

astonishment and respect for the nations who founded them — The few instances that I have mentioned, are such as have presented themselves to my notice in sailing up the river, without my having the opportunity to scrutinize them particularly, or devise means to pursue any researches in the vicinity of those I have seen, by which doubtless many more would be discovered. Some future traveller in the interesting and remote regions, which may have the power and the means to traverse at his leisure the banks and islands I have seen and admired, will, I believe, find his labours rewarded, by discoveries which will interest the learned and gratify the curious.

A voyage up the Nile may be considered as presenting an epitome of the moral history of man. We meet at almost every stage with the monuments of his superstition and his tyranny; but with few memorials of his ingenuity directed with a view to real utility. We also every where behold the traces of Almighty Justice upon his enemies. Every where on the banks of the ancient river, we behold cities, once famous for power and luxury, a desolation, and dry like a wilderness; and temples once famous, and colossal idols once feared, now prostrate and confounded with the dust of their worshippers. "The flocks lie down in the midst thereof: the cormorant and bittern lodge in the temples and palaces. Their voice rings in the windows, and desolation in the thresholds."

The people who now occupy the territories of nations extinct or exterminated, have profited neither by their history nor their fate. What was once a land occupied by nations, superstitious and sensual, is now inhabited by robbers and slaves. The robbers have been expelled or slain, and the oppressed peasant is emancipated by the arms of the nation who

the degenerate Greeks, but who nevertheless have derived neither instruction nor warning from their downfall and subjugation. The Nile meantime, which has seen so many nations and generations rise and disappear, still flows and overflows to distribute its fertilizing waters to the countries on its borders; like the good Providence which seems unwearied in trying to overcome the ingratitude of man by the favours of Heaven. — *Rel. Int.*

SHETLAND ISLES.

In this remote and desolate region, there has not been wanting evidence that the love of Christ will prompt to effort for the extension of his kingdom, and for the salvation of men. Under the patronage of the Congregational Union of Scotland, Mr. M'Niel of Elgin, has visited these islands of the northern ocean. He spent eight weeks in this mission, visited 21 parishes, preached a great number of times, and distributed a large quantity of religious tracts.

He says, 'The whole country of Shetland including, besides the main land, thirteen or fourteen inhabited islands, is divided into 29 parishes, comprised under 12 ministers. The aggregate body of the population is thought to be not less than twenty-five thousand souls.' — 'Mr. Reid, Pastor of the Congregational church in Lerwick, has laboured fully fifteen years in the Shetland Isles, and "his labours have not been in vain in the Lord." The church there was formed about thirteen years ago, consisting then of 16 members. By the blessing of God on the gospel of his Son, there are now upwards of 140 in fellowship with them. More than one third of that number, however, cannot, from their extreme distance from Lerwick, meet with them on the first day of the week. Some of