

producing that article in great abundance.

As the artificers were numerous, the work was carried on with great expedition, and in a short time the walls were raised to a great height. But the Almighty, being dissatisfied with their proceedings, thought proper to interpose, and totally put an end to their ambitious project; so that this first attempt of their vanity became only a monument of their folly and weakness.

Though the descendents of Noah were at this time exceedingly numerous, yet they all spoke one language. In order, therefore, to render their undertaking ineffectual, and to lessen the towering hopes of these aspiring mortals, the Almighty formed the resolution of confounding their language. In consequence of this, a universal jargon suddenly took place, and the different dialects caused such a distraction of thought, that, incapable of understanding or making known to each other their respective ideas, they were thrown into the utmost disorder. By this awful stroke of divine justice they were not only deprived of prosecuting their intended plan, but of agreeable intercourse.

Thus did the Almighty not only defeat the designs of those ambitious people, but likewise accomplished his own, by having the world more generally inhabited than it otherwise would have been. The spot on which they had begun to erect their tower was, from the judgment that attended so rash an undertaking, called Babel.

ever the practice of the Jewish law to make malefactors drunk before execution?"

"No; but they gave the condemned a cup of wine, in which there was frankincense, to render them insensible to pain; and the compassionate ladies of Jerusalem provided this draught at their own expense. The custom is founded on the Proverbs of Solomon, xxxi. 6: 'Give strong drink to him that is ready to perish, and wine to those that be of heavy heart.'"

"THE RIVER KISHON."

JUDGES v. 21.

It is not easy to determine to which of the streams, whose confluence forms the Kishon, we should assign the distinction of forming the principal source of that river. It commonly takes first a westerly course, and then turns to the north-west, running parallel to the range of Mount Carmel, till it discharges its waters into the bay of Acre. Its course is very winding, and its length may be estimated at about thirty miles. In its progress from Tabor towards Carmel, it receives other brooks, as large as itself, which greatly increase the volume of the confluent stream. The Kishon, however, like most of the other rivers of the country, is an inconsiderable brook during the greater part of the year; but in the rainy months, the greater part of the waters which are collected in the range of Carmel are discharged by a variety of small torrents into this channel; which being insufficient for such augmentation, the current overflows its banks, and carries away everything within its reach.—*Pictorial Bible.*

EXPOSITION OF PROV. XXXI. 6.

Among the inquiries addressed to Major Noah, we find the following, together with his answer: "Was it