

than we have for many of the later centuries. A completely new world has arisen from the dust of the past ages.

What was before a mere indistinct gloom with an occasional figure very slightly known to us here and there, has now become a ^{part} bit of definitely known history.

One hundred years ago, we had only one book that claimed to give us much knowledge back of 500 B.C. That was the Old Testament. That book gave us an account of events running back some thousands of years before that time. Many ^{cities} scenes were mentioned in the Old Testament which were otherwise completely unknown to us. Great kings and ^e emperors were referred to in its pages whose names had otherwise completely disappeared. Even whole nations entered into the pages of the Old Testament which had otherwise completely vanished from the memory of man.

One or two instances of this would be interesting. As an instance of a city, we might refer to Nineveh. — ~~This~~ great city which is referred to in a number of places in the books of Kings and in some of the Prophets. In the book of Jonah, N. is referred to as a city of three days, a city so large it would take three days to walk around it. Yet we knew practically nothing of N. one hundred years ago, aside from these few references in the Bible.

There were naturally those who said that if such a great city as N. is described as being, had actually existed, we would have more knowledge of it than the little that we find in the Old Testament.

In 1842, almost one hundred years ago, a Frenchman called *Botta* began excavating in a mound near the Tigris River. The place where he excavated then was dug into three years later by Henry *Layard* a young Englishman who succeeded in finding evidences