

RUTH THE MOABITESS

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Ruth the Moabitess by Hugh Anderson

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HUGH ANDERSON

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BY
HUGH ANDERSON.

EDINBURGH:
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PREFACE.

THE following little work was delivered in the form of Lectures to the writer's Congregation during the "weeks of harvest;" and, having been favourably received in that narrow circle, it is now, at the request of a few friends who were interested in its delivery, published, in the hope that in a wider sphere it may excite the same interest in this Daughter of Moab, and by the Divine blessing, induce some to seek her grace, and obtain with her "a full reward of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings she came to trust."

MARYPORT.

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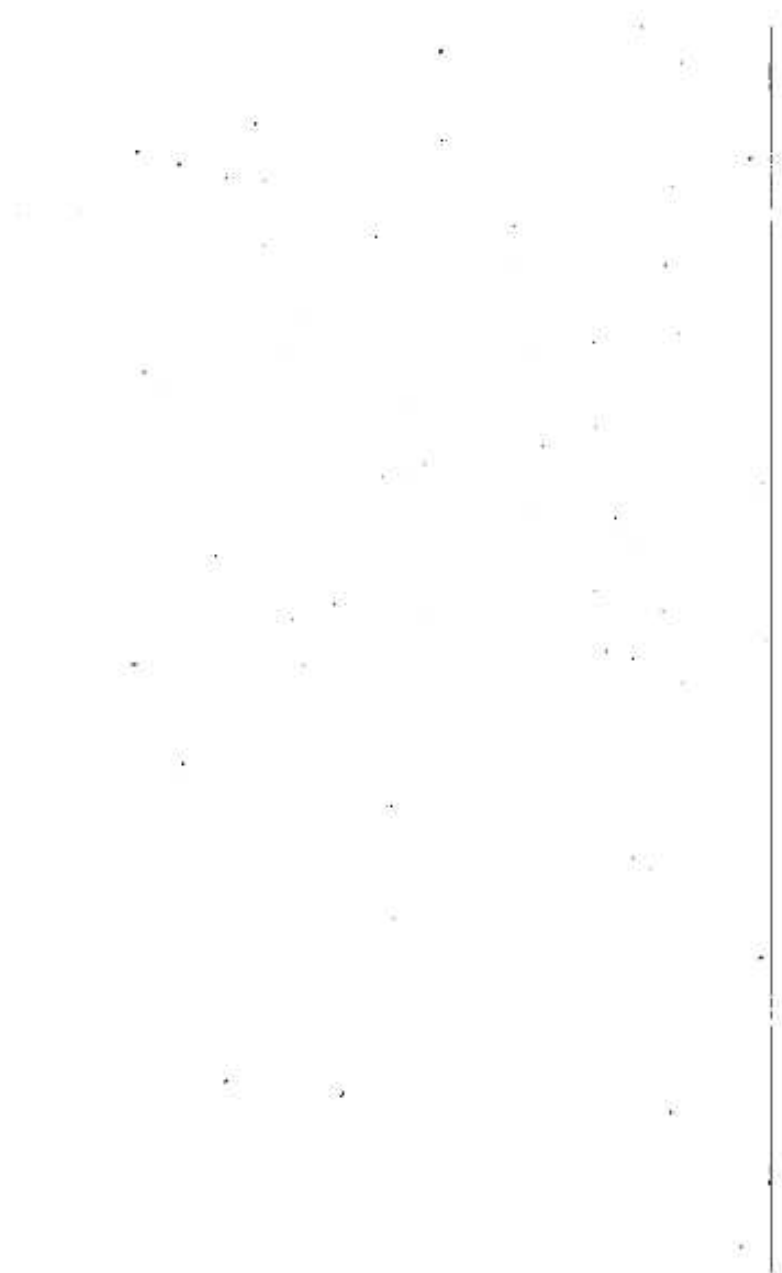
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INTRODUCTION.

THE Books of the Law were anciently divided into as many *Parashim* or sections as there were Sabbaths in the Jewish year ; while the Prophets, including some of the Historical Books, were divided into the same number of *Haphtoroth* or chapters. One of each of these was read in the synagogues every Sabbath, so that the whole of them were read through once a year. A degree of wisdom was exercised in the arrangement of these, to adapt the subject of the lessons to the solemn feasts of the Mo-

saic ritual, or to the season of the year. With great propriety the Book of Ruth was appointed to be read during harvest, containing, as it does, a beautiful and affecting picture of Jewish life during that pleasant and stirring season. It was rightly judged, that the lesson designed to be taught by the story would come home to the feelings more powerfully, while scenes similar to those amidst which the story lies, were passing around. No harvest worth naming is now reaped in Judea. The fields around Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Samaria, are now scantily sown and sparingly reaped. The valleys of Rephaim and Elah, once "covered over with corn," are now bare as the mountains of Gilboa; for the spoiler is there, and the land enjoys her Sabbaths, and lies desolate for the iniquity of the