

tion that evening numbered twenty-seven ; and there are many reasons for believing that several out of that small band are now among the ransomed before the throne above.

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### BOOK NOTICES.

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"The Holy Land, with Glimpses of Europe and Egypt. By Dryden Phelps, D.D., New York, Sheldon and Company, 335 Broadway Boston, Gould Lincoln, 1863."

This is one of the best written books of the kind which we have seen. His descriptions of the many interesting places which he visited are brief, but very beautiful and fresh. They are simple, off handed, and exceedingly interesting. His style of writing is quite fascinating ; and as Dr. Phelps was evidently often charmed with the interesting objects which he saw in his tour, he has not failed to give to those who love books of this description, a charming volume. We have marked a great many passages which we would like to quote. But as our space is so limited, we must refrain. Our readers, however, will be pleased with a few short extracts, as they shew the descriptive powers and fine feelings of the writer. In speaking of Egypt and its wonderful past history he says : " It is certainly interesting to be floating on such a river as the Nile, often alluded to in the Bible, once miraculously turned to blood, and in whose valley, and along whose banks, in long ages past, transpired events so stupendous and astonishing. Flowing down from hidden fountains and snowy summits far away in the unknown regions of Central Africa, its waters roll by day, and murmur in the moonlight, the same as when they reflected the glory of the Pharaohs, more than three thousand years ago. Egypt had a history, grand and thrilling, before books, or parchments, or written language were known. Much of that history is sealed ; some of it is shadowed forth in the curious hieroglyphics that cover those magnificent ruins and monuments which are the wonder of the world. If the Nile could tell us all it has witnessed—if it could sing of the deeds of Old, the triumphs of arts and arms here—how thrilling would be the story, how sublime the epic ! Before the Pentateuch was written, before the law was given on Mount Sinai, there stood on the banks of the Nile cities, temples and tombs, which, in vastness and magnificence, have never yet been surpassed. How different is the Egypt of to-day from the Egypt of the Pharaohs and the Ptolemies." Page 162.

In giving a description of the Dead Sea, among other things, he says,—  
 " Not a living thing inhabits its waters—not a flower, not a green willow or shrub, except where a fresh stream flows in, smiles on its borders. Nothing of the loveliness or the music of nature is here. Its waters, heavy, and intensely bitter and pungent, are rarely ruffled by the breeze. All is silence, and gloom, and death. Forty miles long and ten broad, the Dead Sea lies in a sort of grave. Its surface is lower than that of