

**PRESENT DAY
PRIMERS. A PRIMER
OF ASSYRIOLOGY**

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Present Day Primers. A Primer of Assyriology by A. H. Sayce

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A. H. SAYCE

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A primer of Assyriology

Archibald Henry Sayce



CLAY CYLINDER OF TIGLATH-PILESER I.

Present Day Primers

A

Primer of Assyriology

BY
A. H. SAYCE, LL.D.

PROFESSOR OF ASSYRIOLOGY, OXFORD
AUTHOR OF 'FRESH LIGHT FROM THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS'
'ASSYRIA, ITS PRINCES, PRIESTS, AND PEOPLE,' ETC.

WITH SEVEN ILLUSTRATIONS

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A PRIMER OF ASSYRIOLOGY

CHAPTER I

THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE

Geography.—The civilizations of Babylonia and Assyria grew up on the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates. The Tigris was called Idikna and Idikla in the Sumerian or primitive language of Babylonia, from which the Semites formed the name Idiklat, by means of the feminine suffix *-t*. In later times the name was shortened into Diklat, and finally assimilated by the Persians to the word Tigra, which in their language signified 'an arrow.' It is from Tigra that the classical name Tigris is derived. In Genesis (ii. 14), however, the ancient name Idikla, there written Hiddekel, is still preserved. The Euphrates was called Pura-nun, or 'great water,' in Sumerian,