

THE
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" THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD."—Prov. xix. 2.  
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MR. LOFTUS' RESEARCHES IN CHALDÆA AND SUSIANA.*

AMONG the most remarkable discoveries of the present day must be reckoned those which have been made by exploration of the monuments and ruins of Eastern countries. Not only have these regions in their physical characteristics and the moral and social condition of their inhabitants been made known to Europeans, but such have been the remains of antiquity exhumed, as to give almost as vivid an idea of the state of these countries at a period, so far back that only a few fragments of their history had been preserved. The reading of the hieroglyphics of Egypt by Young and Champollion, was followed by the more remarkable discoveries of Layard and his companions among the palaces of Nineveh and the ruins of Babylonia, thus unfolding to us the life and history of the two greatest nations of antiquity, with which the chosen people of God during their early history were brought most closely in contact. From this close connexion of these nations and countries with the events recorded in the sacred volume, these discoveries have been especially interesting to christians; and every intelligent student of the Word of God must have been delighted at the remarkable manner, in which the remains of palaces buried for more than twenty centuries, have in the 19th century served to illustrate and confirm the declarations of the sacred volume, and put to shame the incredulity of the infidel.

It seems that these discoveries are not yet at an end. Here is an interesting volume by another explorer; and although we cannot expect such remarkable discoveries as those of Mr Layard, yet when we mention that he has explored the remains of what there is every reason to believe to be the cities Erech, Calneh, and Ur of the Chaldees, and that he professes to read the name of a king, who reigned as early as the days of Abraham, it will be seen at once that his investigations are deeply interesting to the student of Scripture. When a joint Commission of England and Russia, as mediators between Turkey and Persia, was appointed to settle the boundary between the latter countries, Mr Loftus was attached as geologist to the staff of our countryman, General Williams, the British Commissioner; and the present

* Travels in Chaldæa and Susiana. By Wm. Kenneth Loftus, F.G.S. New York: Carter & Brothers.