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The Assyriologist and archaeologist Reginald Campbell Thompson (1876–1941) studied Hebrew at Cambridge and moved upon graduation into the department of Egyptian and Assyrian antiquities at the British Museum, where he developed remarkable skill in matching fragments of cuneiform tablets and transcribing their texts. He excavated at Nineveh and later produced a definitive edition of the trilingual inscription of Darius at Behistan in Iran. This 1915 work describes Thompson's life 'in the field' at various sites in Egypt, the Sudan and western Asia. The difficulties and dangers of travel, the encounters with local people, and the management of an excavation are all described with enthusiasm and in melodramatic terms. Thompson lovingly records the daily life and traditions of the pre-1914 Middle East, perhaps feeling that he was witnessing a world that would soon be radically changed by the war. His *Semitic Magic* (1908) is also reissued in this series.

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Reginald Campbell Thompson
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A Pilgrim's Scrip

REGINALD CAMPBELL THOMPSON



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DARIUS AND TWO SATRAPS ON THE GREAT TRILINGUAL
INSCRIPTION AT BEHISTUN

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BY R. CAMPBELL THOMPSON
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TO
L. W. K.
H. R. H.
AND
IN MEMORY OF
P. D. S.-M.

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

I HAVE of set purpose avoided giving an account of the discoveries in the excavations conducted by the British Museum under Mr. L. W. King and myself at Nineveh in 1904-5, and under Mr. D. G. Hogarth, Mr. T. E. Lawrence and myself at Carchemish in 1911; these chapters together with those on Behistun (of which the official account has been published by the Museum) and the roads between Mosul and Damascus contain the matter of notes which I made while in those parts in the service of the Trustees of the British Museum, to whom I am indebted for leave to publish them, and for this courtesy I wish to offer my thanks. For the few opinions expressed the responsibility is naturally mine.

The chapter on my journey in Asia Minor is in part based on my article published by the Society of Biblical Archæology in their *Proceedings* (Vol. XXXII, p. 181), on which I have drawn in many places; to the same Society are also due my thanks for some quotations from my notes on the folklore of Mosul, which they published *ibidem*, Vol. XXVIII, p. 76. If any be interested in the map of the route in Asia Minor, it

will be found in the *Geographical Journal*, Vol. XXXVII, p. 629. Similarly I am indebted for some material from my notes published in *Man*, on the Eastern Sudan (1908, No. 36), on the Hadendowa language (1910, Nos. 55, 95, and 100), and on Sinai (1905, No. 54), from an article in the *Spectator* on the city of Mosul (15 Feb., 1908) and another, with photographs, in the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* (March, 1910). My thanks are also due to the Byzantine Research Fund for leave to use the block (which has been kindly lent by the Egypt Exploration Fund) showing their excavations at Wadi Sarga, which I was conducting for them in 1913.

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