

rocky way over which Abraham rode his ass, and Solomon drove his chariot, and where trod

"Those blessed feet
Which eighteen hundred years ago were nailed
For our advantage to the accursed tree."

It is surely interesting to survey those hills which the Saviour hallowed, when He lifted up His eyes in prayer, and His hands in blessing; and to approach that place, where in the name of humanity, He offered himself to God a sacrifice holy and acceptable. As many as ten thousand pilgrims are to be seen, occasionally, within the walls of Jerusalem. And no wonder. For as amber attracts chaff, so the land where the Son of God lived has an attraction for Christians of every name.

Palestine is not what it was of old—Ichabod has been pronounced over it. The Iniquities of the fathers have been visited on their children, and Rachels that will not be comforted utter among their sepulchres the most doleful cry that ears can hear. But the days of their mourning shall have an end, and the daughters of Judah will yet rejoice in their great Deliverer. In its natural capabilities it is still a land of promise—

"A latent power
Of life and glory in its withered soil
Is buried. It will rise when Judah comes,
Like music sleeping on a silent lyre—
Whose muteness only to the Master's touch,
Breaks into sound that ravishes a world."

Evidence of better times approaching are evident enough. I have been informed by observant witness that the climate has improved, and that the harvests during the past few years have been more abundant, owing to the return of the "latter rain." Of the early rain, I am able to state with greater confidence, that it poured down incessantly for three days and nights, during my stay in Jerusalem. It was a plenteous rain, and I saw on the day following that it had filled one of the pools or reservoirs of Solomon.

Wheresoever I went, traces of rude industry were to be seen, and it was pleasing to hear the ploughman sing in the field at sunrise, and the maiden giving forth her orison, as she gathered the fruit of the olive grove. Half-a-dozen of the more rapacious Bedouin robbers have been executed of late, on account of their depredations. The Government has shown a disposition to protect property, and that has given some encouragement to the industrious peasant. The arable land is fertile, and will bear any amount of tillage. "A blessing is in it. At this season, the climate is exceedingly temperate. The outline of the hills, and the drapery of the heavens, seemed unique and beautiful; and as I gathered the flowers about Beth-

any, the lines of Keble appeared to be appropriate for winter.

"All through the summer night,
Those blossoms red and white,
Spread their soft breasts unheeding to the breeze;
Like hermits, watching still,
Around the sacred hill.
Where erst the Saviour watched upon his knees."

Jerusalem begins to have a better look. Two large religious institutions have been erected outside of the city wall, and two other magnificent ecclesiastical edifices are in course of erection within the gates, while the Emperors of France and Russia have combined their resources to repair the church of the Holy Sepulchre. The King of Prussia gives munificently to the German deaconesses, who are worthy of Imperial support. They have twenty patients in their hospital, and eighty girls in their boarding-school. Their simple treatment of ophthalmia they have found to be successful; and did they accomplish no greater good than to arrest that most painful and most prevalent disease, they would deserve the acknowledgment of all who delight in mercy. They are, however, doing greater good in opening the eyes of the understanding of parents, and of children, Jews, and Arabs, to behold the beauty of Christian charity. Their motto, inscribed in large letters, over the door of their habitation, is, *Talitha kumi*; and their desire is, that the maidens of Israel may arise to newness of life—social, spiritual, and eternal. Not to mention other hopeful indications of what Palestine shall yet become, there is a most expressive promise displayed in the intellectual features of the people, which, contrasted with the savage countenances I have been accustomed to look at for years bespeak capacity for high intelligence and noble purpose. Compared with those of the Hebrew ladies, one may see in our colonial cities the countenances of the poor women of Bethlehem and Nazareth, are beautiful; in not a few of them, I fancied I saw the original type of Madonna Mary, transmitted through forty generations. Centuries of oppression have failed to obliterate the expression of the human face divine. The dowry bestowed by Him, who had neither silver nor gold, revives like the corn, and springs like the vine, and beholding it, we perceive new import in the words of the prophet: "How great is His goodness, and how great is His beauty." The ethnologist supposes that, in the superior type or physical form of the Hebrews, a sufficient reason may be found for the rise and progress of old. And if the original type has been preserved, there is more than deductive argument for believing that the race itself shall attain to its former greatness. It is written (Rom. xi.), "All Israel shall be