

TRAVELS.

DESCRIPTION OF JERUSALEM.

(From the London Mirror of May 2, 1835)

Jerusalem is yet a considerable place, though rather from its central situation between Arabia, Syria, and Egypt, than its present splendour. Recollections of its ancient magnificence invest its ruins with an interest far superior to that awakened by the most superb and perfect city of our times. Indeed, this interest is untiring, exhaustless, and immortal; though the general aspect of the city and its vicinity be blighted and barren, the sycamore and cedar be no more, the vineyards be gone, and the vine cut off, and the Holy Temple be destroyed—

“The signs are full, and never shall the sun
Shine on the cedar roofs of Salem more;
Her tale of splendour now is done;
Her wine-cup of festivity is spilt,
And all is o'er—her graueur and her guilt.

“Oh, fair and favour'd City—where of old
The balmy airs were rich with melody,
That led her pomp beneath the cloudless sky
In vestments flaming with the orient gold;
Her gold is dim and mute her music's voice,
The heathen o'er her perish'd pomp rejoice—
How stately then was every palm-dock'd street
Down which the maidens danced with tinkling
feet!”

How proud the Elders in the lofty gate;
How crowded all her nation's solemn feasts
With white-rob'd Levites and high-mitred
Priests;

How gorgeous all her Temple's sacred state,
Her streets are raz'd, her maidens sold for slaves
Her gates thrown down, her Elders in their
graves;
Her feasts are holden 'mid the Gentiles' scorn,
By stealth her Priesthood's holy garments
are worn.”

“Yet there is nothing in antiquity more impressive than the scene of desolation which Jerusalem now presents: for its historical interest is not lost in its antiquity, as in the case of the Pyramids and Palmyra. At Jerusalem, hundreds of sites are identified with some sacred event recorded in the Book of Life, in which also are pictured their minutest features. Above all, here the spectator views the spot

where, in the early days of the world, the dread voice of the Almighty had sounded, and where he made His glory visible; here is the scene of much that is venerable in Holy Writ, the Cradle of our religion, and the theatre of most of its grand and important miracles; here he may trace almost every striking event in the pathetic history of the blessed Redeemer, to the spot where he shed his blood for the sins of man, and where he took his final, affecting leave of his weeping disciples, and ascended once more to heaven.” Again, no city in the world has been so often the scene of war: seventeen times has it been sacked; it has been the field of the most brilliant exploits of the Jewish, Roman, and Saracenic arms, and of the romantic bravery of the Crusades.

It would occupy more space than we can spare to enumerate the sieges and attacks, or the captors. The Christians finally retired in 1291, and the Turks have since retained possession.

“But this ill-fated City, though its punishment has been so protracted and severe, appears not yet to have atoned for its unexampled guilt. A few years back, the plague made fearful ravages amongst the inhabitants, since which it has suffered severely from the army of the Pacha of Egypt; and in July last an earthquake damaged many of the principal buildings.”

The form of the present city is an irregular, oblong square, about three miles in circumference. It is surrounded with embattled walls, and has six gates, three of which are seen in the Panorama; the others being Bethlehem on the west, Zion on the south, and Herod's on the north, are obstructed by buildings. There are no public squares: the streets are mostly straight, but steep, narrow, and unpaved; and the convents, which are the principal public buildings resemble fortresses. The houses are heavy, square masses, two or three stories high, generally of stone; below they have only one small door, and above not more than two or three small latticed windows, (the principal looking into a small,