

uninterrupted force the comforts and enjoyments of civilization. These two constituent principles of physical man, seem likewise to have been the foundation of that astonishing proficiency to which he has arrived in the different arts. Without any figure of speech, generation may be said to have begot necessity—necessity industry—industry habits of enterprize and speculation. In these pursuits which, in the early stages of society, must indeed have been carried on upon a limited scale, one man would too readily encroach upon the real or supposed rights of another, and thus conspire to separate themselves farther than before; thereby securing a greater scope to all those energies which are requisite for the maintenance of society on an increasing scale. We have a remarkable instance of the early period at which these general principles of our nature began to operate in the history of the patriarchs Abram and Lot. Those two eminent and venerable progenitors of the human race having ascended from Egypt towards Beth-el in the south, with their “flocks and herds and tents,” found that “the land was not able to bear them that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together. And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram’s cattle and the herdmen of Lot’s cattle. And Abram said unto Lot, let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen: for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: If thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.” Thus began to move that great spring of action which still continues to operate with greater or less velocity—with more or less force—in peopling the globe and spreading civilization to its uttermost regions. Thus were the fertile plains of Asia—the burning deserts of Africa—the hyperborean solitudes of Europe—and the melancholy wilds of America—peopled by men, however savage or barbarous—however obscure or dessevered in their general aim—who carried along with them a portion of that promethean spark which has since so gloriously illumined the world. Mankind seem to have been first organized into society about the middle latitudes of Asia, and, when they became too numerous for the ground at that time occupied, to have first wended their way towards the East by the Indian Ocean and towards the West by the Mediterranean. Of the migrations to the eastward we have no account; and the little glimmering of light shed upon those towards the westward by the ancient historians of Greece is but a feeble guide in conducting us to any thing like a true account

Genesis,  
XIII.  
Cap.