

# THE METHODIST MAGAZINE.

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PETRA, THE ROCK CITY OF EDOM.\*



PETRA, THE ROCK CITY—JEREMIAH XLIX. 16-18.

AMONG the most striking confirmations of the Scriptures are those derived from the testimony of ancient cities and civilizations long forgotten by mankind. The explorer has often been the best commentator, and the spade his best critical instrument. The discoveries of Layard and Rawlinson, amid the ruins of ancient Babylon and Nineveh; of Belzoni and Petrie, among the tombs of Egypt; of Conder, and Wilson, and Warren, amid the *tels* and mounds of Palestine, have brought strongest corroboration of some of the most questioned statements of the Bible.

The clay tablets of Assyria, with their traditions of the creation and the deluge, the Rosetta stone and the Moab inscription, the Babylonian slabs on the walls of the British Museum, and the incised inscriptions on the pylons of the great temple of Karnak, are illustrations of the minute fulfilment of prophecy, all the more striking because it is impossible that they could have been feigned or forged. But none of these ancient tablets are more remarkable than the rediscovery and exploration, after it had been forgotten for a thousand years, of the rock city

\* Compiled by the Editor from various authorities.