

of Petra, the ancient stronghold of Edom.

The architectural remains and natural beauties of Petra serve to make the solitude and desolation that prevail deeply and almost overpoweringly impressive, and show with what minute accuracy the words of the prophet have been fulfilled—Isaiah xxxiv. 11: "But the

remained hidden and unknown; for it was not earlier than 1811, when Burkhardt discovered its forgotten site, and drew the attention of the civilized world to its mournful spectacle of prostrate grandeur and utter desolation.

Petra lay at the foot of Mount Hor, in the Wady Mousa, two days' journey south of the Dead Sea, and the



GATEWAY OF SIK—ENTRANCE TO PETRA.

cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness." Being deserted of man, the place now affords a residence only for beasts and birds. Yet for centuries, this, which may be well denominated one of the wonders of the world, re-

same distance north of the Red Sea. The principal entrance to the city is through a long, narrow defile in the mountains, in which, for nearly two hours, the path winds among wild and picturesque masses of gray and red granite, greenstone and yellow sandstone. The ruined city lies in a narrow valley, surrounded by lofty and precipitous mountains, and ap-