

THE
CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTOR.

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" THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD."—Prov. xix. 2.  
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LOCALITIES IN PALESTINE.

NO. V.

THE SEA OF GALILEE WITH THE SURROUNDING SCENERY.

If some have represented the scenery around the sea or lake of Galilee as tame and void of beauty, all have readily and devoutly acknowledged the hallowed associations with which it is invested. It was on the shores of this lake that the adorable Saviour had his home, or more permanent abode, during the period of his public ministry. It was from Capernaum, "his own city," that the lines of his various circuits proceed, and it is to the same spot where all, except the last, eventually return. It was in this region chiefly where the Saviour chose his disciples to the work of the ministry and to the exalted office of the apostleship,—men so visibly identified with the character of this sequestered spot, that they were known by their speech as rustic Galileans, and by their vocation as untutored fishermen, though their high fame has long since filled the world. It was here where the Saviour's true character, which had slumbered so long at Nazareth, began clearly to unfold itself, and where so many of his mighty works were done. It was here where the people from all quarters, far and near, attracted by the fame of his miracles and the lustre of his name, gathered around him in far greater numbers than in any other place. Often was the Saviour borne on the bosom of that peaceful and beautiful lake to address the teeming multitudes on its shores, and to convey to them the words of eternal life,—sometimes seated in a ship while the people stood on the shore, at other times wafted from shore to shore, to relieve the afflicted and to proclaim the glad tidings of salvation to all around.

The great distinguishing peculiarity of this lake is its immensely deep depression. Its surface lies three hundred and twenty-nine feet below the level of the Mediterranean sea. This fact has never been sufficiently noticed by travellers. This singular basin is surrounded on all sides by a high mountain wall, or rather what appears to be a mountain when viewed from the lake below, but what in reality is only a break down in the uniform surface of the table land by the extraordinary depression of the lake. On the south-