

the 35,000 years which he places between the deluge and Semiramis, than in the registers of 150,000 years, which he boasts of having consulted\*.

Structures raised in remote provinces, and bearing the name of Semiramis, have been spoken of; and columns erected by Sesostris† have been pretended to have been seen in Asia Minor, in Thrace. But, in the same way, in Persia, at the present day, the ancient monuments, perhaps even some of the above, bear the name of Roustan; and in Egypt or Arabia, they bear the names of Joseph or Solomon. This is an ancient custom among the eastern nations, and probably among all ignorant people. The peasants of our own country give the name of Cæsar's Camp to all the remains of Roman entrenchments.

In a word, the more I consider the subject, the more I am persuaded that there existed no ancient history at Babylon or Ecbatan, more than in Egypt and India. And, in place of reducing

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\* Syncellus, p. 38 and 39.

† N. B.—It is very remarkable that Herodotus does not mention having seen monuments of Sesostris, except in Palestine, and does not speak of those of Ionia, but upon the authority of others, adding, at the same time, that Sesostris is not named in the inscriptions, and that those who had seen these monuments attributed them to Memnon. See Euterpe, chap. cvi.