



# THE SACRED HILL OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY: A CYPRIAN "MOUNT OLYMPUS."

THE REMARKABLE DISCOVERIES OF DR. MAX OHNEFALSCH-RICHTER AT RANTIDI.



1. WHERE IT IS BELIEVED ZEUS AND OTHER GODS WERE THOUGHT TO DWELL AND WERE WORSHIPPED: RANTIDI HILL, DESCRIBED AS A "MOUNT OLYMPUS."

2. THE SCENE OF DISCOVERIES WHICH PROVE THE WORSHIP OF FOUR GREEK DIVINITIES ON RANTIDI HILL. SHOWING (IN THE LEFT FOREGROUND) THE STONE LEDGE WITH THE INSCRIPTION, "I AM CONSECRATED TO ZEUS."

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 —He bases his argument on numerous "finds." In July of last year he was able to report the discovery on Rantidi Hill of an extremely ancient shrine to Aphrodite. His further excavations show, he avers, that the hill is a "Mount Olympus," for he has unearthed relics which indicate that it was sacred to the worship, not only of Aphrodite, but to that of other Greek gods, including Zeus and Apollo. The most important of the discoveries was a stone ledge bearing the words, "I am consecrated to Zeus." "Until my discovery of this Mount of Divinities at Rantidi," writes Dr. Ohnefalsch-Richter, "the dwelling-place of the Greek divinities existed only as a fantasy of the poets. The most celebrated 'Mount Olympus' is that range of mountains which separates Macedonia from Thessaly. Now we see for the first time that the creations of the poets were based on more than mere imagery. On Rantidi Hill a number of Greek divinities had, as it were, their proper habitations, and there were worshipped separately or as a body." It may be here noted that in ancient geography various mountains were given the name Olympus; indeed, Tozer enumerates no fewer than fourteen. It may be recalled, further, that Homer describes the gods as having their palaces on the top of Olympus, and as spending the day in Zeus' Palace, in which they sat in conclave while the Muses sang and played the lyre to them, and the younger gods danced.