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### LITERATURE.

*The Land of Israel, according to the Covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.* By ALEXANDER KEITH, D. D. 12mo., pp. 495. Edinburgh: Whyte and Co. London: Longmans, &c.

The subject of this volume could not fail to prove interesting, if treated by a writer of even ordinary competency. But Dr. Keith is far from being an ordinary writer, and on the themes discussed in his present work he is peculiarly at home. We question whether any other author of the day could produce a treatise on the same subject in all respects equal to that now before us.

We cannot better indicate the course which Dr. Keith has here marked out for himself than by extracting the following passage from the "Introduction."

"The covenant of works and the covenant of grace have often divided Christian theology between them, as in some respects they rightly may. But there are other more defined covenants in the word of God, to which it becomes believers to have respect. That which God made with Abraham, of promise and of grace, is everlasting, and knows no other termination than that of the heavens and of the earth.

"In the subsequent pages the perpetuity of that covenant concerning the land, and its connection with that which was made with the Israelites when the Lord brought them out of Egypt, and with the new and everlasting covenant which he will make with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, and also with the covenant which the Lord made with David concerning his throne, is in the first place brought within the view of the reader. The borders of the land, not as it was anciently possessed, but as set of the Lord, naturally form the immediately succeeding theme, which is treated at so great length as to demand an apology. But so little was the writer aware, ere he entered on the investigation, of the full extent, especially on the North, of the Scriptural boundaries of the promised land, that, when requested, at a recent date, to mark their limits, for the construction of a map, he drew a line a little to the north of Hamath, conscious that it was included; but unobservant then of the precise Scriptural definition of the entrance into Hamath, he drew it regardless of any entrance, on any natural border whatever, across a double chain of mountains. This obvious error led to a closer examination. And now he can plead only the novelty of the topic in excuse for this lengthened illustration, for which, if he mistake not, a few words may henceforth suffice, without the hazard of a repetition of the error.

"In the sequel of the volume, proof is adduced, from its past history and actual condition, of the goodness of the land; of its natural fertility, not impaired but increased; and also of the facility with which its fertile cities may be raised from their foundation, and forsaken cities, though not fallen, even cities still existing, though without inhabitants, and houses still standing, though without man, may be repaired, or restored to dwell in."

From this outline it may be inferred that the work is partly argumentative and partly descriptive. The argumentative portion is mainly directed to the establishment of these two positions,—that the covenant with Abraham having set apart Canaan as the "everlasting possession" of his seed, the Jews shall be literally restored to their own land; and that the boundaries of the promised land extend far beyond what the people of Israel formerly inhabited, and far beyond the limits usually supposed. On the "literal restoration" he writes with great earnestness. "So numerous, clear, and positive," says he, "are the prophecies which declare the final restoration of the Israelites to the land of their inheritance, that the denial of it may well seem to be an impeachment of the truth of God, in regard to the very thing on which he staked his faithfulness." We should not wonder if many were brought over to Dr. Keith's opinions by his reasoning on this point. The fact that in recent times the doctrine of the literal restoration has been advocated chiefly by the Millenarian writers, has prejudiced not a few against it; but there is no necessary connection between it and the Personal Advent, or any of the other peculiar opinions of that party. There are, unquestionably, numerous scriptures which do not seem equally intelligible on any other supposition, and, as Mr. Watson has strikingly observed, "three things are certain: the Jews themselves expect it; they are preserved by the providence of God a distinct people, and their country, which, in fact, is possessed by no one, is preserved for them." Dr. Keith's reasonings on the second position—that the land of promise was not a small or contemptible country, but a widely extended one,—are exceedingly able, and display great research and critical talent of a high order. This portion of the work has also much of the charm of novelty, and will, we doubt not, be read with more than common interest.

The natural fertility and ancient populousness of the land of Israel are well described, and an ably compiled summary of the history of Syria during the middle ages is given. The ruins of Syria are also described, with affecting contrasts of what the land now is with what it once was. There are also maps, and a number of beautifully executed engravings on steel illustrative of the subject.

On the whole, we can cordially recommend this work to the best attention of our readers. They cannot fail to be both gratified and instructed in its perusal.—*London Watchman, March 6.*

### GWALIOR.

The final extinction of a once powerful Empire claims a particular notice; and it is probable that few of our readers are so intimately conversant with the history of India as not to read with interest a short account of the Empire of the Mahrattas—that Empire which rose upon the ruins of the Empire of Timour, spread its dominion over the greater part of Hindostan, seriously threatened the subversion of the British sovereignty in that country, afforded to our great hero the first field for displaying his matchless abilities as a commander, and having received from him, and from his coadjutor General Lake, a fatal blow, has from that time been gradually sinking under British ascendancy, till its last relic of independence has been lost at Gwalior.

The Mahratta Empire, from its first rise to its final extinction, boasts a period of about 180 years. It was founded between the years 1660 and 1670 by Sevajee, an able and ambitious man, descended from one of the most ancient of the Hindoo princes. His father was a general in the service of the Mussulman Prince Ibrahim Adil Shah, sovereign of Beejapur, from whom he had obtained in perpetual sovereignty the principality of Sattarah, besides a valuable jaghir in the Carnatic.\* To

these possessions, Sevajee succeeded, but disdaining to be the subject of a Mussulman, and taking advantage of the distractions which then prevailed in Beejapur, he threw off his allegiance, and declared himself an independent prince. The Mahratta hordes were then scattered over the provinces in the centre and south of India, part enjoying a barbarous independence, part serving as mercenaries in the armies of the different Indian States. Sevajee gradually collected them almost all under his standard, and after some reverses, and many successes over the armies of the Mogul Emperor, Aurungzebe, and the disciplined forces of the Portuguese, he founded a powerful monarchy. He still contented himself with the title of Rajah of Sattarah, and made that city his seat of government. He died in 1680, and was succeeded by his son, Sambajee, who, inheriting his father's talents, maintained his power, till he was assassinated by some of the emissaries of Aurungzebe, after a reign of nine years. He was succeeded by his son Sabajee, a feeble prince, under whom the Mahratta sovereignty would probably have sunk, had it not been for the talents of his minister, Ballajee. This person having gained a complete ascendancy over the mind of the prince, persuaded him to appoint him minister for life, with the title of Peishwah, or supreme magistrate, and to delegate to him all the civil authority of the State. So firmly did he establish his influence, that at his death, his eldest son succeeded him without opposition; and inheriting his father's talents, with far more of energy and ambition, he in effect usurped all the powers of Government.

Having secured the fidelity of the army, he assumed the state of a sovereign prince, and fixed his court at Poonah, near Bombay, while Sabajee, now in the decline of life, confined himself to his capital of Sattarah, where his descendants regularly succeeded to his title as nominal sovereigns of the Mahratta Empire. Meantime, the Mahrattas had been gradually extending their dominions, till they had spread over the finest provinces of Hindostan.

Like him, four of the most powerful of the military chiefs converted their jaghirs into sovereign states. Boonsla, in Berar; Holkar, in part of Malwa; Scindeah in the Candéis, and the remainder of Malwa; and Guikwar in Gujerat, assumed independent authority in the districts which they had ruled as viceroys. Still however they owned a nominal fealty to the Rajah of Sattarah, and acknowledged the authority of the Peishwah, as the executive authority of the Empire. Thus, in the course of twenty-five years, the simple and absolute monarchy established by Sevajee had become a confederacy of five independent states, with the Rajah of Sattarah for their nominal chief, and the Peishwah for the acknowledged head; each chief exercising full sovereignty in all that regarded his own separate interests, while the general political interests of the empire were committed to the Peishwah.

The Mahratta Empire, at the close of the last century, extended from the mountains of Cashmere in the North, to the river Tumbudra in the South, 970 miles, and in extreme breadth, from the Bay of Bengal to the gulf of Cambej, 900 miles. Its population was about forty millions, of whom nine tenths were Hindoos, and its revenues about £17,000,000 sterling. The efficient military force of the whole Empire was about 210,000 cavalry, and 96,000 infantry; but in addition to these were clouds of irregular cavalry—the troops furnished by the Silladars, or armour bearers; the volunteers, who found their own horses, arms, and accoutrements, and the pindarees, or marauders, who lived by mere plunder.

The Mahratta horses were excellent, and themselves well skilled in their management. Plunder was a legitimate occupation. There was even an annual ceremony of plundering a field, in which the Peishwah took the lead, and plucked the first handful, which was the signal for all his followers to imitate his example, and strip the field in a moment.

It appears strange that so loose a confederacy should stand so long—still more so that the sovereignty of the five States which composed it should constantly remain in the families of the chiefs who founded them. Yet the Mahratta Empire continued to increase in extent and power, till, jealous of the increasing influence of the British, it ventured on wars which led to its destruction.

Without alluding to the earlier disputes and treaties between British India and the Mahrattas, we may observe, that in the first war with Tipoo Sahib, in 1700, the Peishwah was our ally; and in the consequent partition of Tipoo's territories, received a considerable accession to his dominions. Neither Scindeah, nor Boonsla however were parties to this alliance, and the former was hostile to it.

Of all the Mahratta chiefs, Scindeah was by far the most formidable, partly from holding the person, and exercising the authority of the Mogul, who, fallen and helpless as he was, still possessed influence as the representative of the house of Timour, which had ruled Hindostan for centuries; and partly from having in his pay a powerful army, trained and officered by Frenchmen, and scarcely inferior to the Company's native troops.

The Mogul, Shah Allum, had fallen into the hands of a rebel, who put out his eyes; but Mahajee Scindeah, coming to the Mogul's assistance, made the rebel prisoner, and put him to death. But while he ostensibly restored the Mogul to his throne, he in reality kept him as a state prisoner, took possession of his dominions, including the cities of Agra and Delhi, and governed in his name. This occurred in 1790. In the next four years he had greatly extended his dominions; his well disciplined forces and formidable artillery giving him the same advantage over the irregular troops of his neighbours as the Company have always possessed in their Indian wars.

For his army, he was indebted to the skill of M. De Boigne, a native of Savoy, who, after serving for some years in the Russian armies, went to India to enter the Company's service, and in 1783 was appointed an officer in the body guard of Lord Macartney. Fearing that a foreigner would have little chance of rising in the Company's service, he relinquished it, and obtained letters

to Mahajee Scindeah, who gave him an appointment, and soon discovering that he was the man he wanted, employed him to organise a force. He accordingly formed an army of 38,000 infantry and 8,000 cavalry, and retained in his service above 300 Europeans; and constructed a foundry, which enabled him before his return to Europe in 1788 to increase his force to 270 guns, of which 150 were brass. To pay his forces with regularity, Scindeah assigned to him the revenues of an extensive district, yielding £1,630,000 a year. De Boigne was succeeded in his command by a French officer, M. Perron.

The strength which Scindeah derived from such an army attracted the attention of other native princes; and Holkar, the most powerful of the Mahratta Confederacy, after Scindeah, sought eagerly for European officers, three fourths of whom were French. The Nizam of the Deccan also formed an army of 14,000 men, officered by Frenchmen. But the danger which threatened the Anglo-Indian Empire from the increase of French influence in the Courts and Armies of the most powerful Native Princes was averted by the energy of the Marquis Wellesley. He compelled the French officers in the Nizam's service to surrender, sent them out of India, and acquired complete ascendancy in the Nizam's Councils; while Tipoo, the most inveterate enemy of the British, was conquered and killed.

The immediate cause of the downfall of the Mahratta Empire was a rivalry which sprang up between Scindeah and Holkar. Scindeah, exercising the authority, and possessing the person of the Mogul, sought to obtain a similar ascendancy over the Peishwah. The consequence was a war between these two chiefs, and Holkar marched an army, defeated on the 25th of October, 1802, the combined force of Scindeah and the Peishwah, and took Poonah. The Peishwah fled, on which Holkar issued a declaration that he had abdicated his authority, and installed Amrut Rao, a creature of his own, in his place. Meanwhile the Peishwah reached Bassein with only 30 followers, and there finding his affairs desperate, he concluded a treaty with the British Government, by which he placed himself under their protection. The Duke of Wellington, then Major General Wellesley, was sent with 12,000 men to restore him to his dominions. He entered the Mahratta territory on the 12th of March, 1803, and as Amrut Rao threatened to burn Poonah on his approach, he pushed forward with his cavalry only, and reached Poonah, 60 miles, in 32 hours. Amrut Rao fled, and the Peishwah was restored.

The eagle eye of Napoleon had marked the Mahratta States as the allies by whose aid he hoped to strike a deadly blow at England, through her Indian Empire, and the anxiety of their chiefs to obtain French officers for their troops offered the effectual means. After the treaty of Amiens, in the beginning of 1803, an expedition was sent out, under Admiral Linois, of six ships of war, conveying 1400 of the best troops of France, with 200 young gentlemen who had been regularly educated in all the branches of military science, and a numerous staff. This expedition reached Pondicherry during the most critical period of the negotiations between the British Government and Scindeah; but the Marquis Wellesley's vigilance baffled the scheme. He kept Pondicherry so strictly watched both by sea and land, that not a man could leave it to join Scindeah's forces. Urgent remonstrances were sent complaining of the manner in which a friendly territory was watched in time of peace, but before a reply could be received, the war with France was renewed, and the whole party were made prisoners.

While the negotiations were proceeding with the Peishwah, Scindeah was using every effort to form an alliance against the British. He had been in correspondence with Tipoo Sahib; and if India had been ruled at that time by a statesman with less foresight and decision than the Marquis Wellesley, there would certainly have been a general and formidable confederacy, aided and directed by France, against which it is very doubtful if the Anglo-Indian Empire could have stood. As it was, he penetrated the designs of the different hostile powers, and beat them in detail. Scindeah formed an alliance with the Rajah of Berar, early in 1803, and they both negotiated with Holkar and other chiefs to join them, avowedly with the object of driving the English from India. Preparations were therefore made for war on the extensive scale which the formidable power of the confederates demanded. Two principal armies were formed, the one under General Lake, to act in Northern India, destroy the Gallo-Mahratta force, and liberate the Mogul; the other, under Major General Wellesley, to act against the forces of the confederates in the South, where they had marched a powerful army under the pretence of protecting the Peishwah. Two smaller armies were assembled, the one, the Bombay army, in the province of Gujerat, the other on the eastern side of Hindostan to invade the province of Cuttuck, belonging to the Rajah of Berar. The whole force thus called into action was 50,000 and 60,000 men. To Major General Wellesley was committed full powers to negotiate with the enemy.

Hostilities commenced in the beginning of August. General Lake immediately entered the territories of Scindeah to attack M. Perron's army, encamped near Ally Ghur. The enemy waited his approach, and then avoided a battle, a step which appears to have created much dissatisfaction and despondency in the enemy's ranks. Ally Ghur, a very strong fortress, and most important from being the grand depot of M. Perron's military stores, was stormed Sept. 4th with a loss of 59 killed and 206 wounded on the part of the besiegers, and of 2000 killed of the garrison. The fortress was commanded by a French officer, M. Pedron. Three months after, M. Perron abandoned the service of Scindeah; the fall of Ally Ghur, the loss of confidence of the Prince, and the dissatisfaction of his own officers, having compelled him to that step.

Having secured Ally Ghur, General Lake marched towards Delhi. An army of 19,000 men, under the French commander Bourguien were drawn up to defend it. Each flank of the army was covered with a swamp, so that the front was the only assailable part, and this

was covered with 68 guns, and protected with entrenchments. Gen. Lake's force was only 4,500 men, but he attacked the enemy, Sept. 11th, and totally routed them, taking all their cannon. The French leaders surrendered prisoners, and the city of Delhi was taken. The unfortunate Mogul, aged, feeble, and blind, was rescued from the degrading thralldom he had long suffered, and during the small remainder of his life, he was treated with royal honors, and enjoyed comforts to which he had been for many years a stranger.

From Delhi, Gen. Lake marched upon Agra, which was besieged, October 10th, and taken on the 18th. Specie to the amount of £280,000 was found here. At the same time, a detachment under Col. Powell had marched into Bundicund, and having defeated the enemy's force there, secured the submission of that valuable province.

There remained now but one hostile army in the North of Hindostan, and against this Gen. Lake marched from Agra, October 27th. Following the enemy by forced marches, he came up with him on the morning of Nov. 1st, near the village of Laswarée. His force was 9000 regular infantry, and 5000 cavalry, with a large body of artillerymen and 72 guns. A desperate battle took place, in which the British lost 800 killed and wounded, but the enemy were totally routed, and all their cannon and stores were taken. This finished the war in Northern India. General Lake was deservedly raised to the peerage, by the title of Baron Lake of Delhi and Laswarée.

During these operations in the north, the Bombay army under Col. Woodington stormed Baroach, and subdued all Scindeah's possessions in that quarter; while the forces destined to act against Cuttack, to the south of Bengal, stormed its strong forts, and conquered the whole province.

In the south, Major Gen. Wellesley commanded operations on the 8th of August, when he carried the city of Ahmednugur by escalade. The place being important, both as a military position, and a depot, some days were occupied in necessary arrangements. Scindeah having attempted to advance upon Hydrabad, in the Deccan, Gen. Wellesley moved to interrupt his march, and compelled him to retreat. The enemy had 50,000 men, and 180 guns, besides some thousands of irregular horse dispersed in the neighbourhood.

On the 21st of September, Gen. Wellesley detached a division of his army under Col. Stevenson, that the two divisions, advancing by different routes, might force the enemy to an action. On the 23d, he found the enemy encamped at Assaye. Gen. Wellesley's force was 4,500 men, of whom 2000 were Europeans—the enemy had 30,000 in the field; but the General, fearing that if he waited for the arrival of Col. Stevenson, they would again escape, attacked at once, and gained a decisive victory. 98 guns and the whole camp equipage were taken. The loss was very severe. Of less than 2000 Europeans in the field, 23 officers and 175 men were killed, and 30 officers and 412 men wounded; and of natives, 230 were killed, and 696 wounded.

In the beginning of October, Col. Stevenson was detached to reduce Boorhanpoor, and Asserghur, and took the both without difficulty. Gen. Wellesley meantime pursued the Rajah of Berar, and at length, on the evening of the 28th of November, brought him to battle on the plains of Argaum and totally defeated him. Thence, marching against Gawilghur, the strongest fortress of the Deccan, he took it in 48 hours with scarcely any loss. The Rajah of Berar, terrified at his progress, hastened to make a separate peace. The negotiation commenced Dec. 16th; and next day the treaty was signed. General Wellesley now marched against Scindeah, and that prince, left without an ally, and without resources, sent in earnest to sue for peace, which he had twice before proposed in order to gain time. Gen. Wellesley at once dictated the terms, which were submitted to, and the treaty was signed on the 30th of December.

The results of this brief campaign dissolved the Mahratta confederacy and prostrated its empire, while they established beyond dispute the British ascendancy in India. Holkar subsequently made war upon the British single-handed, and though he obtained some success, yet the result of the war was the destruction of his power. From this time, the once turbulent Mahratta chiefs were glad to govern under British control, and to owe their security to British protection. At length, we have seen the dominions of Scindeah absorbed into the Anglo-Indian Empire, their native ruler retaining only his title, revenues, and civil authority, while the military power is held by his protectors and masters.

The events we have noticed are of much interest, independent of their relation to the late brief campaign. They were the crisis of our Indian, it may be said of our Colonial Empire. Had France succeeded in uniting and guiding the hostile States of India, and subverting the British Supremacy by their aid, who can tell what the result of the war would have been; and but for the evidence of judgment and decision which General Wellesley afforded in the campaign of 1803, it is not likely that he would have been chosen to command in the Peninsula.

### THE COMIC BLACKSTONE.

OF HUSBAND AND WIFE.

We now come to treat of Husband and Wife, and shall inquire, first, how marriages may be made, which will be interesting to lovers; secondly, how marriages may be dissolved, which will be interesting to unhappy couples; and lastly, what are the legal effects of marriage, which will be interesting to those who have extravagant wives, for whose debts the husbands are liable.

To make a marriage, three things are required:—First, that the parties will marry; secondly, that they can; and thirdly, that they do; though to us it seems that if they do, it matters little whether they will, and that if they will, it is of little consequence whether they can; for if they do, they do; and if they will, they must; because where there is a will there is a way, and therefore they can if they choose; and if they don't, it is because they won't, which brings us to the conclusion, that

\* Jaghir, a kind of feudal grant, conferred by a sovereign Prince upon one who governs the territory so conferred, and enjoys its revenues, yet owns allegiance to his Prince.