A Century of Archaeological Discoveries

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A CENTURY OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES
KING ASSURNASIRPAL
BRITISH MUSEUM

Frontispiece
A CENTURY OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

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TRANSLATED BY
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WITH A PREFACE BY
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IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

LONDON
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET
1908
DEDICATED
IN LOVE AND SINCERITY
TO THE FRIENDS OF MY YOUTH
AND MY FELLOW-STUDENTS
ALEXANDER CONZE
BERLIN, ITALY, GREECE
AND
EUGEN PETERSEN
KIEL, BONN, ROME
AUGUST, 1905
PREFACE

A WORK by my friend, Professor Michaelis, needs no introduction to archæologists, among whom for forty years he has held a distinguished place. And it should need no introduction to English scholars, who owe to the writer admirable works on their treasures, the Parthenon, and the Nereid Tomb of Xanthus, as well as a great Catalogue of the Ancient Marbles in English private houses.

In the present book Professor Michaelis gives an account of archæological discovery during the last century. It is a work showing intimate knowledge; but it is no dry summary; rather, a record of what the writer, watching all with the greatest interest, learned as the scroll of excavation and research was gradually unrolled. This infusion of a personal element has made the book more interesting to the reader. At the same time it has had the effect of preventing the treatment from being quite even on all sides. Excavation and discovery which has especially come under the notice of Professor Michaelis, and especially, as he says in his Preface, the work of German explorers has been treated of at greater length, often with graphic details which dwell in the memory. Other discoveries which he has not watched with the same closeness, or which have been published in a form less accessible to him, are spoken of, comparatively, with brevity. In the former
category come the discovery of the tomb at Trysa (Giölbaschi) in Lycia, of which the reliefs are now removed to Vienna, and the excavations at Pergamon, which have so greatly enriched the museums of Berlin. In the second category come the recent activities of the British and American schools at Athens. Professor Michaelis has done ample justice to the brilliant series of English discoveries in Greece which began with Cockerell and ended with Newton. But more recent excavations such as those of the British School at Megalopolis and in Melos, and that of the American School at Corinth, have scarcely come in for their fair share of notice.

This failure in complete impartiality is not to English and American readers a great disadvantage. For in the "Journal of Hellenic Studies," the "Annual of the British School of Athens," the "American Journal of Archæology," they can read full accounts of all that their countrymen bring to pass in Greece. And now the very useful "Year's Work in Classical Studies" gives every year a summary of the results reached. With us it is the French and German discoveries which are less well-known; and thus the present work will serve well to fill a gap in our literature.

Since the foundation of the British School at Athens in 1883, and that of the American School a little earlier, these two institutions have become the centres of continuous archæological work on a number of Greek sites. Among the sites which have occupied English scholars may be mentioned Naucratis in Egypt, Paphos and Salamis in Cyprus, Phylakopi in Melos, and Præsus and Palaikastro in Crete. Light won from most of these sites has been thrown on the prehistoric age in Greek lands, rather on what is really Hellenic. It is a Darwinian age, when the search for origins seems to fascinate men more than the search for what is good in