

## MISCELLANEOUS.

From the Library Garland.

## BIBLICAL RESEARCHES

IN PALESTINE, MOUNT SINAI, AND ARABIA PETRÆA.

BY DR. ROBINSON.

We have met, in several of the American Reviews, lengthened notices of a book under the above title, being a journal of the Travels of Dr. Robinson, and the Rev. Mr. Smith, in the Holy Land, during the year 1838. The journey was undertaken in reference to Biblical geography, and, by general assent of the Reviewers, the work appears to have been performed in a manner such as to reflect the highest honour upon the authors, and calculated to assist materially the cause of Biblical learning throughout the world.

We believe that among the literary men of the United States, there are few, if any, better qualified than Dr. Robinson, for such a herculean task. He is already well known as the author of an elaborate Lexicon of the Greek Testament, which is a standard work in the neighbouring States, and he has devoted many years to the acquirement of oriental learning, in which he is equally with any living man, a proficient. He is, also, extensively and favourably known as a teacher of the Sacred Classics—a profession which of itself naturally prompted a leaning to and affection for the mysteries of the Holy Land.

Dr. Robinson being convinced, from the whole course of his studies, of the insufficiency of the information upon which former Geographies of the Bible had been compiled, determined upon a journey to Palestine, to examine personally the most important localities. All the authorities agree in saying that "he has been eminently successful," and a new series of maps has been produced, the correctness of which is supposed to be much greater than any formerly prepared.

The learned author commenced his journey in 1837, in the summer of which he sailed from New York, and arrived at Athens in the December following. From Greece he proceeded to Egypt, and visited all the objects of interest in that ancient land. Of these his descriptions are very general, the Doctor being apparently satisfied with the correctness of former descriptions.

In Egypt he was joined by the Rev. Mr. Smith, formerly a pupil of his own, who had subsequently been for many years a Missionary in Palestine, during which time he had, by his intercourse with the Arabs, and his knowledge of the languages used in the Holy Land, become qualified in an eminent degree to assist in the enterprise contemplated by the enthusiastic Doctor. Indeed, had the world been searched, a fitter coadjutor in such an undertaking could not have been found than the learned, patient and untiring Missionary.

With such men and such materials, it may well be expected that a work of immense value has been produced, and though it has not yet reached this country, we have felt it our duty to take this brief notice of it, satisfied that if it be what it has been described, it must possess no ordinary interest to its reader, of all times and of all countries.

We have pleasure in extracting from a notice by Colonel Stone, (a gentleman eminent in the United States, and well known in Canada,) the following paragraphs,—with which, after entering into a description of the contents of the volumes, the Colonel closes his critique:—

The most interesting results of this literary pilgrimage were found in the holy city of Jerusalem and its vicinity. The account of these is spread over half of the first volume and a considerable portion of the second. In this notice we cannot mention even the most important of the conclusions which are given by our author. Having saturated his memory with classical and sacred information before visiting Palestine, he knew what to look for, and was rewarded by discoveries in localities which other travellers and the ecclesiastics of the country had passed by without being aware of their claims to attention. By a series of explorations combined with literary research, he recovered the long lost Eleutheropolis, determined the position of Michmash, Gibeah, Lebona, Shiloh, and many other places of sacred interest.

Having completed the survey of the region around Jerusalem, and made excursions to the Jordan, to Petra in Idumea, &c., Messrs. Robinson and Smith continued their route northwardly through Samaria—the proud capital of Ahab and Herod—and across the plain of Esdraelon—famous for great battles, from the days when Deborah and Barak routed Sisera and his host,

down to the time when the legions of Napoleon, under General Kleber, withstood the shock of ten times their number of Turks, and finally put them to ruinous flight. Nazareth, Mount Tabor, Tiberias, and the hallowed shores of Genesareth, are visited and described with minuteness; and we much underrate the amount of lore possessed by the clergy of our country, if they do not find many things of surpassing interest in the geography and history of this part of the Holy Land, which are now for the first time brought to their knowledge. For example, the account of the great battle of Tell Hattin, (Hill of Hattin,) July 5, 1187, which really decided the fate of the Franks in the Holy Land, is, we believe, nowhere to be found so fully detailed. Dr. R. has in this case, and in a hundred others, ransacked the Arabian historians, as well as the Western writers, and brought together a mass of information which invests almost every heap of stones in Palestine with an almost romantic interest.

From the plain of Genesareth and its sacred localities, Messrs. Robinson and Smith travelled North to the sources of the Jordan, and thence West to the Mediterranean. Every step, of course, was replete with interest; the men of other ages—prophets, potentates and pilgrims—seemed to start up from behind every rock and ruin, and tell what there they did or suffered.

The volumes which contain these researches are evidently the result of great labour. Indeed we have our fears that the very fidelity with which they are drawn up may render them unattractive to those who most need the information they are designed to furnish. The good public is like a spoiled child, whose very bread and butter has to be overspread with sugar in order to tempt his palate. But matters of genuine learning cannot be dressed up in the *ad captandum* fashion of the day. There is no royal road to learning—or rail road either; but those who travel in that direction must be content to plod. If Dr. Robinson should not receive from the multitude the present reward to which his laborious perseverance entitles him, he may yet have the satisfaction of knowing that he has accumulated a treasury of facts from which the archaeologist may draw illustration, and the Christian derive the confirmation of his faith, to all future time.

We hope to be enabled shortly to present our readers with extracts from this interesting work.

## RELIGION THE PRESERVATIVE OF NATIONS.

ALL things with which we are acquainted in this world, however healthy and beautiful to the eye, contain within themselves the principles of decay, and of their own dissolution. That destructive principle in nations is vice. A moral and frugal people rise, from the healthy tendency of their habits, to wealth and power: wealth and power bring prodigality in their train, and that same nation, its disinterestedness, its patriotism, its high-mindedness, its social affections debased and extinguished, falls yet more rapidly than it has risen. Such has been the history of the rise and fall of every powerful empire upon record, and such it will probably be to the end of time. The only means we know of by which we can prolong the date, and give health and vitality to the political existence of any people, however extensive their resources, or however unprecedented their knowledge, is by reversing this deteriorating process, and making them moral and religious. One vicious generation (and a vicious generation will always tread upon the heels of an indolent one) is fully competent to squander and extinguish all the acquisitions, all the hoarded wealth, of their more sober ancestry. We may recruit our armies—we may fortify our coasts—we may extend our commerce till it embrace the whole globe, and turn the accumulated ingenuity of an enterprising people to the acquisition of wealth unheard of in the annals of mankind;—but all this, after all, without the directing and steady principle of religious feeling, is but splendid wretchedness, the semblance of vigorous health, beneath which the canker is already at work.—*Bishop Shutekworth.*

PRAYERS AND TEARS.—St. Ambrose told a great Emperor of the world how Christians of his time did avenge themselves. "Our weapons," said he, "are our prayers and tears; we weep for our persecutors—we pray for them; and after this manner do we fight against our enemies."

VACCINATION.—The Vaccination Board state in their report, just published, that, by vaccination, as many as four thousand lives are annually saved within the bills of mortality only.

## THE MOURNING MOTHER COMFORTED.

Who can describe a mother's agony, as she gazes on the countenance of her dying child? To her, though changed, it seems still beautiful. She beholds its gently beaming eyes upraised and fixed, and closing fast in death. Upon its little mouth, half open, with soft lip quivering, she gently lays her cheek—but no warm breath is felt; she receives no answering kiss. She takes its little hand in hers—but it is cold and damp with the dews of death. She gazes on still, in silence almost breathless. She beholds it, at length, expire. Its little life goes out like an expiring lamp, or fades away like evening twilight. There may, indeed, have been no pang in its death—not a sigh may have disturbed the silence of the scene: but it has gone!—it will return no more!—and that fond maternal heart is relieved. Oh! these are scenes which try the souls of mothers—which shake them to the centre; and there, recollection thereof clings around the heart, long after the beloved objects themselves have mouldered in the dust. And yet, there are consolations even for such an hour. The mother cannot feel miserable, who, in the midst of her grief, can look up with confidence to One above, and feel that a Father's hand hath smitten; who can look upon the departing child, and, feeling that the "Lord hath need of it," can resign it cheerfully to his care; nay more, she may be happy. Bereaved mother! it is your privilege to repose your wounded heart on "the bosom of your Redeemer: to find relief from your sorrows in the fulness of his love. The God of all consolation knows how to administer comfort in the darkest hour of grief. He can touch the secret spring of sorrow. He can cause the bereaved to say—"It is good for me that I have been afflicted;" and "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him."

## THE FARMER.

THERE is not a more independent being in existence than the farmer. The real farmer—he who attends strictly to the duties of his profession, who keeps every thing about him snug and tidy, and who seeks every opportunity to introduce such improvements of the day as will tend to add beauty and worth to his farm. Such a farmer is always happy and independent, and he lives, as it were, in a little world of his own, with nothing to trouble him save the cares of his farm, which, by the way, are considered rather as pleasures than otherwise. His mind is always at ease, and the duties of his calling are performed with a good degree of pleasure. When the toils of the day are over, and the "night cometh," he takes his seat at the domestic fireside, and whiles away the evening in sweet converse with his little family circle. The toils of the day have been perhaps rather arduous; but what of that? They are drowned and forgotten in the pleasures of the evening. And then he feels a sincere pleasure on reflection, that while he rests from his labours, his business continues to flourish. His crops are growing, and preparing for harvest; his cattle, &c. are fattening ready for the market, and everything prospers. With such thoughts as these, he can calmly resign himself to the night's repose, and rise on the morrow with the returning sun, refreshed and prepared for the duties of another day.—*Mohawk Advocate.*

## PERILOUS SITUATION.

DR. JUDD, of Honolulu, who accompanied the Scientific Corps of the Exploring Squadron in their excursions in Hawaii, had a most wonderful escape from an awful death. He had descended into the crater of Kilauea, to obtain some specimens of the liquid lava. Not succeeding in procuring any at the Great Lake, (as it is called,) he approached one of the smaller ones, or chimnies, and descended a few feet into it. While gathering specimens, the lake suddenly became active, and discharged a jet of lava into the air, far above his head, but which most fortunately fell in the opposite direction from him. He then commenced making his way out, before another should follow, but the ascent was far more difficult than the descent. He became alarmed, and called on five natives who had accompanied him to the spot, for assistance. The heat had become so great that they were frightened, and retreated,