

And the Lord has removed men far away, and there has been and still is, a great forsaking in the midst of the land. "But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten : as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves : so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof."

Such were the visible and tangible limits of the Divine rejection of both people and land, which was to run parallel with the infinitely more terrible withdrawal from the people of his enlightening and converting Spirit. Let us hope and trust that, as the land seems now to be rising from that lowest depth of desolation, so the people too are emerging from the long and dreary night of unbelief and ignorance, which many seem almost to regard as their normal condition, instead of being merely the "small moment" during which the Lord forsook them. "In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment, but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer."

### EGYPT.

The change from Palestine to Egypt is a very striking one. It is from an empty to a populous land, from one barren and waste to one fertile and highly cultivated, from one sunk in ignorance to one where education is encouraged by the government and is making gratifying progress, from one where commerce is almost unknown to one whose commerce extends to nearly every country in Europe, from one of political weakness and tyranny to one where a large amount of liberty and even-handed justice is enjoyed. True it is that reformation has still an ample field for the development of its resources, yet it cannot be denied that the progress made within the last thirty years possesses a wonderful interest, and is full of hopeful encouragement.

OSIOUT.—The accounts furnished by the Rev. Dr. Hogg of missionary operations at this station, leave no room to doubt that a deep interest in Divine Truth exists among the population both Christian and Moslem within a wide circumference round this centre.

His report is chiefly occupied with an incident that produced a great sensation at Osioot, though it occurred during his absence. This was the visit of Sheikh Rufael, agent of the Sherref of Mecca. He was then residing at Minieh, and had brought a reference Bible and many controversial books, including a translation of a summary of "Horne's Introduction to the Holy Scriptures," on the one hand, and the *Izhar-el-Hakk*, a reply published at Constantinople to the *Mizun-el-Hakk* written by Dr. Pfander. He was manifestly of a sceptical turn of mind, appreciating far more difficulties, real or imaginary, than those great palpable evidences of the truth of the sacred history, which carry conviction to every honest inquirer. In short, he was a mere Deist, with a mind full of negations, believing neither the Old nor the New Testament, nor the Koran, though a professing Moslem, and finding no rest for the sole of his foot—no truth upon which he could rely for comfort. Impelled by this uneasiness, he paid a visit of five days to Osioot, which he spent in discussions with Copts and Protestants. He proved the Coptic and other churches to have corrupted Christianity by the traditions of the fathers, and to have quite lost sight of its true character and teaching ; and displayed at the same time such an acquaintance with the Bible, from which he quoted numerous passages by heart, as quite put to the blush the Coptic priests and officials. The latter could not answer a word, and were in many cases ignorant of the existence of the passages quoted. They pleaded in excuse that they were so busied with their duties that they had no time for study ; but he retorted that they had more than he, for he was factor for 6,000 acres, and was responsible for every account connected with them. Then, changing sides, he adduced the objections to the Bible contained in the *Izhar-el-Hakk*, as for example, that the Old Testament had been lost till found by Hilkiah ; that a sure proof of corruption was the fact that it ascribed wicked actions to