

up, far in the distance, a field of corn, just beginning to assume the brown autumnal hue.

#### ILLUSTRATIONS OF SCRIPTURE.

The weather, during our stay at Smyrna, was tremendously warm; the thermometer ranging from 90 to 95 degrees: and in those spots which were shaded from the sea breeze, the sultry, breathless air was suffocating. Notwithstanding this, the nights were bitterly cold: and every evening, after sunset there came a weighty chilliness through the air, which was sometimes absolutely benumbing. It is the fact of the extreme variations of heat and cold during the course of twenty-four hours, which induces the Turks to employ so much fur in the linings and decorations of their dresses: as the sultry heat of the day forces them to keep those chambers light and airy during the morning, which are consequently chilly and comfortless at night.

Without a visit to the Levant, one would be at a loss fully to understand the force of the expression in Genesis xxxi. 40, "In the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night;" but he who has passed a spring in the Ionian Island, or a summer at Smyrna, can readily comprehend its full import. The light wind, called by the natives the 'Jubat,' blows generally from the bay during the day, sitting in from the northwest—its faint, refreshing airs are the most delicious conceivable—and these alone render Smyrna inhabitable, the insects and the heat being otherwise completely intolerable.

About sunset we generally went to an open street in the west of Smyrna, where the families usually seated themselves by the doors to enjoy the cool breath of evening. Such meetings used to remind us of the days of the patriarchs, when Abraham received the angels as he sat by the door of his tent—(Gen. xviii, 1;) and when Eli, in the 98th year of his age, as he reclined at sunset on his seat by the way side, was told by the fugitive soldier that Israel had been vanquished in battle, that his sons Hophni and Phinehas were no more, and that the ark of God was taken, 1 Sam. iv 13. The stone couches, too, at every door, explain the exclamation of Job; "O that I were as in months past, in the days of my youth when

my children were about me, when I went out to the gate through the city, when I prepared myself in the street!" Job xxix, 2-7. Here mingling with their social groups we have passed many a delicious evening, and listened to many a tale which made our blood creep from lips which were shortly doomed to share the fate they were recounting;

One who has formed his ideas of the oriental myrtles from the weak and unhealthy plants which spring in the gardens and hothouses of the north, must have a faint conception of their real beauty. Even in Italy they are much superior to ours—and I remember to have seen one at Florence whose stem was at least nine inches in diameter. But in Greece and in the Levant, they are really magnificent. In the Morea I have travelled for hours through an uncultivated tract, while the groves of myrtle formed an almost continuous arbour above our heads, covered here and there with its delicate white flowers, and exhaling at every motion the most delicious perfume, its dark polished leaves combined coolness with beauty.

It is such a scene as this that explains the phrase of Zechariah; "I saw by night, and beheld a man riding upon a red horse; and he stood among the myrtle-trees that were in the bottom," Zach. i, 8.—And they are trees of the dimensions such as I refer to, that preserve the consistency of the phrase of Isaiah—"I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the myrtle, and the oil tree. I will set in the desert the fir tree, the pine, and the box," Isa. xli. 19.

Education is the most valuable estate that parents can leave to their children; this is a possession of which human violence can never deprive us.

Plato, describing the attributes of the Deity, fancifully declares truth to be his body, and light his shadow.

Tears are, as it were, the blood from the wounds of the soul, grief produces tears as naturally as trees produce leaves or fruit.

Famine has destroyed thousands—fire and sword tens of thousands; but luxury milions.

'A wise man,' say the Spaniards, 'changes his mind, but a fool never will.'