

OUR TABLE.

BIBLICAL RESEARCHES IN PALESTINE, MOUNT SINAI, AND ARABIA PETRÆA.—BY DR. ROBINSON.

WE have met, in several of the American Reviews, lengthened notices of a book under the above title, being a journal of the Travels of Dr. Robinson, and the Rev. Mr. Smith, in the Holy Land, during the year 1838. The journey was undertaken in reference to Biblical geography, and, by general assent of the Reviewers, the work appears to have been performed in a manner such as to reflect the highest honour upon the authors, and calculated to assist materially the cause of Biblical learning throughout the world.

We believe that among the literary men of the United States, there are few, if any, better qualified than Dr. Robinson, for such a herculean task. He is already well known as the author of an elaborate Lexicon of the Greek Testament, which is a standard work in the neighbouring States, and he has devoted many years to the acquirement of oriental learning, in which he is equally with any living man, a proficient. He is, also, extensively and favourably known as a teacher of the Sacred Classics—a profession which of itself naturally prompted a leaning to and affection for the mysteries of the Holy Land.

Dr. Robinson being convinced, from the whole course of his studies, of the insufficiency of the information upon which former Geographies of the Bible had been compiled, determined upon a journey to Palestine, to examine personally the most important localities. All the authorities agree in saying that “he has been eminently successful,” and a new series of maps has been produced, the correctness of which is supposed to be much greater than any formerly prepared.

The learned author commenced his journey in 1837, in the summer of which he sailed from New York, and arrived at Athens in the December following. From Greece he proceeded to Egypt, and visited all the objects of interest in that ancient land. Of these his descriptions are very general, the Doctor being apparently satisfied with the correctness of former descriptions.

In Egypt he was joined by the Rev. Mr. Smith, formerly a pupil of his own, who had subsequently been for many years a Missionary in Palestine, during which time he had, by his intercourse with the Arabs, and his knowledge of the languages used in the Holy Land, become qualified in an eminent degree to assist in the enterprise contemplated by the enthusiastic Doctor. Indeed, had the world been searched, a fitter coadjutor in such an undertaking could not have been found than the learned, patient and untiring Missionary.

With such men and such materials, it may well be expected that a work of immense value has been produced, and though it has not yet reached this country, we have felt it our duty to take this brief notice of it, satisfied that if it be what it has been described, it must possess no ordinary interest to its reader, of all times and of all countries.

We have pleasure in extracting from a notice by Colonel Stone, (a gentleman eminent in the United States, and well known in Canada,) the following paragraphs,—with which, after entering into a description of the contents of the volumes, the Colonel closes his critique:—

The most interesting results of this literary pilgrimage were found in the holy city of Jerusalem and its vicinity. The account of these is spread over half of the first volume and a considerable portion of the second. In this notice we cannot mention even the most important of the conclusions which are given by our author. Having saturated his memory with classical and sacred information before visiting Palestine, he knew what to look for, and was rewarded by discoveries in localities which other travellers and the ecclesiastics of the country had passed by without being aware of their claims to attention. By a series of explorations combined with literary research, he recovered the long lost Eleutheropolis, determined the position of Michmash, Gibeah, Lebona, Shiloh, and many other places of sacred interest.

Having completed the survey of the region around Jerusalem, and made excursions to the Jordan, to Petra in Idumea, &c., Messrs. Robinson and Smith continued their route northwardly through Samaria—the proud capital of Ahab and Herod—and across the plain of Esdraelon—famous for great battles, from the days when Deborah and Barak routed Sisera and his host, down to the time when the legions of Napoleon, under General Kleber, withstood the shock of ten times their number of Turks, and finally put them to ruinous flight. Nazareth, Mount Tabor, Tiberius, and the hallowed shores of Genessaret, are visited and described with minuteness; and we much underrate the amount of lore possessed by the clergy of our country, if they do not find many things of surpassing interest in the geography and history of this part of the Holy Land, which are now for the first time brought to their knowledge. For ex-