

THE MOUNTAINS OF SCRIPTURE.

Mount Ararat stands above	feet.
the sea	17,210
The lesser Ararat	13,000
Mount Carmel	1,500
Mounts Ebal and Gerizim,	
each,	800
Mount Hor,	3,000
Lebanon,	10,000
Moriah,	2,000
The Mount of Olives	2,500
Sinai	7,000

EXTENT AND POPULATION OF INDIA.—1857.

THE extreme length of this vast country, from the island of Ceylon to Cabool, is 1,700 miles; and the breadth, from Bombay to the Himalaya mountains, is not less than 1,100 miles.

	Area	sqr.miles.	Popul'n.
Under the Supreme Government of India	246,050	23,255,972	
Under the Lieut-Gov. of Bengal,	222,609	41,212,562	
Under Lt.-Govs. N. W. Provinces,	105,726	33,216,365	
Bengal, etc.,	574,385	97,684,899	
Under the Madras Government,	132,090	22,437,297	
Under the Bombay Government,	131,544	11,790,042	
Total Br. India,	838,019	131,912,238	
Native States,	627,910	48,423,630	
French and Portuguese,	1,254	517,149	
Total,	1,467,183	180,853,017	

A POISONED VALLEY.

A singular discovery has lately been made, near Batten, in Java, of a poisoned valley.—Mr Alex. Doudon visited it last July, and we extract a paragraph from a communication on the subject, addressed by him to the Royal Geographical Society :

“It is known by the name of Guevo Upas or poisoned Valley; and following a path which has been made for the purpose, the party shortly reached it with a couple of dogs and fowls, for the purpose of making experiments. On arriving at the top of the mountain, the party dismounted, and scrambled up

the side of the hill, at a distance of a mile, with the assistance of the branches and projecting roots. When at a few yards from the valley, a strong, nauseous, suffocating smell was experienced; but on approaching the margin, the inconvenience was no longer found. The valley is about half a mile in circumference, of an oval shape and about 30 feet deep.

The bottom of it appeared to be flat, without any vegetation, and a few large stones scattered here and there. Skeletons of human beings, tigers, bears, deer, and all sorts of birds and wild animals lay about in profusion. The ground on which they lay at the bottom of the valley appeared to be a hard sandy substance, and no vapor was perceived. The sides were covered with vegetation.

It was proposed to enter it and each of the party having lit a cigar, managed to get within twenty feet of the bottom, where a sickening nauseous smell was experienced without any difficulty of breathing. A dog was now fastened to the end of a bamboo, and thrust to the bottom of the valley, while some of the party, with their watches in their hands, observed the effect.

At the expiration of twenty seconds, he fell off his legs, without moving or looking around; and continued alive only eighteen minutes. The other dog now left the company, and went to his companion. On reaching him, he was observed to stand quite motionless, and at the end of ten seconds, fell down; he never moved his limbs after, and lived only seven minutes. A fowl was thrown in, and lived only a minute and a quarter; and another which was thrown in after, died in the course of a minute and a half.

A heavy shower of rain fell during the time that these experiments were going forward, which, from the interesting nature of the experiment, was quite disregarded. On the opposite side of the valley to that which was visited, lay a human skeleton. The head was resting on the right arm. The effect of the weather had bleached the bones as white as ivory. This was probably the remains of some wretched rebel hunted towards the valley, who had taken shelter there, unconscious of its character.

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