

the end of the first century after Christ, agreeably to the declaration by the prophet Obadiah, ver. 10.

The records of history are confirmed by the knowledge, imperfect as it is, obtained by recent travellers, and show that the Idumeans were a populous and powerful nation, long after the delivery of the prophecies; that Idumea contained many cities; that these cities are now deserted, and that their ruins swarm with scorpions; that it was a commercial nation, and possessed highly frequented marts; that it forms a shorter route than the ordinary one to India; and yet that for centuries it had not been visited by any traveller, are facts stated or proved, even by writers opposed to revelation. Instead of being resorted to from every quarter, "none pass through it." Even the inhabitants of the surrounding deserts dread to approach it. The Arabs who migrate throughout Edom, and carry there their plunder from other regions, are notorious robbers; they threaten travellers who reach their border with instant death, if they attempt to pass through. While they thus unconsciously use the words of one prophecy, their conduct bears witness to another, "It shall be called the border of wickedness."

Burckhardt, a very enterprising traveller, entered Edom, disguised as an Arab, and was stripped even of some rags that covered his wounded ankles. Captains Irby and Mangles, and two other English gentlemen, with several attendants, having obtained the protection of a most intrepid Arab chief, reached Petra, once the capital of Idumea, but after encountering the greatest difficulties and dangers, were forced to return. And every new fact, descriptive of the state of Edom, is an echo of the prophecies. In the interior of Idumea, the whole plain presents an expanse of shifting sands. The depth of sand precludes all vegetation of herbage. On ascending the western plain is an immense expanse of dreary country, covered with black flints, here and there some hilly chain rising from the plain. "I will make thee most desolate. I will stretch out upon Edom the line of confusion and the stones of emptiness."

The traces of many towns and villages are to be seen in Edom. But the sand is in some places so very deep, that there is not the slightest appearance of a road or of any work of human art; though a Roman road passed directly through the country. Its capital city, now without an inhabitant, except the wild animals to which it was allotted more than a thousand years before it ceased to be tenanted by man, presents one of the most wonderful and singular scenes possible to be conceived. In the vicinity of mount Seir the extensive ruins of a large city—heaps of hewn stones, foundations of buildings, fragments of columns, and vestiges of paved streets, are spread over a valley, which is enclosed on each side by perpendicular cliffs, varying from four hundred to seven hundred feet in height, which are hollowed out into innumerable chambers of different dimensions, rising in the cliffs, tier above tier, till it seems impossible to approach the uppermost. Columns also rise above columns, and adorn the fronts of the dwellings; horizontal groves, for the conveyance of water, run along the face of the cliffs; flights of steps formed the means of ascent, and the summit of the heights in various places, is covered with pyramids cut out of the rock. "Thy terribleness hath deceived thee, and the pride of thine heart, O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height of the hill; though thou shouldst make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the Lord; also Edom shall be a desolation." Jer. 49. 16, 17.

There are marble edifices of Roman and Grecian architecture, which prove that they were built after the Christian era. "They shall build, but I will throw down." "Thorns shall come in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortress thereof." In Idumea each wandering Arab carries a pair of small pincers, to extract the thorns from his feet. "I will make thee small among the nations; thou art greatly despised." Instead of its ancient opulence and commerce, the picking of gum arabic from the thorny branches of the tall trees, is the only semblance of industry. Instead of the superb structures of antiquity, the Arabs have only a few miserable huts; their tents are low and small; and some are destitute of any tents or shelter from the burning suns or the heavy dews, except a few scanty branches of shrubs. The public authorities at Constantinople, when asked for a firman, or letter of protection to a traveller, to visit the ruins of Petra, denied all knowledge of such a place. How greatly is it despised!

"Shall I not destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?" Sir Isaac Newton traces the origin of letters, astronomy, and navigation to the Edomites. The book of Job is a splendid and lasting proof of the eloquence that pertained to Edom. But so entirely has understanding departed from the mount of Esau, that the wild wanderers who now traverse it, consider the remains of antiquity as the work of genii! To clear away a little rubbish, merely to allow the water to flow into an ancient cistern, is an undertaking far beyond the views of the wandering Arabs. They cherish sentiments the most superstitious and absurd; "Wisdom is no more in Temara, and understanding has perished out of the mount of Esau."

The animals mentioned in scripture, as those to which Edom should be abandoned, are all found there in abundance; they dwell there.

"Thou shalt be desolate, O mount Seir, and they shall know that I am the Lord." The children of Judah ever look towards the land of their fathers, but the Edomites have been cut off for ever, and there is none remaining of the house of Esau. In their stead his word commanded, and his Spirit hath gathered wild animals by name, while the people of his curse have been extirpated from off the face of the earth. And Edom, notwithstanding the terribleness of its strength of old, and the magnificence of its desolated and deserted habitations, now lies stricken with a judgment that shall never be repealed. And though the enemies of the Christian faith league together, as the confederated tabernacles of Edom against Judah, all the terribleness of their strength, wherein they trust, must finally become like the chaff before the wind, or the rolling sand before the whirlwind, and they themselves fall, like Edom, never to rise again. For who hath hardened himself against God, and hath prospered? Job 9. 4. And if they will not read from the book of the Lord these words, which were first penned in Edom they may behold how they are now written over its "desolate wilderness," and engraved on its "gigantic columns," as on a monument, and read them there, that their hearts may not be hardened any more, like granite or adamant, lest God should set a seal upon themselves, in answer to the question—a seal that would be fixed upon the soul, though the earth were removed out of its place.—*Tract Society's Commentary.*

EMIGRATION AND HEALTH.

The stringent regulations recently adopted in the United States respecting emigrant vessels, whilst they will, doubtless, have the effect of increasing the comfort, and diminishing the amount of disease among passengers, will, as a necessary consequence, increase the cost of passage; for it is evident that if a vessel can only take, say, two thirds of the number of passengers that she took formerly, she must charge half as much again for each, in order to make the same amount out of her trip; that is upon the supposition that the emigrants, as is generally the case, lay in their own stores.

The regulations alluded to were, doubtless, adopted by our neighbours partly for the good of the passengers themselves, and partly in self defence—to protect the American people against the epidemic diseases sometimes engendered in crowded vessels, and to diminish the enormous expenditure incurred in Hospitals, Almshouses, &c. &c., at the ports of entry. They were also, probably, dictated by a deeper purpose, that, namely, of making, as far as practicable, a selection from the intending emigrants of Europe—those in more comfortable circumstances being able to pay the increased rate of passage money, whilst the very poorest would, thereby, be deterred from going to the United States, and either take the route to Canada or stay at home.

We are thus particular in alluding to the immigrant law of the United States, for the purpose of shewing the formidable effects it is likely to produce upon Canada.

In the first place, it will operate as no bar to emigrants in comfortable circumstances, but rather the reverse; for they are not only able to pay for the prescribed accommodation, but would, doubtless, prefer ships that are not unwholesomely crowded. So that it will rather tend to draw that most desirable class away from us, especially, if, as is likely, emigrant vessels for the St. Lawrence be much more crowded.

Secondly.—The immense mass of very poor emigrants, with whom the primary object is a cheap passage, and all who are sent out in whole or in part as paupers, will naturally enter the North American Continent by the St. Lawrence, on which route the American law is inoperative; and where the great fleet of timber ships coming out in ballast, offers unexampled facilities for obtaining a cheap passage. We speak of the North American Continent generally, for we have no doubt that the emigration to Canada will be by no means exclusively for Canada; the probability is, that the Canadian route will be used as a