

TRADITIONS OF PALESTINE

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Traditions of Palestine by Harriet Martineau

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HARRIET MARTINEAU

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OF PALESTINE**

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OF

PALESTINE.

EDITED BY

HARRIET MARTINEAU.

LONDON:

LONGMAN, REES, ORME, BROWN, AND GREEN,

PATERNOSTER BOW.

1830.

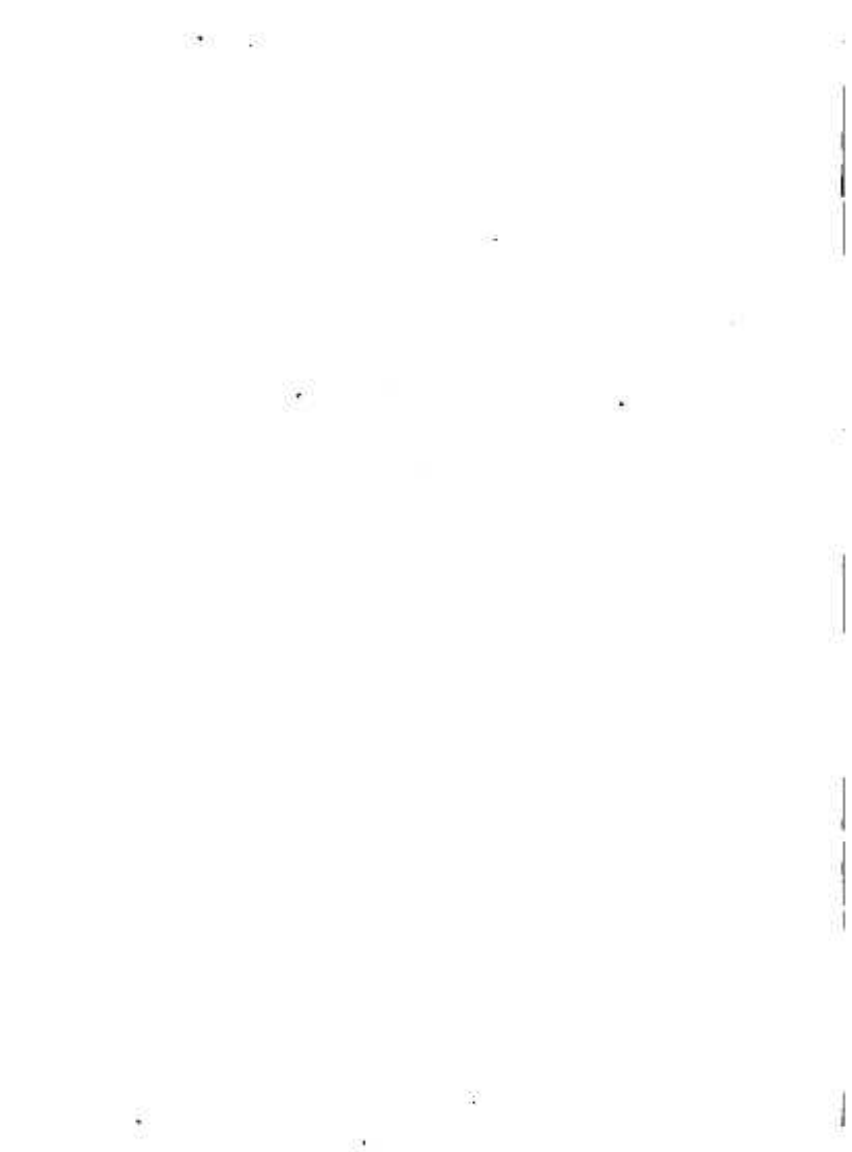
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THE
HOPE OF THE HEBREW.

THE ruddy dawn was breaking over the summits of the mountains which inclose the Lake of Genesareth on the eastern side, when Sadoc and his sister Michal came forth from Capernaum to walk on the beach, which was yet as silent as it had been during the night. They walked quickly and were mute till the city was hidden from them by the projection of a hill, whose base was washed by the waves. They then paused and gazed on a scene which they were wont to behold, but which now appeared in more than ordinary beauty. The deep vale in which the lake lay embosomed was yet reposing in a grey shadow, while the radiance of the morning streamed through the clefts of the opposite mountains, and crimsoned the tops of the western hills. The

cedar groves which were scattered on the uplands, and the palms which were grouped among the recesses of the hills, waved their tops in the light cool breeze. The stork winged her slow flight above the groves, while the eagle arose from the highest summit of the rocks, like a dark speck in the sunlight. An aromatic scent spread among the flowering reeds on the borders of the lake, except where a sandy promontory jutted out into the waters, affording an advantageous station for the fishers, whose boats were seen, here and there, floating on the rippled surface, and whose nets were spread to dry in the morning sun.

Sadoc and his sister directed their steps to one of these promontories, whence they could gain an extensive view of the shore, and could even discern the issue of Jordan from the southern end of the lake. The few habitations which were distinctly visible, presented no sign of life without or within. No human being was in sight; and if the maiden looked around her in search of such a form, her search was vain.

“He cannot yet have passed,” said Michal, “though it is said that he sometimes departs

by night. It was full late when he dismissed the people, and perhaps he will yet remain another day."

"I would we could speak with him," replied her brother, "or at least that we could hear his teachings once again."

"My father fears lest we should do so," said Michal, "except in the synagogue. If he would return on the next sabbath we might hear him again without blame; and I surely believe that no man besides can explain the law and the prophets with such truth and power as he."

"His words alone would have awakened me as I am now awakened," said Sadoc; "but his works also shew that he is a prophet from on high."

"Yet our father will not behold nor believe."

"He will not see nor listen, because he is sure that no prophet can arise out of Nazareth. How this may be, I know not; but I know that by Jehovah alone can such a power of healing be given."

"My father says also, that in the Temple,