

THE
CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTOR.

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" THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD."—PROV. XIX. 2.  
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LOCALITIES IN PALESTINE.

NO. IV.

MOUNT GILBOA AND THE ADJACENT SCENERY.

THIS region has some claims to be regarded as one of the most interesting in Palestine. It is uncommonly rich in historical recollections, highly exciting and eventful; the scenery around is in the highest degree beautiful and picturesque; and the exuberant fertility of the soil sufficiently confirms the flattering account given us in early times of the abundance and luxuriance of the Promised Land.

A general sketch of the locality will help to illustrate the many stirring incidents associated with this part of the country. There is first the great plain of Esdraelon, a magnificent tract of table land, lying without a single obstruction in the form of an irregular triangle, and comprising more than eighty square miles. The great central road leading to Nazareth and the other cities of Galilee forms the base or eastern side of the triangle. Whilst the whole of this unbroken plain lies on the west of the northern road, there are three arms or branches of the great plain that shoot up through the mountains on the east of that road and run towards the river Jordan. These minor plains are simply so many extensions of the great plain; and what is very remarkable, whilst the one on the south, bordering on the Carmel range of hills, and the other running up on the south of mount Tabor, preserve the same slope as the great plain, and so send their waters west to the Mediterranean,—the centre plain slopes eastward, and sends its waters to the Jordan with a more rapid descent than exists towards the west. This plain is the celebrated valley of Jezreel, and is distinguished from what was called the Great Plain on the west. It is nearly four miles broad, and running down all the way to the Jordan, in some respect, it is not less than twelve or thirteen miles long. The other two extreme plains on either side lose themselves in the hills on the west of the Jordan, and are not more than six or seven miles long, and about three miles broad. These three plains are separated from each other by two long parallel ranges of mountains about three miles broad, six or seven long, and about four hundred feet high. The norther-