



The Pool of Siloam.

NO fountain about Jerusalem has obtained such wide celebrity as Siloah, and yet it is only three times mentioned in Scripture. Isaiah speaks of "the waters of Siloah that flow softly" (viii. 6); Nehemiah says that Shallum built the wall of the pool of Siloah by the king's garden (iii. 15); and our Saviour commanded the blind man, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam . . . and he went his way, therefore, and washed and came seeing" (S. John ix. 7). The pool still exists in a verdant spot in the valley of Jehoshaphat. It is a rectangular reservoir, 53 ft. long, 18 ft. wide, and 19 deep. The walls all round are of hewn stones, in part broken away at the western end. At the upper end of the pool is an arched entrance to a ruinous stair-case, which leads to the ancient subterranean conduit, through which the water flows from the "Fountain of the Virgin" to this pool. This channel winds zigzag in the very heart of the rock, so that though the direct distance is only 1,100 feet, the conduit measures 1,750. Through this passage the water flows softly from the mountain till it finds its way into the pool, rising