

in regard to any one subject must know something of other pursuits—must, in short, “intermeddle with all wisdom.”

The very names of the mountains, rivers, towns, etc., of any country in which men of a bygone age and race have lived and died are often the embodiment of very interesting and important facts illustrative of its past history. The language of a name reveals the race of the men who gave it, and not unfrequently holds in solution the identification of some old historic locality. For “names,” as an able writer has well observed, “have all some meaning when first imposed; and when a place is named for the first time by any people, they apply to it some term descriptive of its natural peculiarities, or something else on account of which it was remarkable, from their own language.” These old substantial appellatives often survive the people—the nation that bestowed them, as well as most other memorials of their occupancy. Like the foot-prints and rain-drops of past geological millenia they endure—fossil poetical memoranda—as though “graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever.” They seem to be “airy nothings,” and yet they

“Syllable men’s names

On sands and shores and desert wildernesses;”

aye, and in crowded cities also. They are heard in the half-buried *castra* of England; they echo among the mountains of Ireland and Scotland; and in our own country they may be heard murmuring in the Otonabee, and thundering down the watery precipice of Niagara.

It is not therefore very surprising that the rocks and mountains of the conservative East should have their peculiar historic secrets to tell to ears properly attuned to hear them; nor yet that in this day of enterprise and research travellers should be found in all respects qualified to interpret the weird voices of the desolate Land of Moab.

The interesting volume before us details the results of an expedition organized in the autumn of 1871, under the auspices of the British Association, for the purpose of making a geographical exploration of the country of Moab and of Reuben. The learned author of the book, the Rev. Canon Tristram, was himself the energetic and well-qualified leader of the exploring party, and very