

To the Editor of the CHRISTIAN SENTINEL.

REV. SIR,

If you deem the following illustrations of Holy Writ worthy a place in your magazine, the insertion of them will oblige,

Yours respectfully,

Montreal, June 7th, 1827.

AMICUS.

SCRIPTURAL ILLUSTRATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED, FOR
THE CHRISTIAN SENTINEL

GENESIS, XXIV. 55.

The form of speech in this verse is very obscure, and has been variously translated. The following is a literal translation of the original : " And her brother and her mother said, the damsel shall dwell with us, days or ten ; after, thou shalt proceed." In the text of our authorised version, we read, " a few days, at the least ten ;" and in the margin, a full year or ten months. But, though it must be acknowledged, that *yaumim* is sometimes used to denote a year, the marginal reading is certainly incorrect, as it is very improbable that Rebekah's friends could desire, or expect, that the steward of Abraham would remain with them so long, considering how anxious he was to return immediately. Houbigant contends, that instead of *yaumim au gnausor*, day or ten," we should read, "*chodesh yaumim*, a month of days," that is a full month. It is so serious a thing to alter the words of the sacred text, that it should never be done, except when it is necessary in order to the right understanding of it, and can be justified by satisfactory reasons. In the present instance, it does not appear to me to be necessary, and I know of no sufficient reason to justify it. Instead of changing the words in the original, I would translate *yaumim*, a week of days, that is seven ; and read the passage — " Let the damsel remain with us a week, or ten days." It is well known that the Hebrews called the period from one sabbatic year to another, that is seven years, weeks of years, or years ; and the period of seven weeks, and of seven days, weeks and days by way of distinction. Hence the feast of harvest, or Pentecost, was called " the feast of weeks," because it commenced seven weeks after the Passover. Speaking of this feast in Deut. xvi, 10. it is said, — " And thou shalt celebrate the feast of weeks to Jehovah thy God." In Gen. iv, 3, we read, that Cain and Abel brought their offerings "*mekats yaumim*, at the end of the days," that is, on the seventh or last day of the week, which was at the beginning sanctified by the Deity for religious purposes.—See Gen. ii, 3. In Numbers ix, 22, *yaumim* is again used to