

HISTORICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

OF THE HOLY LAND.

No. I.

MANY may read the scriptures; they may read of countries, of tribes, of individuals and of transactions, and yet remain, all but entirely ignorant, of the knowledge necessary for enabling them to understand what they read. Many from carelessness never wish to be better informed, and others are precluded from knowledge by their circumstances. Amid all the knowledge that is pouring in on man the fact remains, inconsistent as it may seem, and injurious as it is, that christians are less informed on the facts connected with their religion than any other body of men associated together to prosecute any investigation, or to maintain any principle. The time was when the people could not get instruction—but that time is gone by,—and knowledge is now, with its thousand tongues, raising a cry for deliverance from every bondage, that she may fly swiftly bestowing her bounties and her blessings on a world ignorant of itself; that she may tell man of the vast resources which are to be found in the past, and of the deep mines of intellectual wealth which have been hitherto unknown and unexplored.

History is one of the Bible's handmaidens, and without some knowledge of it, much that is in the Bible must be to many as a sealed book, though a man should read its pages every day and meditate on the contents every night. He may read, but were the question put to him, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" he would be compelled to reply in the words of the Eunuch of Ethiopia, "How can I, except some man should guide me?" Believing then, that the Bible contains a subject the most important and serious for man's study, it is the object in this, and the following articles on the Geography of the Holy Land to give information, and arrange Scripture statements in such a manner, that this department of Scripture knowledge may be better understood, by those at least, who have not access to the works written on the subject, or by those who have not studied the Bible so accurately as to be able, in many instances, to illustrate one passage by another, or bring geographical facts to illustrate scripture statements.

The country called the Holy Land has been variously named in different ages, and these names have been given either from some tribe, or from some of the remarkable circumstances connected with it. In Scripture we find it called "The Land" by way of eminence. The Jews were exceedingly attached to it, and it was the scene of many remarkable events in their history, and therefore it was above every other part of the earth, *their* land, The Land.