



The Pool of Siloam.

In our little journey last month down the valley of the Kidron, we took a hasty peep at the pool of Siloam in the rocky sides of Ophel. Let us go back again and stay a little longer about the spot. It is a place every one likes to visit, and round which many holy and useful associations linger.

The pool is surrounded by ancient masonry, and the walls are in good preservation. A flight of old steps leads down to the water, at the bottom, which is generally two feet deep. This water comes through a long underground passage from the pool of the Virgin. Dr. Robinson proved this by creeping into the passage at the Pool of the Virgin, and proceeding about half-way through, when he made a mark with his candle smoke on the roof, and returned. He then entered at the Pool of Siloam, and at last reached the spot where he had made the mark on the ceiling, thus proving the fact of the passage. Wild flowers, the caper-tree, and other plants, adorn the sides of the pool, and make the place a beautiful spot to visit. The waters of the pool anciently flowed out into the King's garden (Neh. iii. 15), which it watered. Now it flows through

a channel cut in the rock, to water the terraced gardens occupying the site of the ancient one.

To this pool Jesus sent the poor blind man to wash, in order to restore his sight (see John ix.). How glad must he have been, as he lifted up his head from washing in the pool, to see, for the first time in his life, the beautiful city and temple just above him!

"The wall of the Pool of Siloam, by the King's garden," was rebuilt in the days of Nehemiah (Neh. iii. 15), but it is probable the one now seen is of later date, though likely as old as the Christian era. Higher up the valley is the pool of the Virgin, or what may be called the Fountain of Siloam, as from it it gets its waters. Mr. M'Cheyne describes his visit to it in this way:—

"We came to a wide cavern, partly or entirely hewn out by the hands of man, and descending two flights of steps cut in the rock, worn smooth, and white like marble, we came to the water. From this point it flows through the subterranean canal, and supplies the Pool of Siloam. But it flows in such perfect stillness, that it seemed to us to be a standing pool, until we put our hands into it and felt the gentle