

of the Creation and of the Deluge formed part of the common heritage of the Semitic peoples everywhere. There is, therefore, no need to suppose that the Jews incorporated these in their sacred books only at a later time when they again came into contact with the Babylonians by conquest.

Archaeology has further tended to discredit the results of literary criticism by furnishing independent evidence of the substantial truth of the history given in the Pentateuch. It is almost a necessary consequence of the Wellhausen theory that the history which appears in the Pentateuch should be almost wholly traditional, and largely untrustworthy; that it should be not so much a record of facts as a transcription of the popular conception of the facts, and idealized history partaking of the character of the historical novel, given not for the sake of the history, but for the sake of the religious truth it might convey. Some of the writers of this school hesitate to avow such an opinion. But Wellhausen himself does not hesitate to assert it, and declare that the history is largely a fabrication. According to him, the Israelites had no historical connection with Chaldea, and were not descended from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but were a collection of Arabian nomads, who about 1200 B.C. appeared for the first time on the east bank of the Jordan, and crossing over, succeeded in getting a foothold in Palestine. They were mere barbarians as compared with the earlier occupants, and, as has often been the case under similar circumstances, they adopted the civilization and language, also the traditions and, to some extent, the religion of their new subjects, appropriating whatever was fitted to gratify their vanity or minister to their national pride. The details as to names, places, incidents were supplied at a later time, and are mainly invented. Some even deny the fact of the residence in Egypt and the exodus as mere incense offered to the national self-glorification.

In opposition to all this, Prof. Hommel, in his latest book, "The Ancient Hebrew Tradition as Illustrated by the Monuments," sets himself to marshal the evidence furnished by