

embattled cliffs that rise on either side, and delineate its course, the deep verdure of the evergreen that overhangs the precipices, and crowns the summit of the adjacent mountain, form a tout ensemble, which, for beauty and sublimity, is not easily surpassed. None approach it without a feeling of indescribable awe, or leave it without emotions of deeply gratified feeling.

#### THE LOCUST.

The locust is one of the most terrible scourges with which the incensed Majesty of Heaven chastises a guilty world. Not fewer than ten different names are given to this creature in the sacred volume, every one of which, after the manner of the Hebrew nouns, marks some distinctive character or peculiar effect. The inhabitants of Syria have observed that locusts are always fostered by two mild winters, and that they constantly come from the deserts of Arabia. When they breed, which is in the month of October, they make a hole in the ground with their tails, and having laid about three hundred eggs in it, covered them with their feet, expire, for they never live above six months and a half. Neither rains nor frosts, however severe and long, can destroy their eggs; they continue till spring, and, hatched by the heat of the sun, the young locusts issue from the earth about the middle of April.

Wherever these innumerable bands direct their march, the verdure of the country, though it resemble before the paradise of God, almost instantaneously disappears. The trees and plants, stripped of their leaves, and reduced to their naked boughs and stems, cause the dreary image of winter to succeed in an instant to the rich scenes of spring. In a few hours they eat up every green thing, and consign the miserable inhabitants of the desolate regions to inevitable famine. Many years are not sufficient to repair the desolation which these destructive insects produce.

One of the most grievous calamities ever inflicted by the locust, happened to the regions

of Africa, in the time of the Romans, and fell with peculiar weight on those parts which were subject to the emperor. Scarcely rescued from the miseries of the last Punic war, Africa was doomed to suffer, about 123 years before the birth of Christ, another desolation as terrible as it was unprecedented. An immense number of locusts covered the whole country, consumed every plant and every blade of grass in the fields, without sparing the roots and the leaves of the trees, with the tendril on which they grew. These being exhausted, they penetrated with their teeth the bark, however bitter, and even corroded the dry and solid timber. After they had accomplished this terrible destruction, a sudden blast of wind dispersed them into several portions, and, after tossing them a while in the air, plunged their innumerable hosts into the sea. But the deadly scourge was not here at an end: the raging billows threw up enormous heaps of their dead and corrupted bodies upon that long extended coast, which produced a most unsupportable & odious stench. This soon brought on a pestilence, which affected every species of animals, so that birds, and sheep, and cattle, and even the wild beasts of the field, perished in great numbers—and their carcases being soon rendered putrid by the foulness of the air, added to the general corruption. The destruction of the human species was horrible; in Numidia, where at that time Micipsa was king, 80,000 persons died—and in that part of the sea coast which bordered on the region of Carthage and Utica, 200,000 are said to have been carried off by this pestilence.

This statement will show that the locust is one of the most terrible instruments in the hands of incensed Heaven—it will show the reason that the inspired writers, in denouncing his judgements, so frequently allude to this insect, and threaten the sinner with its vengeance. It accounts, in the most satisfactory manner, for the figures which the prophets borrow, when they describe the march of cruel and destructive armies, from the character and habits of this creature.