

**ISRAEL'S IRON AGE: OR,
SKETCHES FROM THE
PERIOD OF THE JUDGES**

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Israel's iron age: or, Sketches from the period of the judges by Marcus Dods

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MARCUS DODS

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BY

MARCUS DODS, D.D.

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1.
JOSHUA.

"Of the cities of these people, which the Lord thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth: but thou shalt utterly destroy them; . . . that they teach you not to do after all their abominations."—Deut. xx. 16.

"But ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this? Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you."—Judges ii. 2, 3.

"Executing thy judgments upon them by little and little, thou gavest them place of repentance, not being ignorant that they were a naughty generation, and that their malice was bred in them, and that their cogitation would never be changed. For it was a cursed seed from the beginning; neither didst thou for fear of any man give them pardon for those things wherein they sinned. For who shall say, What hast thou done? or who shall withstand thy judgment? or who shall accuse thee for the nations that perish, whom thou hast made? or who shall come to stand against thee, to be revenged for the unrighteous man? For neither is there any God but thou that careth for all, to whom thou mightest show that thy judgment is not unright."—Wisd. xii. 10-13.

Joshua.

JUDGES I. AND II.

THE character of Moses' successor, under whose leadership Israel entered the land of promise, is, like that of many soldiers, simple and easily understood. He was strong and of a good courage; a man fit not only for battle, but for tedious campaigning; full of resources, and able to keep up the heart of a whole people by his hopeful bearing. That he should have been able to fill the place vacated by so great a man as Moses, gives us the highest idea of his calibre. That Moses was missed there can be little doubt; yet not Moses himself could have led the people more skilfully and successfully from victory to victory, nor have in the full tide of conquest held them more thoroughly in hand, and settled them