

Missionary Intelligence.

PALESTINE.—We take the following remarkable article from a valuable contemporary, the "Echo—

REMARKABLE PHYSICAL CHANGES IN PALESTINE.—Is the Lord already beginning to fulfil his promise, in causing the shower to come down in his season? Is the tree yielding her fruit, and the earth her increase, as has not been known for centuries? We could fill two or three sheets with extracts confirmatory of this. A Correspondent residing in Palestine, writing to the Editor of the *Presbyterian*, says: "The fruit is very large and fine. The peaches, shaped like pears, are exceedingly fine, I took the pains to measure one, and it is nine and one-fourth inches in the oblong round, and eight and one-half inches round horizontally. Our American vegetables have yielded very largely, particular the sweet potatoes. They are the very finest, and most plentiful crop, and are destined to be a great blessing to the poor Jew. The figs, pomegranates, grapes, &c., we have in abundance, successively since June." [Written Sept. 27th, 1852.] "The climate is delightful. The thermometer has only reached 90 degrees twice this season." "The ear of corn that was brought with us in 1849 has produced a thousand-fold; so that M. gave away large quantities of green ears to many poor Jews last year; has sold much in the city, and used in his own family all the winter season, and has plenty left." In another article it is stated that the early and later rain is now being given. New springs have been found, and old springs have newly opened, by the rubbish of ages being removed. A surprising amount of matter of the same sort, corroborative of the fact that illustrations of the fulfilment of prophecy are now being given. See also Jeremiah xxx., xxxi., and xxxii. Is God causing the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, or rather, is he not giving indications that this is what he is about to do? Yes! He that scattered Israel is now gathering them. He who watched over them to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy and afflict, will watch over them to build and to plant. So saith the Lord. Let us give you one item confirmatory of this, out of many of like description on hand. One writer on the ground says: "The most encouraging feature is the great and constant influx of Jews returning to the land of their fathers. Fifteen Hundred arrived in Jerusalem last week. Many of them are very poor, seeking for employment for bread; and though we cannot give them work, for want of means to take any more than we have, they cannot go away hungry. Truly the field here is white for the harvest; for the widest effort of Christian missionary enterprise, and Israel's sons are looking for succour from Christian hands! Oh! where are the lovers of Israel now? The door is wide open; the Sultan's latest firman extends full toleration and protection to ALL Protestants." A new impulse has been given to building, the influx of strangers having been so great that the price of labour has, within the past three or four years, gone up from two or three piastres to eight, twelve, eighteen, and even twenty piastres per day. Land, wheat, barley, building-stones, &c., are now raised in price more than quadruple. Another item reads thus: "This morning a messenger from Jerusalem informs us that a party of rich gentlemen has arrived at Jerusalem with the purpose of commencing a colony in Jericho. There are many similar projects proposed in different parts of the land. At Tyre and Sidon an architect has arrived from England, accompanied with men and means to commence a colony." The *London Jewish Chronicle*, which is a journal conducted by the Jews, is earnestly directing attention to planting Jewish colonies in the Holy Land.

AFRICA.—The Earl of Ellesmere, as President of the Royal Geographical Society, sends the following despatch to the papers, showing that an English Missionary has succeeded in accomplishing the arduous and dangerous task of crossing the continent of Africa:—

"St. Paul de Loando, June 8.

"On the 31st ult., there arrived in this city the Rev. David Livingston, English missionary, who set out from the Cape of Good Hope in May, 1852, for the purpose of exploring the interior of this continent, and, at the same time, entering into friendly relations with the native tribes, with a view to the future establishment of missionary stations among them.

"Mr. Livingston, after a journey of about eight months from the Cape, and having passed Lake N'Gami to the westward, arrived on the banks of the Zambezi, where between 14 and 15 degrees of south

latitude, it flows north and south in the centre of the continent.

"In the country of Zambezi Mr. Livingston was received in the most friendly manner by Sekelutu, the paramount chief, and he remained there about eight months for the purpose of propagating the Gospel, and acquiring a knowledge of the country and its inhabitants.

"Sekelutu, desirous of following up the policy of his father, Sebleani, to open up commercial intercourse with Europeans, afforded Mr. Livingston every facility for prosecuting his journey to the sea-coast on the westward; consequently, in November, 1853, he started from the capital of Sekelutu, on the river Chobe, and ascended one of the branches of the Zambezi, which flows through a portion of the Balonda country, the lord of which is Mateamvo, reported to be the most powerful chief in the interior of this part of Africa. The inhabitants of this country were disposed to treat Mr. Livingston in the most friendly manner.

"Mr. Livingston arrived at Cassango in April last, having experienced considerable obstruction from the native tribes with whom he came in contact as he approached the Portuguese territory to the westward. As soon, however, as he entered within the limits of Angola, he received every attention and facility from the several Portuguese authorities in the interior.

"Mr. Livingston takes this opportunity of assuring all those gentlemen of his sincere gratitude for the attention and hospitality he received at their hands, and for the promptitude and kindness with which they exerted themselves to facilitate his journey to Loando.

"It is very satisfactory to add that, notwithstanding the unfavourable season of the year, and the continuous heavy rains which Mr. Livingston experienced during his journey, many astronomical observations were taken, which will enable him to determine with accuracy the position of most of the important points of the route.

"As soon as the state of Mr. Livingston's health will permit, he proposes with the permission of his Reverence and Excellency the President of the Provincial Government, to offer a few observations and suggestions regarding commercial intercourse with the interior, which may prove beneficial to the inhabitants of this province."

Selections.

Siluria. The History of the Oldest Known Rocks containing Organic Remains, with a brief sketch of the distribution of Gold over the Earth. By Sir RODERICK IMPEY MURCHISON, D. C. L. &c. &c. Murray.

In all known auriferous regions the conditions of the gold deposits are the same, and, except in their greater richness, the Australian and Californian diggers do not differ from those carried on in past centuries in the British Islands, in Spain, Bohemia, and South America, and in the present day on the eastern slopes of the Ural mountains. It is found *in situ* only in rocks of the Silurian, Devonian, or Carboniferous eras, chiefly in those of the first, and almost exclusively where these rocks have been traversed and broken up by masses of eruptive rock. The era at which it has been produced (by whatever agency—whether electrical, atmospheric, or aqueous) is, in geological language, probably quite recent. The detritus of the rocks in which it has been produced has been, with very few exceptions, the only sort of locality in which successful or remunerative gold-digging has been carried on. Its richest portions are always on the surface. The vein of gold growing thinner as it descends, and being embedded in the hard and impracticable matrix of eruptive or Silurian rocks, mining properly so called has never, with very few and slight exceptions, proved remunerative. It follows from all this that it is only in the basins of their detritus, that large quantities of gold can be expected to appear. Consequently these sites will in no lengthening time be exhausted, and the apprehension of any great alteration in the value of this precious metal, either absolutely or relatively to silver, is unfounded and unreasonable. Such are the views, shortly stated, of Sir Roderick Murchison, and he shall speak for himself in the passage we subjoin, which is the conclusion of his chapter:—

"Notwithstanding the preceding sketch, it would all become any geologist who throws his eyes over the gold map of the world prepared by Adolf Erman, to attempt to estimate, at this day, the amount of gold which remains, like that of Australia, undetected in vast regions of the earth, as yet unexplored even by

geographers; still less to speculate upon the relative proportions of it in such countries. At the same time, the broad features of the case in all known lands may be appealed to, to check extravagant fears and apprehensions respecting an excessive production of the ore. For we can trace the boundaries, rude as they may be, of a metal ever destined to remain precious on account of those limits in position, breadth, and depth by which it is circumscribed in Nature's bark. Let it be borne in mind, that whilst gold has scarcely ever been found, and never in any quantity, in the secondary and tertiary rocks which occupy so large a portion of the surface, mines sunk down into the solid rocks where it does occur, have hitherto, with rare exceptions, proved remunerative; and when they are so, it is only in those cases where the rocks are soft, or the price low. Further, it has been well ascertained, whatever may have been the agency by which this impregnation was effected, (that the metal) has been chiefly accumulated towards the surface of the rocks; and then by the abrasion and dispersion of their superficial parts, the richest golden materials have been spread out, in limited patches, and generally near the bottom the basin-shaped accumulations of detritus.

"Now, as every heap of these broken auriferous materials in foreign lands has as well defined a base as each gravel-pit of our own country, it is quite certain that hollows so occupied, whether in California or Australia, must be dug out and exhausted, in a greater or less period. In fact, all similar deposits in the old or new world have had their gold abstracted from heaps whose areas have been traced, and whose bottoms were reached. Not proceeding beyond the evidences registered in the stone-book of Nature, it may therefore be affirmed, that the period of such exhaustion in each country (for the deposits are much shallower in some tracts than in others) will, in great measure, depend on the amount of population and the activity of the workmen employed in each locality. Anglo-Saxon energy, for example, as applied in California and Australia, may in a few years accomplish results which could only have been attained in centuries by a scanty and lazy indigenous population; and thus the present large flow of gold into Europe from such tracts will, in my opinion, begin to diminish within a comparatively short period.

"In defining the general character of the most productive auriferous rocks, the geologist must, however, necessarily admit a considerable number of exceptions to any prevailing rule. For, whilst the elements, as before said, has recently detected traces of gold in lead and copper ores—a discovery of considerable interest, doubtless, in regard to the theory of the origin of the precious metal—the researches of the man teach us that, in any auriferous region where certain quartzose lodes are surcharged with ores of iron, particularly the oxides and sulphurets, there some amount of gold will probably be found. Again, the diffusion or dissemination of small particles of gold throughout the body of various rocks both of igneous and aqueous origin is, as before said, a phenomenon dwelt upon by certain authors. Humboldt, indeed, asserted long since, that in Guiana, 'gold, like tin, is sometimes disseminated in an almost imperceptible manner in the mass itself of the granitic rocks without the radiation or interlacing of any small veins.' In Mexico the gold mine of Guadalupe y Calvo, above alluded to, was in porphyry. In Australia (districts of Burwood, and others south of Sydney,) a peculiar variety of felspathic granite is described by Mr. Clarke as being permeated by small particles of gold; whilst in Siberia, Hoffman had some years before spoken of the distribution in such minute quantities in clay, that it was only by pounding up large lumps of the rock that any perceptible quantity could be extracted.

"In all regions, therefore, where such rocks occur we may find gold either in the coarse debris or the fine effluvia resulting from their decomposition. Felspar and quartz being their chief component parts we can easily imagine how their former destruction on a great scale would leave as a residue large heaps of that pipe-clay (the decomposed felspar), or those gritty pebbles (the abraded quartz), which with the accompanying ore of iron (particularly the black magnetic oxide) are so frequently the gold-bearing materials in the drift of auriferous countries. But whilst it is an admitted fact, that gold has sometimes been diffused in minute and imperceptible particles in certain rocks, we have yet to learn whether such diffusion extends far downwards into the body of any mountains. Even if it be so, the extraction of ore so diffused, if the rocks were hard, proved really an operation. At all events, the indications are, that the