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# Thalheimer's General History

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AN OUTLINE  
OF  
GENERAL HISTORY

*For the Use of Schools.*

BY

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and Modern History," "A History of England," etc.*

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# PREFACE.

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The Outline of General History has been prepared with especial regard to common schools.

Several distinguished teachers, while expressing their kind approval of the Manuals of Ancient, Mediæval and Modern History, by the same author, have regretted that these volumes are, in size and general scope, beyond the range of a majority of pupils. For many of these—so short is the time devoted to education—the most that the school can offer is a clear outline of the world's history, affording a system of classification for future reading, or, at least, supplying needed intelligence concerning nations whose present movements constitute a chief interest of our times. The Manuals will be found useful as books of reference, and may well be used at each recitation to complete the impression received from the memorized lesson.

It is believed that the Outline, from the simplicity of its arrangement and style, will present no difficulty to any pupil who is old enough to enter upon the study of General History; while the comprehensiveness of its plan may render it a sufficient guide to older students, whose time does not permit them to undertake a larger book.

The references to authorities, at the end of each chapter, will, perhaps, aid teachers in presenting a fuller narrative whenever the time and circumstances of the class admit of it. The Map Questions will, if thoroughly studied, add much to the clearness of conception in the mind of the student.

The Maps themselves, which form an important element in the value of the work, have been prepared with much expense of time and labor, by the personal direction of one of the Publishers, to whom the author is under great obligations.

Acknowledgments are also due to Mr. H. F. Farny, for the delicate and beautiful drawings with which he has illustrated the book. His choice of subjects, no less than the minute accuracy of his execution, evinces remarkable fidelity to historical truth.

The author has been unwilling to disfigure the pages of the text with marks for pronunciation—distracting the pupil's mind, by their uncouthness, from the facts to be communicated—but wherever there seemed to be a possibility of error, names have been carefully marked in the Index.

It is earnestly hoped that this little book may contribute something to the facility and enjoyment of the study of History in our schools.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., }  
August, 1877. }

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# OUTLINES OF UNIVERSAL HISTORY.

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## INTRODUCTION.

1. From the earliest known times, men have been divided into two classes — those who, wandering from place to place, lived upon the wild products of the earth, or upon the milk and flesh of their herds; and those who, preferring settled abodes, built cities and villages, and increased their wealth by mining, tillage, mechanical arts, and commerce.

2. The first settled communities could only exist near great rivers, where the fertile soil afforded plenty of food, as in the valleys of the Ganges, Indus, Tigris, Euphrates, and Nile; while beyond the great mountain barrier which divides central from southern Asia, roamed the ancient Scythians, ancestors of fierce and wandering tribes, which have often burst their bounds, carrying ruin to the rich cities and harvest fields of the southern plains. With the progress of the world, the *nomadic* or wandering races have become fewer, and the civilized more numerous; but to this day the steppes of central Asia are occupied by roving tribes.

3. **History** begins with the formation of settled communities. Other sciences deal with man as an animal, or classify the several races according to their languages, habitations, and use of metals. History has to do with

*civilized* man, and describes the raids of barbarians only as it tells of earthquakes and floods which have overthrown his dwellings and destroyed his wealth.

4. The populous communities of India, China, and Japan—though they contributed their jewels, spices, perfumes, and silken garments to the luxury of the western Asiatics—were so little known to the Greek and Roman writers, that they also are beyond the range of ancient History. We have only to tell the story of those nations which, through their art, their literature, or their laws, have helped to make our modern society what it is.

5. History is divided into three periods: Ancient, Mediæval, and Modern.

Ancient History describes the states that rose and fell in western Asia, Africa, and Europe, until the time when the German race became predominant in the latter, and overthrew the Roman Empire of the West.

Mediæval History covers the thousand years between the breaking-up of the old order and the establishment of the new. It tells how the tribes of northern barbarians grew to be the nations of modern Europe.

The opening of Modern History is marked by the fall of the Eastern Roman Empire, the revival of learning, the multiplication of printed books, the discovery of America, and the reformation in religion.

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𐎪 𐎫 𐎬 𐎭 𐎮 𐎯 𐎰

Cuneiform Characters.

# BOOK I.—THE ANCIENT WORLD.

## PART I.—NATIONS OF ASIA AND AFRICA.

### CHAPTER I.

#### DISPERSION OF RACES — CHALDÆA, ASSYRIA, MEDIA, AND BABYLONIA.



Assyrian War Chariot.

**T**HE earliest known attempt to form a settled community was made by the sons of Noah, at Babel, after the Flood. It was defeated by the Confusion of Tongues. See Gen. xi : 4-9. The three families then separated. The children of JAPHET were divided, one part traveling westward to Asia Minor and Greece, while another, moving eastward, occupied the

table-lands of Iran, Bactria, and northern India. They were the parents of the Indo-Germanic or Aryan race, whose active intellect has made it the leader of the world in art, literature, and laws.

7. The children of SHEM remained upon the fertile plains of the Tigris and Euphrates. This family has ever been distinguished for intense religious feeling; and from its ranks came the Chosen People, to whom were committed the written revelations of God.

Part of the HAMITES moved to the shores of the Mediterranean, and established the great empire of Egypt; while Nimrod, a grandson of Ham, built Babylon, and became the founder of the Chaldæan Kingdom south of the Euphrates. The Hamites were great builders: in Egypt their massive pyramids and temples have proved almost as lasting as the eternal hills; but in Chaldæa the want of stone compelled them to use a more perishable material. Gen. xi: 3. From the clay of the plain and a natural bituminous cement, they erected buildings which were the wonders of the ancient world.

8. The Chaldæans were diligent students of the heavens, and their astronomical records date from the twenty-third century before Christ. They were the inventors of writing, which the Phœnician merchants learned from them and taught to the rest of the world. In writing, as in building, their ingenuity enabled them to make use of simple and rude materials; their wedge-shaped letters were impressed, with a stick, upon tablets or cylinders of clay, which were afterward either baked or dried in the sun. The earliest Chaldæan literature, so far as it has yet been read, consists chiefly of prayers, hymns, and charms against evil spirits.

9. In the thirteenth century B. C., Chaldæa was absorbed into the Semitic Empire of Assyria. This, at its greatest extent, reached from the Nile and the Mediter-

anean on the west to the mountains of Media on the east. The Assyrians were a vigorous nation, "all mighty men;" and their kings commonly led their armies in person, sharing the hardships of night-marches and toilsome campaigns among the mountains.

*a.* The First Period of Assyrian history begins in unknown antiquity, and ends with the Conquest of Babylon by Tiglath-nin, about 1250 B. C.

*b.* The Second Period extends from the latter event to the independence of Babylon, about 745 B. C.

*c.* The Third Period comprises the New or Lower Empire of Assyria, B. C. 745-625.

**10.** Although monuments, lately discovered, give complete lists of the Assyrian kings, from B. C. 1850, yet we know very little of the early centuries of their history. It was Tiglath-pileser I (B. C. 1120-1100) who made Assyria the foremost nation in the world. It declined as the Hebrew monarchy expanded, but became powerful again after the death of Solomon.

**11.** I'va-lush IV, or Vul-nira'ri (B. C. 810-781), was the husband of Sam'mura'mit, a Babylonian princess, whom the Greeks called Semiramis. Almost all the great cities of the East were said to have been built by her; and wonderful stories were told of her conquests in Egypt, Ethiopia, and India. But these were mere fables. Her real power and wealth were, however, so great as to entitle her to a mention in Assyrian annals—an honor accorded to no other woman. There is some reason to believe that during this joint reign of Iva-lush and Sannuramit, the Hebrew prophet Jonah preached repentance to the Ninevites. (Read Jonah, iii and iv.) Forty years of humiliation followed, and the subject province of Babylon became not only independent but for a few years supreme.

12. Tiglath-pileser II (B. C. 745-727) was the founder of the New or Lower Assyrian Empire. He extended his dominion to the Mediterranean, and received tribute from all the kings of Syria and Palestine. Tyre, the richest maritime city in the world, paid three tons of gold into his treasury. He and his successors removed thousands of captive Israelites to Media and the river Gozan, filling their places with Babylonians. (Read 2 Kings xv: 29, and xvii: 4-6, 24-33.).

13. Sargon (B. C. 721-705) was one of the greatest Assyrian kings. He defeated the Egyptians and Philistines in the great battle of Raphia, and afterward annexed Babylon to his empire. His son Sennach'erib (B. C. 705-680) gained many victories over Phœnicians, Philistines, Egyptians, and Ethiopians. He took "all the fenced cities of Judah," and insolently threatened Jerusalem. But his pride was humbled by the sudden destruction of 185,000 of his soldiers, and he had to abandon most of his western conquests. (2 Kings xviii: 13-21, and xix.).

14. E'sarhad'don (B. C. 680-667) conquered Babylonia, Egypt, and Arabia; and his son As'shur-ba'ni-pal raised the empire to its greatest power and glory. He built many temples, and the finest of Assyrian palaces. He also collected a great library of clay tablets, inscribed with the records\* of former kings, their letters, treaties, and laws; discourses on mathematics, geography, and natural history;

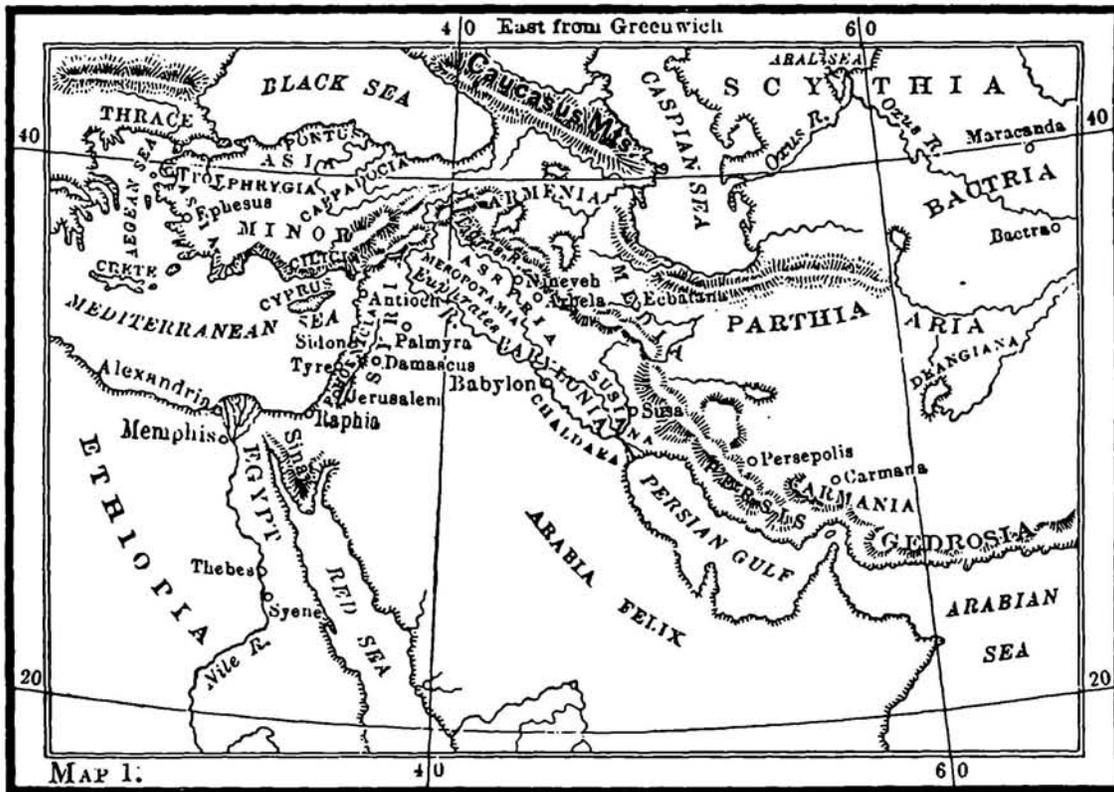
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\*These kings' own words prove all that the Hebrew prophets wrote of their cruelty, not less than of their splendor and power. One of them thus describes his treatment of a conquered city: "The men, young and old, I took prisoners: of some I cut off the feet and hands; of others I cut off the noses, ears, and lips: of the young men's ears I made a heap; of the old men's heads I built a tower. I exposed their heads as a trophy in front of their city. The children I burnt in the flames. The city I destroyed and consumed and burnt in the fire."

directions for worship, and primeval traditions. Among the latter is the Chaldæan story of the Deluge, coinciding in many important points with that which we have in the Bible.

**15.** The glory of Asshur-bani-pal was quickly followed by ruin under his successor. A wild horde of Scythians (§ 2) plundered the Assyrian cities; Media and Babylonia revolted; Nineveh was besieged and taken, its king was slain, and his dominions were divided between the conquerors, B. C. 625. The great cities of Assyria long lay in ruins: even the Greeks could only point to heaps of rubbish, under which Nineveh, Calah, and Resen were supposed to be buried. In late years, many of these mounds have been explored, and the magnificent palaces of Sargon, Sennacherib, and their successors, have contributed their sculptures to the adornment of European museums, and their inscriptions to our hitherto scanty knowledge of the primitive eastern nations.

**16. Media.**—B. C. 633–558. The two allies who had put an end to the Assyrian Empire, were of very different rank. Media, a rough country south of the Caspian Sea, was inhabited by Aryan tribes, which had claimed independence of Assyria but little more than a century. The founder of Median greatness, who first united these tribes into one kingdom, was Cyax'ares, the joint-conqueror of Nineveh with Nabopolas'sar. He is said to have been the first Asiatic who properly organized an army, separating cavalry, spearmen, and archers into distinct companies. Under his reign, and that of his son Asty'ages, Media rose rapidly in wealth and importance. Extreme luxury took the place of rude manners and simple dress; and their passion for hunting was all that remained of the hardy Medes in the jeweled courtiers of King Astyages. At this point the Persians, a kindred but subject nation, gained the supremacy, by reason of their brave and manly character.



17. **Babylonia.**—Babylon, on the contrary, was the seat of one of the oldest Asiatic states, long celebrated for wealth, luxury, and learning. The wonderful clearness of the air over the plain of the Euphrates early attracted attention to a study of the stars. Observations were carefully recorded, and tables still existing prove the painstaking skill of the Babylonian astronomers. They measured time by sun-dials, and were the inventors of other astronomical instruments.

18. After his country had been for 500 years subject to the Assyrian Empire (§ 9. *b.*), Nabonas'sar, a Babylonian general, set up an independent kingdom. But the fifth king of his line was taken captive by Sargon (§ 13); and for nearly a century the country was again ruled by Assyrian viceroys, though always ready to revolt. Fearing a double attack, from the north and south, which had been planned by the Medes, the last Assyrian king sent his general, Nabopolas'sar, to defend Babylon. But Nabopolassar turned traitor; he allied himself with Cyaxares, and led a Babylonian army to the siege of Nineveh

(§ 16). In the division of the spoils, which followed the capture of the great city, Nabopolassar received Susiana, Babylonia, and Chaldæa, with all Syria even to the borders of Egypt; while Assyria proper was added to the dominion of Cyaxares.

19. B. C. 604–561. Nebuchadnezzar, the second Babylonian king of this line, was one of the greatest monarchs whom the whole world has seen. By his victories over Egypt, Phœnicia, and Palestine, he reigned from the Mediterranean to the Indus. The royal descendants of David ate the bitter bread of captivity at his table in Babylon (2 Kings xxiv : 10–16, and xxv : 6, 7, 27–30). He adorned his capital with the celebrated Hanging Gardens, and protected it by walls of enormous thickness, while he enriched the whole country by canals and reservoirs, which distributed the waters of the Euphrates over its vast and fertile plain.

20. Babylonia became preëminent in industrial arts; and merchants from all parts of the world thronged her markets. There they found delicate muslins and linens, and magnificent carpets from the Babylonian looms, as well as fine wool from Cashmere; pearls from the Persian Gulf; diamonds and perfumes from India; bronzes and musical instruments from Phœnicia. The amazing fertility of the Babylonian soil—probably the richest on the globe—afforded abundance of barley and dates for even the poorest people, while the rich enjoyed every luxury which the ancient world could boast.

21. At the height of his grandeur, Nebuchadnezzar was suddenly cast out from the society of men, and for seven years fed with beasts. His pride being humbled, his reason returned; and, acknowledging the supremacy of the Most High, he resumed the “excellent majesty” of his kingly state (Daniel iv : 24–36). After a reign of 43 years, Nebuchadnezzar died, and with him ended the real great-

ness of his kingdom. Under Nabona'dius, the fourth of his successors, and the crown-prince Belshaz'zar, Babylon was taken by Cyrus, B. C. 538, and its whole territory was added to the Medo-Persian Empire.

Describe, from Map I, the Rivers Tigris, Euphrates, Nile.

Point out Chaldæa, Babylonia, Media, Assyria. Nineveh, Babylon, Raphia.

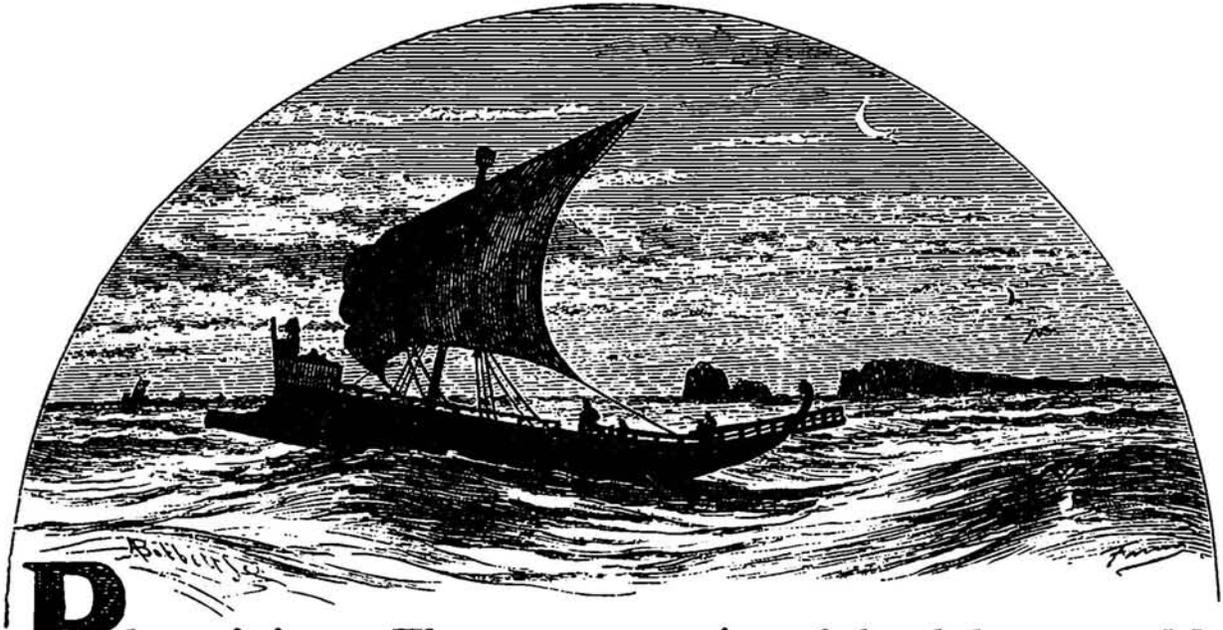
Read Daniel i-v. Jeremiah xxvii: 5-8. Rawlinson's Five Ancient Eastern Monarchies. Herodotus, Volume I. Heeren's Asiatic Researches.

<i>Children of Shem.</i>	<i>Children of Ham.</i>	<i>Children of Japhet.</i>	
Assyrians	Chaldæans	Asiatic Aryans	{ Hindus Medes and Persians Bactrians.
Hebrews	Phœnicians *	European Aryans	{ Greeks Romans Celts, Germans Slavonians.
Arabs	Egyptians		

\* The language of the Phœnicians was Semitic, though they were descended from Canaan, son of Ham.

## CHAPTER II.

### SMALLER ASIATIC STATES.



**P**hœnicia. — The narrow strip of land between Mt. Lebanon and the sea held some of the most important communities of early times. They were not a nation, but a mere cluster of commercial cities, of which Tyre and Sidon were the chief. Now and then some great danger led them to form a league; but usually they were only united by a common language and religion, each city having its king or judge, who was also its high-priest. The name *Phœnicians* was given them by the Greeks. They called themselves Canaanites, and were of the same race as the tribes expelled or conquered by the Hebrews.

23. The importance of Phœnicia was owing to her wonderful maritime enterprise. The Mediterranean and western Atlantic, the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, and Indian Ocean, all were highways for her ships, and their coasts and islands were dotted with her colonies. In her markets might be found silver from Spain, tin from Britain, and amber from the Baltic; gold and apes from Africa; pearls,

rubies, and diamonds from India and Ceylon; no less than engraved seals from Babylon; copper and horses from Armenia; oil, honey, and balm from Palestine; wine and white wool from Damascus; lambs and kids from the the Bedouin Arabs; and embroidered linen from Egypt. In return, the gold, silver, bronze, and glass-wares of the Phœnicians, and the precious dye known as Tyrian purple, found great favor in foreign markets.

24. Penetrating the remotest corners of the ancient world, the Phœnicians were carriers of ideas as well as of merchandize. Our greatest debt to them is the alphabet (§ 8). They were not inventors either in art or literature, nor were they inspired, like the Greeks, with a love of freedom. So long as trade flourished, they were content to pay tribute to Assyria, or to lend their ships and sailors to the Pharaohs. This is true especially of Sidon and the smaller cities. Tyre withstood three memorable sieges: one of five years by Sargon, B. C. 720–715; another of thirteen years by Nebuchadnezzar, and a third by Alexander of Macedon (B. C. 333, 332), after which 8,000 of her people were slain, and 30,000 sold into slavery. The second of these sieges is celebrated in the Hebrew Scriptures (Ezekiel xxvi–xxviii). The bravery of the Tyrians probably secured favorable terms, for while a great number sailed away with their families and goods to Carthage, others removed to an island half a mile from the mainland, and soon made New Tyre richer than the Old.

25. When Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom was overthrown, the Phœnicians submitted to Cyrus, and their ships made the principal part of the Persian fleets. They brought cedar-wood from Lebanon to rebuild the Temple at Jerusalem, as their forefathers had done in the days of Solomon and Hiram (1 Kings v: 6–18. Ezra iii: 7).

26. **Syria.**—The most important Syrian state had its seat at Damascus, one of the oldest cities in the world.

It alone was able to hold out against David and Solomon, who reigned over all the remaining country from the Mediterranean to the Euphrates; but three centuries later it became subject to the Assyrian kings. Other Syrian nations were the Hamathites, in the valley of the Orontes; the northern and warlike Hittites, whose chief city was Carchemish; and the southern Hittites, a peaceable trading people near the Dead Sea.

**27. Asia Minor.**—Probably the earliest inhabitants of Asia Minor were the *Phrygians*, a hardy race of farmers and vine-dressers, who had come from Armenia and brought thence a tradition of the Flood. Later came the *Cappadocians*, also sons of Japhet (§ 6), who crowded the Phrygians westward of the River Halys; then the *Thracians*, who took possession of the north-western coast, to which they gave the name Bithynia, from one of their tribes. The “brave, shield-bearing *Paphlagonians*” occupied the rest of the Euxine coast. A mixed population of Aryans and Shemites inhabited Lycia, Pamphylia, and Cilicia on the southern shore; while the borders of the Ægean were very early colonized by Greeks.

**28.** Among all these nations, *Lydia* became supreme under its last five kings, who ruled B. C. 694–546. In the time of Ardys, the second of these kings, occurred one of those great movements of the northern barbarians, which have been mentioned in § 2. The Cimmerians (Crimeans) of southern Russia, ancestors of the modern Cossacks, swarmed over Asia Minor, captured Sardis, the Lydian capital, and ravaged all the western provinces. Successive waves of the same great tide of migration spread through Italy; another, taking a more northerly direction, reached the western coast of Britain, where the *Cymry*, their descendants, still live.

**29.** Croesus, the fifth and last king of Lydia, was noted for his enormous wealth. Having become master of all