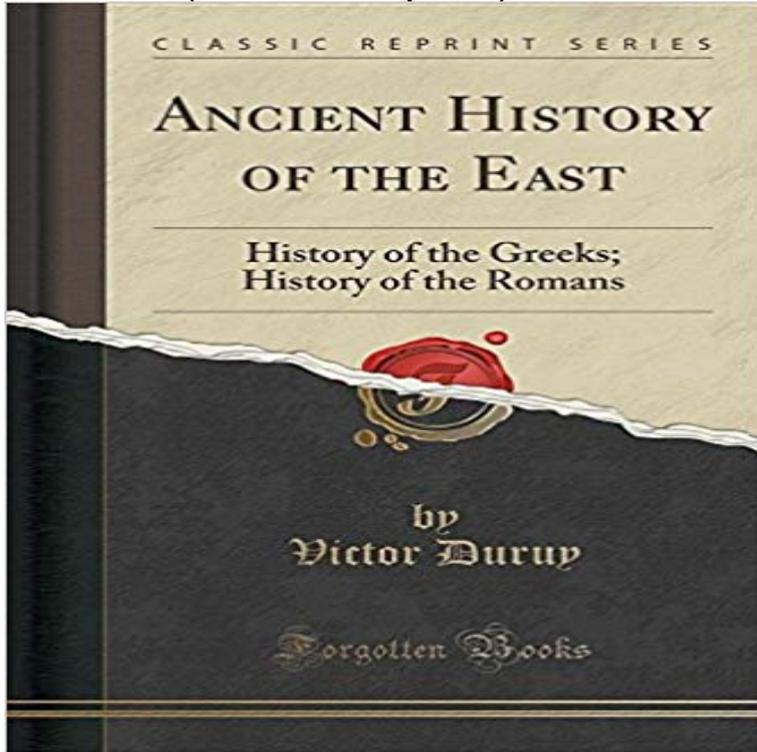


Ancient History of the East: History of the Greeks; History of the Romans (Classic Reprint)



Excerpt from Ancient History of the East: History of the Greeks; History of the Romans To write a general history of the world, particularly in a limited space, is an appalling undertaking. Out of the overwhelming mass of past events, the writer must discern the all-important and imperishable in the life of each people, and then flash it upon the page in language concise, graphic, and comprehensive. Wide learning, keen discernment, philosophic accuracy, and absolute impartiality are essentials. Another requisite is the faculty of terse and pleasing expression. Moreover, the writer must be a man living among men. No recluse is competent to write history in the highest and noblest sense. Events must be marshaled like an army. It is not enough to line them up, soulless and listless, as in the dull sequence of the encyclopedia. The heart of the true historian must pulsate to the heart-beats of mankind. All these requirements M. Duruy possessed in preeminent degree. Minister of Public Instruction (1863-1869), he revolutionized historical education in France, Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor (1867), Senator of the Empire (1869), Member of the Academy (1884), he attained the highest grades of civic and literary distinction. But it was as a historian that he won his permanent renown. A tireless student and author, during his life of over eighty years he knew no such thing as rest. The mere enumeration of his works is bewildering. Among them are a sacred history, based upon the Bible, a history of the Romans in seven volumes, of the Greeks in three volumes, of France in two volumes, of the Middle Ages, and of modern times. Of his publications more than two million copies have been sold in France. This general history, up to 1848, embodies the condensed results of M. Duruy's researches and reflections. For two reasons, however, thorough revision has been necessary. At times M. Duruy dwells

on events, connected with France, at greater length than is desira

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