

language, known as Hurrian, found it convenient to use the Akkadian language for all their legal documents and court cases. The town where more of these tablets have been found than anywhere else was a place called Nuzi near the modern Kerkuk. The Nuzi documents have a grammar that is often quite confused since their writers were actually thinking in the Hurrian language. They provide many interesting insights into the lives and activities of a group very distinct from the Akkadian-speaking peoples. For their relation to the Bible, see below (III.D.5).

#### 6. Other Uses of Cuneiform.

Many languages other than Akkadian have also been written in cuneiform writing. Thus the Hittite language from Asia Minor, written in the cuneiform writing, throws light on an entirely different area of history, though having some contacts with the Assyrians and Babylonians, and also with the Egyptians. A number of cuneiform texts have also been found that are written in the Hurrian language.

### D. Survey of the History of Mesopotamia.

#### 1. Prehistoric.

Many cities that have been excavated go back to a time long before the invention of writing. We cannot hope to know as much about these times as about those from which writing has been found, but yet a good deal can be told about their life. There seems to have been a rather leisurely period, when most of the implements were made out of stone, and people had time to make them very carefully and to show considerable artistic sense in their workmanship. In some ways there was a rather high civilization. From the study of the pottery (or dishes) various races have been differentiated as having been prominent in Mesopotamia at different periods. The study of prehistoric Mesopotamia is a fascinating one, but has comparatively little contact with the Bible and hence is only to a slight extent