

We have also a good account of the Sinaitic inscriptions in the Wady Mukatteb. After considering all the theories which have been broached as to the origin of these as yet undeciphered characters—that which ascribes them to the Israelites, to the Arabs, to the Greek Christian pilgrims, to the Phœnicians,—Dr. Bonar prefers the latter, as the most tenable. This people, it would appear, at a very remote time, mined these mountains for iron and copper, of which there is distinct evidence, and have left these memorials of their presence. The characters are more akin to the Phœnician alphabet than to any other, and notwithstanding the ingenuity and learning of Mr. Forster, will yet, he believes, be traced to this source.

The account of Mount Sinai is, as might be expected, a most interesting part of the volume. Its leading features are noted under the guidance of the Scripture account, and the travellers have no doubt in fixing upon the traditional Sinai as the true "Mount of God" on which Moses received the law and at the base of which in the plain of Er-Rahah, the people were encamped. This is a most quotable book, but our space forbids that we should cull further from its pages. It contains about two hundred and twenty most apposite illustrations of scripture texts and throws a strong light upon the descriptive passages of the book of Job. The whole narrative though unpretending in its form, "bears evident traces notwithstanding of scholarship and learning." It casts a halo of divine sanctity around the memorable scenes of the Exodus. The latter part of the book is occupied with the journey from Sinai through the wilderness to the fertile plains of Beersheba in which though there is less to interest the reader there is much, in that it is an untrodden field of exploration, to delight the traveller. Dr. Bonar, leaves us at this latter place promising in another volume to give us notes of travel through Palestine homeward which cannot fail to be equally interesting with the present. It was first intended to illustrate this volume with actual photographs taken on the spot by Mr. Wright, but lack of time and the "cloudy skies of last summer" hindered this design which however will yet probably in a subsequent edition be carried out. These, with a map and a few wood-cut illustrations of natural objects, such as the trees and shrubs of the desert, would greatly enrich the volume, and render it one of the most attractive accounts of these Bible-lands yet published. As it is, we have not read a more delicious book this season. It enriches both the understanding and the heart. It makes one long for a roam in these vast wildernesses. And above all it fills us with joyful praise to God that, notwithstanding the learned assaults of the enemies of inspiration upon the veracity of Scripture, the truth of God yet in every particular "endureth from generation to generation." Every professing Christian should read this book.

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.

MISSIONARY AND ECCLESIASTICAL.

FREE CHURCH.—There has been a net increase in the Sustentation Fund from 15th May to 14th June, as compared with the same period last year, of £533 2s. 6d., stg.

In the Free Presbytery of Edinburgh, Dr. Candlish called attention to the increased necessities of the Foreign Missions; and after some discussion as to the impropriety of multiplying unduly special calls upon the liberality of the people, a Committee was appointed to visit congregations on this behalf.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONARY MEETING.—A meeting, called by the Missionary Board the United Presbyterian Church was held on Tuesday, in Dr Peddie's church, Bristo Street, for the purpose of designating seven ordained missionaries to foreign parts—two to Caffraria, four to Jamaica, and one to the Island of Cuymana. William Duncan, Esq., occupied the chair; and on the platform were the seven missionaries, and a number of ministers of the United Presbyterian Church, belonging to Edinburgh, Dundee, Cupar, Fife, Kelso, &c. The names and designations of the seven missionaries are as follows:—