

## BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE.

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### 1. WHAT IS ARCHAEOLOGY?

The present article must of necessity differ greatly from others in this Handbook. Most of them deal with sciences which involve the attempt to ascertain general laws which are just as valid today as they have been in the past. Archaeology, on the other hand, is not a science of this type at all. It is rather a means for gaining knowledge of the history and culture of ancient times. It is a study of those things which have been preserved, whether above or below the surfaces of the earth, which throw light upon life as it existed in antiquity. It is thus altogether different in nature from the other sciences. One may compare the laws of biology with statements about biology contained in the Scriptures. One does not similarly compare archaeology with statements in the Scriptures, but examines Biblical statements about history or ancient culture to see how they compare with historical facts which have been learned by means of archaeology.

Another difference between the present subject and others discussed in this Handbook is that it has a far greater number of points of contact with the Bible. It would be absurd to think of writing a complete chemistry from the Bible, for the Bible touches upon a fact of chemistry very infrequently. In certain other sciences, such as geology or biology, the contacts are somewhat more numerous. Yet it is not difficult in a short paper to discuss most of the key points at which there is contact between a Biblical statement and one of these fields. History is a realm in which the Bible has far more to say. A great portion of it deals with events and circumstances of ancient life. Its contacts with ancient history are extremely numerous. To discuss them all would require far more space than that of this entire volume. All that the present