

Under the name of Bozrah it is mentioned in the Old Testament—Isa. xxxiv. 6; lxiii. 1. Jer. xlix. 13, 22. Amos i. 12. It was very ancient; for it is referred to in Gen. xxxvi. 33, as the native city of one of the princes of Edom, who lived "before there reigned any king over the children of Israel." It is spoken of in terms which seem to indicate that it was the capital of Edom or Idumæa. We are, then, inclined to identify Bozrah with Petra.

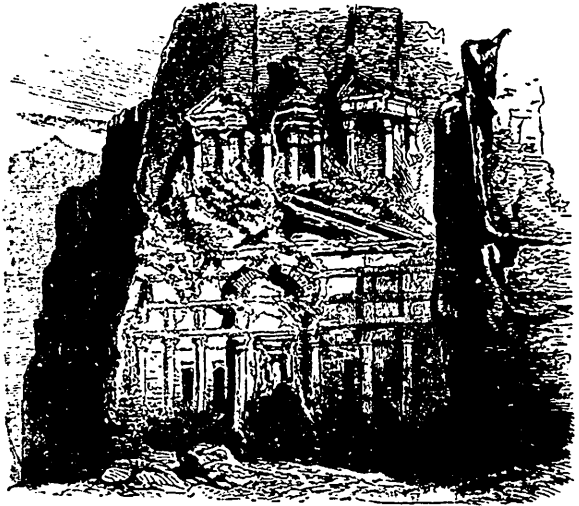
Josephus mentions Petra as the capital of Arabia Petræa. In the reign of Trajan, it came under the sway of the Romans. His successor, Adrian, appears to have granted privileges to Petra, which led the inhabitants to give his name to the city upon coins. In the sixth century, Petra was the Metropolitan See of what was termed the third Palestine. From that time Petra suddenly vanished from the pages of history till rediscovered in our own times.

These remarkable ruins of Petra are continually guarded by a tribe of Bedouin Arabs, who live in the village of Eljy, about two miles north-east. They keep careful watch, because they believe that it is the object of every white traveller who visits Petra to discover and carry away the riches of antiquity there hidden. Many a would-be visitor has been driven back from the very gates, robbed and insulted, without so much as a bird's-eye view of Petra to compensate him for ten days of hard desert travel.

The sides of the mountains are cut to smooth perpendicular faces, which are occupied by unbroken

ranges of temples and of homes for the living and the dead. The interiors behind the ornate fronts are but caves squared by the old stone-cutter, and are lighted only by their doors. While the bases and beetling sides of the mountains are fashioned into architectural forms that are as enduring as the eternal hills from which they are hewn, the picturesque summits above display nature in her wildest and most savage garb.

The following is the graphic account by Mr. E. L. Wilson of his recent visit: We followed a stream



ROCK-TOMB AT PETRA.

a few yards, and descending, as the pass narrowed, the entrance of the frightful chasm, seen afar off at sunrise, was reached at last. What an impregnable gateway! Spanning it is a fine buttressed arch, resting upon rock-cut foundations. Beneath this a little stream gurgles. We followed it through the only entrance—the "front door" of Petra. It is difficult to conceive anything more sublime.

When we had come fairly inside the gorge, we found it at times so narrow that two of us could not walk abreast. Its perpendicular sides