

It is gratifying to observe the pleasure with which the poor blind children have received Mr. Alston's books—one of them remarked that he would now be able to read the inscriptions on the gravestones in the churchyard. Acting on this hint, Mr. Alston despatched a number of his children to read the epitaphs in the High Church burying-ground, in which they amply succeeded. A little blind girl pleased the company very much by playing on a fine-toned pianoforte, presented by the ladies to the institution, the privilege of performing upon which is reserved for the highest excellence in the Asylum.—*Saturday Magazine*.

SCRIPTURAL ILLUSTRATION.

1. *He shall come like a lion from the swollings of Jordan against the habitation of the strong.* Jer. xlix, v. 19.

The figurative language of Scripture is very striking and beautiful when its terms and allusions are well understood; but is often obscure from our ignorance of both. Much of this ignorance, however, may be removed by careful examination; and great light has been thrown upon such passages by the researches of travellers and critics. The verse above quoted has often been objected to by half-learned infidels as impugning the authenticity of the Bible, by ascribing actions to the lion, incompatible with its habits, as not being an amphibious animal. But this objection may easily be removed by a little consideration of the facts of the case. The words are part of a prophecy foretelling the "desolation" of Edom by the sudden attack of an enraged enemy. "What we here know of a lion is chiefly by description, and by the exhibition of a few of these monarchs of the four-footed race engaged in caravans. These are comparatively small and feeble, and at the same time so tame through

confinement and the discipline of the keepers, that they shew us nothing of the true character of that unrivalled animal, who walks in conscious superiority through the forest, or bounds with resistless speed and violence across the plain, and fills, by his tremendous roaring, a whole neighbourhood with terror. The river Jordan, too, is so dissimilar to our rivers, as to increase the obscurity of the passage to those who are not acquainted with the peculiarities of its course. When the snows of Lebanon and of the neighbouring mountains began to melt, and when the rainy season commenced, the mountain torrents rushed into the vale below, and regularly caused Jordan to overflow all its banks, and thus inundated all the adjoining lowlands. The lion had his abode among the lofty reeds which grew on the bank of this river; and when the descending waters caused Jordan to swell so as to invade his resting-place, he was driven to madness by the intrusion of an enemy whom he could not resist, and flew to revenge himself against the inhabitants of the adjoining cities. How striking a picture of the rage and violence of an invading army."—*The Church*.

2. *She laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.* Luke ii. 7.

It appears to be customary in the East, to have a little room, partitioned off, in the stable, which is used, even by the great as a winter room. The following notices in the life of the excellent Henry Martyn, and which refer to his journey from Tebriz towards Constantinople, may tend to illustrate this passage:—

"At Sherror I was accommodated by the great man, with a *stable* or *winter-room*; for they build it in such a strange vicinity in order to have it warm in winter."

"At Ghanikeu, I was lodged in a *stable-room*, but very much at my