

## SECTION I.

## THE ANCIENT ORIENTAL MONARCHIES.

## CHAPTER I.

## GEOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

1. The old Eastern monarchies, with the sole exception of <sup>Historical</sup> Hamitic Egypt, all arose in Asia. Mongolian China <sup>Asia.</sup> and Aryan India have been already dealt with. The truly historical nations of olden Asia are the *Assyrians* (*Semitic*), *Babylonians* (*Semitic*), *Hebrews* (*Semitic*), *Phœnicians* (*Semitic*), and *Persians* (*Aryan*). All these had their career in South-western Asia. This great area of early history may be divided into three regions: 1. That west of the Euphrates; 2. The valleys of the Euphrates and the Tigris; 3. The region from the Zagros Mountains (east of the Tigris) to the Indus.
2. West of the Euphrates we have (a) the *peninsula of Asia Minor*, containing the important Lydian nation and many Greek colonies connected with the later Oriental history; (b) *Syria*, on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, divided into three distinct parts—*Syria proper*; *Phœnicia*, or the strip of coast between Mount Lebanon and the sea; and *Palestine*, south of Phœnicia; (c) the *peninsula of Arabia*, extending south-eastward, and having little to do with ancient history.
3. In the basins of the Tigris and the Euphrates were several distinct territories: (a) *Armenia*, or the mountainous region between Asia Minor and the Caspian Sea; (b) *Assyria proper*, lying between the Tigris and the Zagros Mountains; (c) *Babylonia*, the great alluvial plain between the lower courses of the Tigris and of the Euphrates, and extending westwards to the Syrian Desert; (d) *Chaldea* (in the narrower sense, as a province of the Babylonian Empire), west of the Euphrates, at the head of the Persian Gulf; (e) *Mesopotamia*, or the district between the middle courses of the Tigris and the Euphrates; (f) *Elam* and *Susiana*, the country east of the Tigris and at the head of the Persian Gulf.