

THE
CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTOR.

AUGUST, 1856.

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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. II.

SHILOH—ITS POSITION AND HISTORY.

Shiloh is a sweet and musical word, and although it has experienced sad vicissitudes, it has still many sweet and thrilling reminiscences associated with it. For nearly four centuries it was the consecrated scene, and great centre of Israel's worship, where the tabernacle was first permanently fixed in Canaan, and where many important transactions took place. As the word signifies rest or repose, the place may have received that designation from the circumstance of the tabernacle first finding a permanent resting place there after toilings and weary wanderings.

The exact site of Shiloh was eventually lost and remained for ages unknown to the world, till about seventeen years ago, when Dr Robinson, guided by the description given of its locality in Judges xxi. 19, discovered its position, and identified it with a place now called by the Arabs, Sheilun—evidently the same word with an Arabic termination. It is situated in a beautiful and central position in the country, in the district of Samaria—but near its southern border, ten miles south from Shechem, and twenty north from Jerusalem, and a short distance east from the great central road between these cities. Along this road in the fertile district of Samaria, there lies a long succession of beautiful and fruitful plains. Those on the north including Mukhna, Shechem, &c., are by some called the plains of Moreh; those on the south, the plains of Shiloh. It is in one of these latter plains that the site of ancient Shiloh has been discovered. It occupied the top of a low insulated conical-shaped hill, at the north-east end of the plain, very much resembling the appearance of the citadel-hill of Halifax, as scene at the parade ground at the back, only of much greater extent. On the top of this hill and around it, are found the remains of many buildings, plainly indicating that at some former period the place had been one of great note. This hill is surrounded by other and much loftier hills, at a greater or less distance, and is yet entirely separated from them on all sides, by means of the plains passing round it, except on the south,