

**NOBLE RIVERS, AND
STORIES
CONCERNING THEM**

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Noble Rivers, and Stories Concerning Them by Anna Jane Buckland

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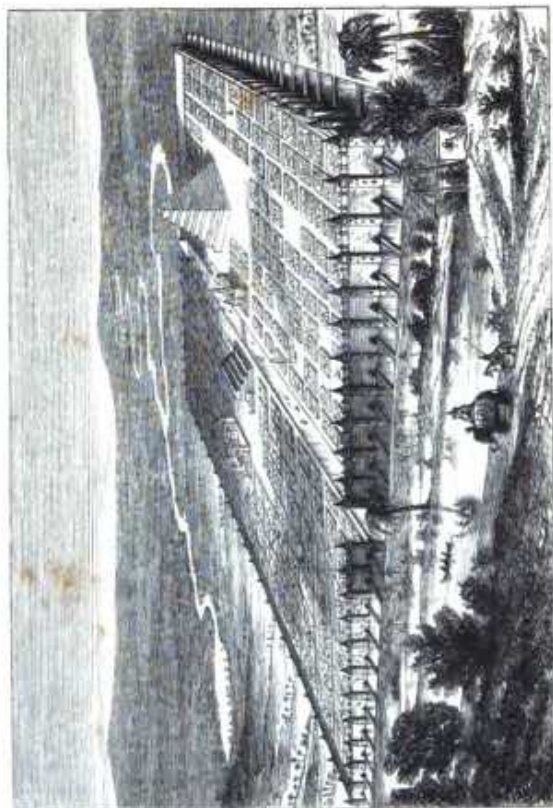
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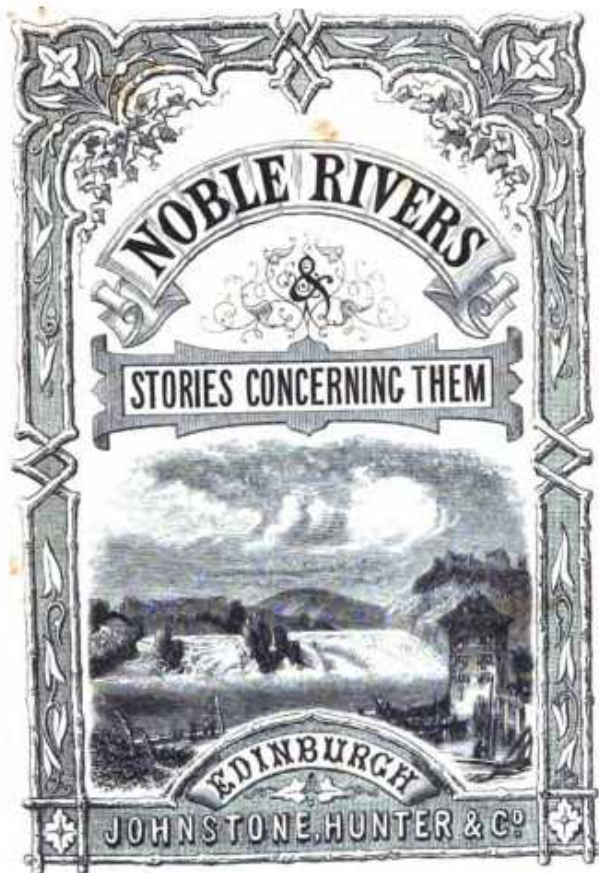
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ANNA JANE BUCKLAND

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View of Ancient Babylon.



NOBLE RIVERS,

AND

STORIES CONCERNING THEM.

BY

ANNA JANE BUCKLAND,

AUTHOR OF 'THE LITTLE WARRINGTONS,' ETC.



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I.

The Jordan.

'O'er the rude sandy lea,
Where stately Jordan flows by many a palm,
Or where Gennesaret's wave
Delights the flowers to lave,
That o'er her western slope breathe airs of balm.'

KEBLE.



It seldom happens that the interest and affection with which we regard an object are in any degree measured by its size; nor do they always depend, either, on its intrinsic value. A little spot of earth, upon which we have bestowed much care, or which is associated in our mind with happy hours and memorable events, becomes in this way far more precious in our eyes than

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a large domain which is in the possession of a stranger, or to which no history is attached.

For this reason many rivers, though but small streams, have far more interest for us than others much superior in size and better adapted for the purposes of navigation and commerce, because they have been the scenes of great and noble deeds, or are connected with the names of men whose characters we should love and admire.

Among such rivers as these, it will be easily understood that the Jordan ought to take the first place; for, though but an insignificant stream as regards size and commercial utility, it has yet been the scene of some of the most remarkable events which have happened on the earth, besides being so intimately associated with the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is, above all others, the most worthy of our admiration and love.

Most rivers may be said to have a birthplace; that is, they generally spring forth as tiny streams on the ridge of a range of mountains, down the sides of which they flow, growing larger day by day, and gathering more and more strength, until they become wide and deep enough to carry great ships upon their

bosoms. Thus they steadily hold on their course, now flowing through pleasant happy scenes, and now among dark rough rocks ; sometimes bearing along with them the flowers, flags, and long mosses that grow beneath their banks, and sometimes carrying off the refuse of great cities ; now fertilizing the green meadows, and affording drink to the quiet cattle, and then turning the wheels of machinery, surrounded by noise, and smoke, and dirt ; but whatever their work may be, we shall find that they never refuse to perform it, taking the painful with the pleasant, and faithfully executing both, until at length they reach the great ocean, and lose their waters in its depths.

The birthplace of the Jordan is in the mountains of Lebanon ; and a lovely spot it is, well befitting the rise of the most honoured of all earth's waters. At the foot of a green mound, covered with shrubs, lies a clear quiet pool, and from this there flows forth on one side a little stream. This is the infant Jordan ; and we will follow it, as it creeps about, in and out among the roots of venerable oak-trees, until, gradually increasing in size, it at length sets