



Preliminary Remarks.

CANAAN or Palestine was the theatre of the events about to be recorded, and the home of the kings whose history I intend to write. The young reader will please to refer to a map of Asia and in the north-western part he will find this celebrated country. It is comprised within thirty and a half and thirty-three and a half degrees north latitude, and within thirty-three and a half east longitude in the south-west, and thirty-six in the north-east. It "is situated on the east of the Mediterranean, and south of the mountains of Lebanon. It is about two-thirds the size of Nova Scotia. Its length from north to south is one hundred and eighty miles, and the breadth seventy-five miles." Being about midway between the equator and the arctic circle, it has a genial climate, and was anciently very fertile. The country is mountainous, but none of the mountains are of great elevation. It has but one river, the Jordan, and not many other perennial streams. Its lakes are Merom, Gennesareth and the Asphaltic lake or Dead Sea. The Jordan passes through the first two of these, and loses itself in the last.

This small country was, at the time of which I write, divided into two kingdoms—Judah and Israel. The part known of the Kingdom of Judah was only about one-third of the country—not far from one-fourth the size of Nova Scotia—and was bounded by the Kingdom of Israel on the north; on the east by Jordan, the Dead Sea and the Land of Moab; on the south by the Land of Edom, and on the west by the Great Sea or Mediterranean.