



The Palm Tree.

This tree was considered one of the most important productions of the East. It was remarkable for its erect and cylindrical stem, crowned with a cluster of long and feather-like leaves; and is as much esteemed for its fruit, the date, as for its juice, whether fermented or not, known as palm-wine, and for the numerous uses to which every part of the plant is applied. The finest palm-trees were about Jericho and Engeddi. There were many along the banks of the Jordan, and towards Scythopolis. Jericho is called the city of palm-trees. Deut. (xxxiv. 3.) A branch of the palm-tree, as symbolical of victory, was carried before a conqueror in processions and rejoicings for victory. The Jews sent a golden branch of a palm-tree to the Kings of Syria, as a kind of tribute or present. The palm-trees of the plain of Jericho are famous throughout Scripture, and even in profane authors. In the temple of Jerusalem, Solomon caused pillars, or pilasters, to be made in the form of palm-trees, (1 Kings, vi. 29, &c.,) probably in imitation of the Egyptians, who adopted such pillars in their temples. Palm-trees from the same root produce a number of *suckers*, which form a kind of forest by their

spreading upwards. Probably to this multiplication the Psalmist alluded in Psalm xcii. 12. The tree was also considered characteristic of Judea, not so much because it was more abundant there than in other lands, but because that was the first country where the Greeks and Romans met with it in proceeding southward.

Change produced by the Gospel.

Before missionaries went to South Africa, the Hottentots had learned from the white man to drink and love intoxicating liquors; and, in consequence, they would do or give anything in their power to get them. But the gospel showed them the evil of this practice, and made them sober, as well as wise. This change was so entire, that at some of the missionary stations, drunkenness was a vice altogether unknown, and the young people, who had been born and brought up there, had never even seen a drunken man. This was the case at Kruis Fontein, as the following circumstance will show:—

One day, a white man, in a state of intoxication, came into that settlement. Like other wretched beings in the same