

## TRAVELS.

### JERUSALEM.

By moonlight next morning we were on the way to the sacred city. For about three hours it led over the plain, and then ascending the hills became excessively disagreeable; in some parts so narrow that one horse only could proceed at a time, and that not always with safety, as the rains had made the rocky paths much worse than usual. At the end of nine hours, however, as we proceeded over the summit of a rugged hill, we beheld Jerusalem at a small distance before us. Its aspect certainly was not magnificent or inspiring, but sad and dreary.

On the east of the city runs the valley or glen of Jehoshaphat; that of Hinnom, which bounds the city on the south and west; and into these descend the steep sides of Mount Zion, on whose surface the city stands. To the north extends the plain of Jeremiah, the only level space around; it is covered partly with olive trees. It does not appear possible for the ancient city to have covered a larger space than the present, except by stretching to the north, along the plain of Jeremiah, because the modern walls are built nearly on the brink of the declivities of Zion and the adjoining hill. But the height of this hill is very small, for Jerusalem is on every side, except towards the north, overlooked by hills higher than the one whereon it stands. When about midway up Mount Olivet, you are on a level with the city walls, and the disparity towards the south is still greater. The form of the town is more like that of a square than any other, and its walls are lofty and strong.—There are five or six gates; the golden gate, the gates of Damascus, St. Stephen and Zion, and that of Bethlehem. Close to the latter is the tower of David, a place of considerable strength.

On reaching the gate of Bethlehem, we were speedily admitted, and after some research procured a lodging in the house of a native, not far from the walls and near the tower of

David. We had had enough of convents, and a traveller will find himself much more agreeably situated, and more at his ease, in living orientally than confined within the walls, and obliged to conform to the hours of a monastery. However, there is no avoiding one's fate. I had my divan and coffee, excellent wine, and music in the evening, and wished only to remain in peace. But in a day or two repeated messengers came from the superior of the convent urging my entry into it; it was so unusual for a traveller to lodge without, and so unsafe in those times, and he would come himself to remonstrate with me; so that I was fain to comply. They put me there into a little cold cell, with a single chair and table in it, and a small flock bed, as if I came to perform a pilgrimage. Here, however, it was my good fortune to meet with a most amiable traveller, a Mr. G., an Irish gentleman, whose companion had just left him for Europe.

The morning after my arrival was a very lovely one; and though it was in February, perfectly warm. I passed out of the gate of Bethlehem, and traversing part of the ravine beneath, ascended the mount of Judgment, on the south side of the city. How interesting was her aspect, beheld over the rocky valley of Hinnom! her gloomy walls encompassing mount Zion on every side; and as yet there was no sound to disturb the silence of the scene. The beautiful mount of Olives was on its right, and at its feet the valley of Jehoshaphat, amidst whose great rocks and trees stood the tomb of Zacharias, the last of the prophets that was slain; the only stream visible flowed from the fountain of Siloam, on the side of Zion opposite. It is true, the city beloved of God has disappeared, and with it all the hallowed spots once contained within its walls; and keen must be the faith that can now embrace their identity. Yet the face of nature still endures; the rocks, the mountains, lakes and valleys, are unchanged, save that loneliness and wildness are now where once were luxury and every joy; and though