled—the awful "veil of Isis," their favourite goddess, has been lifted; and we can now boast of possessing an acquaintance with the life, literature, arts and religion of the old Egyptians, which is rarely attainable regarding any race that belongs to the mighty past. And when we find the important bearing many of these discoveries have on that volume which is our guide and comforter in life and death,—the striking confirmations and illustrations of scripture they supply—we are neither superstitious nor fanatical in affirming that the hand of God is visible in bringing these to light at the present eventful crisis. When as yet these researches were in their infancy, infidelity raised a shout of triumph, and boasted that the Bible was now reduced to the condition of "old wives' fables"; a very different tale has to be told now, when science has perfected her discoveries. Judging from what has taken place, in reference to the sciences of geology and astronomy in connexion with revelation, and the brilliant confirmations of scripture thus obtained; and adding to these the results of researches among the remains of antiquity, we are justified in believing that infidelity is destined to be annihilated by the very weapons it had impiously laid hold of; and that philosophy, as religion's handmaid, will completely overthrow the scepticism of the age, and triumphantly vindicate the inspired volume.

The main object I shall keep in view, throughout these lectures, is to bring before you whatever in the recent discoveries among the ruins of Egypt has any bearing, illustrative or confirmatory, on the statements of the Bible. In doing so, it will be necessary to present you with at least an outline of these important researches, with their results. We shall first glance at the country—then at the people—their history and achievements; and we shall then be prepared to place side by side, and compare the records of the Bible and those of the monuments of Egypt.

We shall first endeavour to form some idea of the country