

# The Gleaner

AND NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEDIASMA.

*L'araneorum sane texus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noscer vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.*

[No. 18.]

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 7, 1834.

## THE GLEANER.

Useful and Entertaining Knowledge.

FROM THE EDINBURGH CABINET LIBRARY.

PALESTINE, OR THE HOLY LAND.

Galilee, says a learned writer, would be a paradise were it inhabited by an industrious people under an enlightened government. Vine-stocks are to be seen here a foot and a half in diameter, forming, by their twining branches, vast arches and extensive ceilings of verdure. A cluster of grapes, two or three feet in length, will give an abundant supper to a whole family. The plains of Esdraelon are occupied by Arab tribes, around whose brown tents the sheep and lambs gambol to the sound of the reed, which at night-fall calls them home.

For some years this fine country has groaned and bled under the malignant genius of Turkish despotism. The fields are left without cultivation, and the towns and villages are reduced to beggary; but the latest accounts from the Holy Land encourage us to entertain the hope, that a milder administration will soon change the aspect of affairs, and bestow upon the Syrian provinces at large some of the benefits which the more liberal policy of Mahomed Ali has conferred upon the pashalic of Egypt.

Proceeding from Galilee towards the metropolis, we enter the land of Samaria, comprehending the modern districts of Areta and Nablous. In the former we find the remains of Cesarea; and on the Gulf of St. Jean d'Acre stands the town of Caypha, where there is a good anchorage for ships. On the south-west of this gulf extends a chain of mountains, which terminates in the promontory of Carmel, a name famous in the annals of our religion. There Elijah proved by miracles the divinity of his mission; and there, in the middle ages of the church, resided thousands of Christian devotees, who sought a refuge for their piety in the caves of the rocks. Then the mountain was wholly covered with chapels and gardens, whereas at the present day nothing is to be seen but scattered ruins amid forests of oak and olives, the bright verdure being only relieved by the whiteness of the calcareous cliffs over which they are suspended. The heights of Carmel, it has been frequently remarked, constantly enjoy a pure and enlivening atmosphere, while the lower grounds of Samaria and Galilee are occasionally obscured by the densest fogs.

The Shechem of the Scriptures, successively known by the names of Neapolis and Nablous, still contains a considerable population, although its dwellings are mean and its inhabitants poor. The ruins of Samaria itself are now covered with orchards; and the people of the district, who have forgotten their native dialect, as well perhaps as their angry disputes with the Jews, continue to worship the Deity on the verdant slopes of Gerizim.

Palestine, agreeably to the modern acceptation of the term, embraces also the country of the ancient Philistines, the most formidable enemies of the Hebrew tribes prior to the reign of David. Besides Gaza, the chief town, we recognise the celebrated port of Jaffa or Yaffa, corresponding to the Joppa mentioned in the Sacred Writings. Repeatedly fortified and dismantled, this famous harbour has presented such a variety of appearances, that the description given of it in one age has hardly even been found to apply to its condition in the very next.

Bethlehem, where the divine Messiah was born, is a large village inhabited promiscuously by Christians and Mussulmans, who agree in nothing but their detestation of the tyranny by which they are both unmercifully oppressed. The locality of the sacred manger is occupied by an elegant church, ornamented by the pious offerings of all the nations of Europe. But it is not our intention, in these introductory observations, to enter into a more minute discussion of the ancient traditions, by which the particular places rendered sacred by the Redeemer's presence are still marked out for the veneration of the faithful pilgrim. Suffice it to remark that they present much vagueness mingled with no small portion of unquestionable truth. At all events, we must not regard them in the same light in which we are compelled to view the story that claims for Hebron the possession of Abraham's tomb, and attracts on this account the veneration both of Nazarenes and Moslems.

To the north-east of Jerusalem, in the large and fertile valley called El-Gaur, and watered by the Jordan, we find the village of Rah or Rabbah, the ancient Jericho, denominated by Moses the City of Palms. This is a name to which it is still entitled; but the groves of opobalsamum, or balm of Mecca, have long disappeared; nor is the neighbourhood any longer adorned with those singular flowers known among the Crusaders by the familiar appellation of Jericho roses. A little farther south two rough and barren chains of hills encompass with their dark steep a long basin formed in a clay soil mixed with bitumen and rock-salt. The water contained in this hollow is impregnated with a solution of different saline substances, having lime, magnesia, and soda, for their base, partially neutralized with muriatic and sulphuric acid. The salt which it yields by evaporation is about one-fourth of its weight. The bituminous matter rises from time to time from the bottom of the lake, floats on the surface, and is thrown out on the shores, where it is gathered for various economical purposes. It is to be regretted that this inland sea has not yet been examined with the attention which it deserves. We are told, indeed, by the great number of those who have visited it, that neither fish nor shells are to be found in its waters; that an unwholesome vapour is constantly emitted from its bosom; and that its banks, hideous and desolate in the extreme, are never cheered by the note of any bird. But it is admitted by the same travellers, that the inhabitants are not sensible of any noxious qualities in its exhalations, while the accounts formerly believed, that the winged tribes in attempting to fly over it fell down dead, are now generally regarded as fabulous. Tradition supports the narrative of Sacred Scripture so far as to teach that the channel of the Dead Sea was once a fertile valley, partly resting on a mass of subterranean water, and partly composed of a stratum of bitumen; and that, a fire from Heaven kindling these combustible materials, the rich soil sunk into the abyss beneath, and Sodom and Gomorrah were consumed in the tremendous conflagration.

A ride of two hours brings the traveller to the verge of the mountains, where the road opens through a rugged ravine, and is formed in the dry channel of a torrent. A scene of affecting solitude and desolation surrounds his steps as he pursues his journey, in what is so simply described in the gospel as the "hill country of Judea." He finds himself amidst a labyrinth of mountains, of a conical figure, all nearly alike, and connected with each other at their base. A naked rock presents strata of beds, resembling the seats of a Roman amphitheatre, or the walls which support the vineyards in the valleys of Savoy. Every recess is filled with dwarf oaks, box, and rose-laurels. From the bottom of the ravine olive-trees rear their heads, sometimes forming continuous woods on the sides of the hills. On reaching the most elevated summit of this chain, he looks back towards the south-west on the beautiful Valley of Sharon, bounded by the Great Sea; before him opens the Vale of St. Jeremiah; and in the same direction, on the top of a rock, appears in the distance an ancient fortress called the Castle of the Maccabees. It is conjectured that the author of the Lamentations was born in the village which still retains his name amidst these son-bre mountains; so much is certain, at least, that the melancholy of this desolate scene appears to pervade the compositions of the prophet of sorrows.

The unvarying manners of the East exhibit to the view of the stranger, at the present day, the same picture of rural innocence and simplicity which might have met the eye of the mother of the Redeemer, when she came into this pastoral country to salute her cousin Elizabeth. Herds of goats with pendent ears, sheep with large tails, and asses which remind you, by their beauty, of the onagra of Scripture, issue from the villages at the dawn of day. Arab women are seen bringing grapes to dry in the vineyards; others with their faces veiled, carrying pitchers of water on their heads, like the daughters of Midian. From the Valley of Jeremiah the traveller towards Zion descends into that which bears the name of Tarphentine, and is deeper and narrower than the other. Here are observed some vineyards, and a few patches of doura. He next arrives at the brook where the youthful David picked up the five smooth stones, with one of which he slew the gigantic Goliath. Having crossed the stream, he perceives the village of Heriet-Lesta on the bank of another dry channel, which resembles a dusty road. El Fire appears in the distance on the summit of a lofty hill on the way to Nablous, the Shechem of the Israelites and the Neapolis of the Herods. He now pursues his course through a desert, where wild fig-trees thinly scattered wave their embrowned leaves in the southern breeze. The ground which had hitherto exhibited some verdure, becomes altogether bare; the sides of the mountains, expanding themselves, assume at once an appearance of greater grandeur and sterility. Presently all vegetation ceases: even the very mosses disappear. The confused amphitheatre of the mountains is tinged with a red and livid colour. In this dreary region he continues to ascend a whole hour in order to gain an elevated hill which he sees before him; after which he proceeds, during an equal space, across a naked plain strewn with loose stones. All at once, at the extremity of this plain, he perceives a line of Gothic walls flanked with square towers, and the tops of a few buildings preping above them;—he beholds Jerusalem, once the joy of the whole earth!

"I can now account," says Chateaubriand, "for the surprise expressed by the Crusaders and pilgrims at the first sight of Jerusalem, according to the reports of historians and travellers. I can affirm that whoever has, like me, had the patience to read nearly two hundred modern accounts of the Holy Land, the Rabbinical compilations, and the pages in the ancient writers respecting Judea, still knows nothing at all about it. I paused with my eyes fixed on Jerusalem, measuring the height of its walls, reviewing at once all the recollections of history

### LIST OF LETTERS

Remaining in the Post Office, Miramichi, December 1833.

- |                                 |                       |                    |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Anderson Peggy Mrs. New-castle. | Murphy Timothy        | Junkin Robert      |
| Anderson Abraham do.            | Askill Joseph         | Nurry Joseph       |
| Anderson Kenry                  | Eachron Archibald     | MDonald James      |
| Appleton John                   | McCoig Duncaan        | Mihon John         |
| Black Andrew Forester Hill      | Mdinicks James        | Moery Nathan       |
| Barry David                     | Muroy Catherine       | Murphy Marks       |
| Betts Jared Barnaby Island      | M'Dtosh John & Robert | Malony Daniel      |
| Biant Barbara Nelson            | McQuin Fergus         | Mulha Terrence     |
| Brian Hannah do.                | McCall Donald         | McDonald John      |
| Burry Peter Newcastle           | McConnell Thoma       | Murphy Richard     |
| Burdwell Tim South West         | Murphy Richard        | McNee Duncaan      |
| Burroll Patrick Bay du Vin      | Mooney Thomas         | Murphy Mary        |
| Campbell Peter                  | Murphy Mary           | McEvoy Michael     |
| Clarke James                    | McCall Donald         | Neil Hannah        |
| Colton Martain 3                | McDonald John         | Nugent Catherine   |
| Caruthers Mathew                | Murphy Richard        | Nunan Michael      |
| Caruthers Mary                  | M'Nee Duncaan         | Orr William        |
| Courtes John Chatham-head.      | Mooney Thomas         | Persons Elijah     |
| Campbell Charles                | Murphy Mary           | Phelan M.          |
| Carroll Michael Shoemaker.      | McCall Donald         | Power John         |
| Caruthers Sam                   | McConnell Thoma       | Power Mrs.         |
| Burry John joiner               | Murphy Richard        | Parker Robert      |
| Cane Jeremiah                   | McCall Donald         | Quinn William      |
| Chappell Mr.                    | McConnell Thoma       | Rainsbotham Joseph |
| Connell Johannah                | Murphy Richard        | Roberts Abraham    |
| Chambers Anthony                | McCall Donald         | Rogers Edward      |
| Daly Hugh                       | McConnell Thoma       | Russel Alexander   |
| Douglas William                 | Murphy Richard        | Sullivan Mrs.      |
| Dunn William                    | McCall Donald         | Simpson Alexander  |
| Doyle Michael                   | McConnell Thoma       | Stapleton William  |
| Dixon James                     | Murphy Richard        | Savage John        |
| Dunn Patrick                    | McCall Donald         | Spence George      |
| Dunly Catherine                 | McConnell Thoma       | Smith Stephen      |
| Dandy Joseph                    | Murphy Richard        | Smith James        |
| Douster George                  | McCall Donald         | Shehan Mrs. D.     |
| Danagan John D.                 | McConnell Thoma       | Siacair Lochlan    |
| Durd Samuel Nelson              | Murphy Richard        | Smith Francis      |
| Durrell Patrick                 | McCall Donald         | Simpson Alexander  |
| Demming Jackson                 | McConnell Thoma       | Simpson John       |
| Ditch John 2                    | Murphy Richard        | Sullivan Johannah  |
| Dett Wm.                        | McCall Donald         | Shinnick Patrick   |
| Dirt Wm.                        | McConnell Thoma       | Stephens William   |
| Dillis Murdock                  | Murphy Richard        | Sterence Wm.       |
| Daiene James                    | McCall Donald         | Smith Francis      |
| Draham Michael 2                | McConnell Thoma       | Timmons Mr.        |
| Deddes Charles                  | Murphy Richard        | Taylor James       |
| Dillis Dbnald                   | McCall Donald         | Vanderwather Mr.   |
| Drand Edmund                    | McConnell Thoma       | Walsh Jonathan     |
| Derton James                    | Murphy Richard        | Watson Delia Mrs.  |
| Dodfrey Elijah                  | McCall Donald         | Williams Frederick |
| Dickey Michael Oak-point.       | McConnell Thoma       | Willis John        |
| Dixon John                      | Murphy Richard        | Wallis Peter       |
| Dearry Andrew                   | McCall Donald         | Waddleton Susannah |
| Doosh Samuel                    | McConnell Thoma       | Wigmore Mrs.       |
| Dolly Wm. Douglstown            | Murphy Richard        | Walter James       |
| Dorden Andrew Napan             | McCall Donald         | Wishart Mr.        |
| Dinis James 3                   | McConnell Thoma       | Wallis James       |
| Dhustone James Napan            | Murphy Richard        | Whitmore Thomas    |
| Dhuston David                   | McCall Donald         | Walsh Peter        |
| Deyes John                      | McConnell Thoma       |                    |
| Duman Michael                   | Murphy Richard        |                    |
| Deer Adam                       | McCall Donald         |                    |
| Denny I siah                    | McConnell Thoma       |                    |
| Ding Francis                    | Murphy Richard        |                    |
| Deary Samuel                    | McCall Donald         |                    |
| Dobin Mary Mrs.                 | McConnell Thoma       |                    |
| Dee Catherine                   | Murphy Richard        |                    |
| Deary Patrick                   | McCall Donald         |                    |
| Dauder Henry                    | McConnell Thoma       |                    |

ALL LETTERS not called for within Three Months from this date, will be sent to the General Post Office, as Dead Letters. JAMES CAIE, POSTMASTER. Miramichi, December 5, 1833.

### BREWERY

The Subscriber's BREWERY is now in full operation here good strong Ale, Porter, Table Beer, &c. may be had on reasonable terms, in quantities to suit purchasers. The Subscriber intends carrying on the WHEEL WRIGHT business, in its different branches, comprising, Carts, Waggonets, Sleighs, Ploughs, and all other articles of Husbandry; which will be of the first quality, always having on hand a supply of best American White Oak, and seasoned hard wood of other denominations; he will furnish on reasonable terms. He will take Butter, and other country produce in barter. Miramichi, February 26.

GAVIN RAINNIE.