



WAYSIDE WELLS.

would soon perish. An excellent spring of water often determined the halting-place of travellers, and hence the site of a village or city. In our journeyings through Palestine one of our first considerations in selecting a camp was, of course, the presence of water for our horses and ourselves.

To protect the water from impurity the well was often covered with a broad and heavy stone, which must be removed before the flocks could be watered. This frequently

required the efforts of several men. See Genesis xxix. 3 and 8. This stone was sometimes secured with a seal formed in clay. Near the pools of Solomon I visited the identical spring, in a subterranean chamber reached by several steps, supposed to be referred to as the "spring shut up, the fountain sealed." Cant. iv. 12.

"Such sealed wells were reserved," says Dr. Thompson, "till a time of greatest need, when all other sources of supply had failed." This may illustrate the passage in Zechariah, "In



ENTRANCE TO CISTERN.