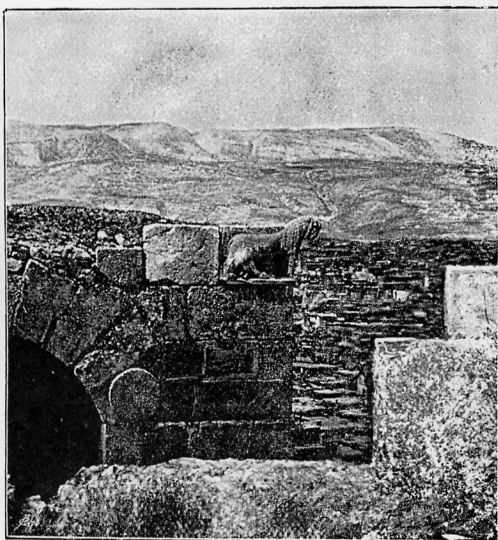




THE BILINGUAL BOSS OF TARKONDEMOS.



THE LION OF MERASH.

THE HITTITES

THE STORY OF A FORGOTTEN EMPIRE

By A. H. SAYCE, LL.D., D.D.

Professor of Assyriology, Oxford

Author of 'Fresh Light from the Ancient Monuments'

'Assyria, its Princes, Priests, and People'

etc., etc.

WITH THIRTEEN ILLUSTRATIONS

THIRD AND ENLARGED EDITION

London

THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY

4 Bouverie Street and 65 St. Paul's Churchyard, E.C.

1903

PREFACE

TO THE THIRD EDITION

SINCE the first edition of this book was [published fourteen years ago, 'Hittitology,' as our German friends call it, has become a recognized science. Hittite sites have been explored, fresh inscriptions been discovered, and a 'Hittite' literature has grown up. M. Ménant, indeed, the learned translator of this volume into French, and one of the most devoted of Oriental students, has passed away, but his place has been supplied by young recruits of many nationalities. Various attempts have been made to decipher the inscriptions, among others by myself, but until the last few months the solution of the problem seemed as far off as ever.

I have at last succeeded, however, in partially lifting the veil which has hitherto concealed their meaning, and in the chapter relating to them will be found a brief outline of the process and its results. Before any system of decipherment can be accepted, there are three conditions which it has to fulfil. The right geographical names must be read without forcing in the inscriptions in which they would be expected to occur; the grammar of the language must resemble that of the cuneiform tablets of Boghaz Keui and the Arzawan letters; and the values assigned to the characters must support and corroborate one another. If the value is correct it will give us the name or