

A simple stone is erected in the village church-yard, with this unostentatious inscription:—

Here lye the mortal Remains of
FRANCIS MORIER, aged Twenty Years.

“Set thy affections on things above,
And not on things on the earth.”

TRAVELS.

RUINS OF ANCIENT BABYLON.

(Concluded.)

The highly interesting spot where I laid open the platform is one thousand two hundred and fifty feet from the bank of the river. The stream continues in view, meandering for a considerable distance, surrounded by objects well calculated to heighten the solemn impression of the principal ruins. Here, along the banks, are several osiers, perhaps the very willows upon which the daughters of Israel hung their harps, and wept. “By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof,” Psalm cxxxvii, 1, 2. This is the lamentation of one of the Jewish captives in Babylon, either at the time of their captivity, or at their return from it. It contains a mournful reflection on their banishment from their native country, combined with the insolent behaviour of their enemies; and foretels the future destruction which awaited the city of Babylon, and its devoted inhabitants. As I passed along the banks of the river, the beautiful and pathetic stanzas of Lord Byron, in his “Hebrew Melodies,” on this very subject, forced themselves on my attention;—

“We sat down and wept by the waters of
Babel.”

Before I quitted these ruins, I continued along the bank for half a mile, when I came to the spot where Mr. Rich discovered the urns with human bones. Here it was, after a diligent search among the fragments of brick and masonry on the water's edge, that I found

two large brazen clamps. What they appertained to, I do not pretend to determine, though it is not improbable they belonged to the bridge which was thrown over the Euphrates, and this spot, from its vicinity to the reputed site of the famous hanging gardens, may perhaps accord with the generally received accounts of its position.

Vast quantities of various coloured tile and brick were lying upon the bed of the river. I extracted large portions of highly polished vases from this bank, to all of which adhered human bones. On attempting to separate these from the urn, they became immediately pulverized.

From the southwestern face of the palace, a large mound, ninety yards in breadth, by half that height, runs north and south, to the northwest angle of Amran hill, so called by Mr. Rich. The superficies of the intervening ground is covered with long reeds, and the soil is peculiarly damp. The reeds we now see growing in many parts of the ruins are particularly noticed in Scripture. To the south west of the mound a tomb, in good repair, contains the bones of Amran, who, the natives say, was a son of Ali. The keeper of this tomb may be likened to Job's forsaken man, who “dwelleth in desolate cities, and in houses which no man inhabiteth, which are ready to become heaps,” Job xv, 28.

I walked a full hour by the light of the moon; and could not persuade my guides to remain longer, from the apprehension of evil spirits. It is impossible to remove this impression from the minds of these people, who are deeply imbued with superstition.

I have now finished my description of the ruins on the east side of the Euphrates within the probable bounds of Babylon. It will be seen how exactly the divine predictions have been fulfilled.

Never trust to appearances or high pretensions. Behold the drum; notwithstanding all its noise, it is empty within!