

Every work written by M. Duruy bears the stamp of his peculiar genius. His knowledge of history was immense. But above all in marvellous degree he possessed the faculty, when confronted by a mass of facts, of recognizing the important and essential, and of presenting it in vivid and not easily forgotten language. What sense of perspective is to the artist, that such ability to appreciate and compare is to the real historian. Some histories resemble monotonous plains, which never do more than undulate, where the hills are never high and the valleys are never profound. M. Duruy grasps the great ideas, the great events, the great achievements of the past, and plants them upon his pages like mountain peaks. His narration is like a military parade, each captain stepping out in front of his troop. This fact not only adds interest and charm to his writings, but enhances their value. It furthermore guarantees that the worth of the present volume cannot be measured by its size. This book begins with the emergence of man from the cradle of the river basins in most remote antiquity. It traces the development of civilization in the Chinese, Indian, Egyptian, Assyrian, Phoenician, Hebrew, and Persian monarchies. It brings to light whatever was best and most memorable in those distant societies, as well as their weaknesses and the causes of their decline. It sets forth the religions of Confucius, Brahma, Buddha, and Zoroaster, all, however impartially portrayed, paling before the unapproached moral greatness of that Hebrew code which was confirmed by Jehovah from Sinai. The larger portion of the book is devoted to the two preeminent nations of the past, to the glory that was Greece, and the grandeur that was Rome. (Typographical errors above are due to OCR software and do not occur in the book.) About the Publisher Forgotten Books is a publisher of historical writings, such as: Philosophy, Classics, Science, Reli

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