

Archaeology, as we have noticed, is the investigation of materials which have been preserved from antiquity, and the attempt upon the basis of them to reconstruct the history and the culture of those times. In the narrow sense it deals only with material objects, such as remains of buildings, of furniture or articles of daily life, weapons, even mummies and skeletons. Inscriptions written in ancient times and preserved on the original material are properly a part of archaeology, while manuscripts handed down from generation to generation, and subject to possible change in the process of copying and recopying, would not come under this head. The result is that practically all the literature of ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt is included in archaeology, while the great literary productions of Greece and Rome are considered as classical literature. Since the writing of Mesopotamia and of Egypt was completely unknown for centuries, and has only been rediscovered in recent years, the study of the written materials from these lands forms a vital part of archaeology in the broad sense of the word. Sometimes there has been insufficient cooperation between students of ancient languages and investigators of the material objects of archaeology. This opposition is natural, since often a mind that is capable in one of these fields is unsuited to the other; yet it is unfortunate, since the two sides of the study need to complement and correct one another.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE INCOMPLETE.

Here it is necessary to utter a word of caution. Even as we have noticed that the Bible does not provide a complete knowledge of the history and culture of ancient times, it is equally important to note that neither does archaeology. Archaeological evidence at many points is extremely incomplete. When one finds buried in the ground remains of a house of a certain type or of a particular kind of weapon, this in itself means little. It is necessary to study these in relation to other objects found near them and in comparison with similar implements or buildings found in other places; thus by a study of all the available material it is possible to reconstruct many elements of the history. Much