THE HOLY LAND.

Why the "Land Flowing with Milk and Honey" is Not Prosperous.

ITS ODD INHABITANTS.

A Famous Traveller on Their Religious Rites and Habits.

Sir Charles Warren, the famous Eastern traveller, in a recent lecture in Glasgow, said: In Palestine they had the greatest varieties of climates. The Jordan, rising at about the level of the Mediterranean Sea, flowed into the Sea of Tiberias at a level of 600 feet, and into the Dead Sea at a level of about 1,400 feet below the ocean. In journeying about the shores of the Dead Sea they might see clouds floating far above them, which they knew were below the line of the ocean. No doubt the great fissure on the earth's surface was once connected with the Red Sea, and the water was level with it, and when the ground rose near Akuba it was cast off. The cast-off water evaporing, gradually diminished until the time arrived when the evaporation was balanced by the amount of water which poured in by the Jordan and other rivers. The salt which had been left in the soil had gradually been worked out in places, but in others it still remained, and prevented verdant vegetation until it was worked out by means of irrigation. It would be possible now by means of a cutting from Tiberias to irrigate the whole of the Jordan Valley and put it under cultivation, giving a large area for growth of grain; but this could not be done under the present Government. Meanwhile the land lay idle, enjoying a long Sabbath, except near the river side, on the Jordan banks, where corn had been grown since the earliest time, for certainly on 4,000 years. It was estimated that Palestine at one time supported a population of at least ten times that which is supported at present. When one came to view the existing ruins it was evident that that was not over-estimated, and that the population might have been twenty times its present amount. Then the question arose —Why was it now so comparatively unfruitful and unhealthy? The reply was most simple. A Government which cared not for its people, its only object being to secure the highest revenue it could wring from them. The results were no roads, waggons, harbors, boats. Justice was too uncertain to allow of capital being employed in cultivation. Great carelessness had arisen as to husbandry, knowledge had departed, and a proper succession of crops were unknown. There were not sufficient people to till the land. As regarded Palestine it might be fairly said that up to a certain point the more people it had the more it would support, always supposing a just Government. But at present the people were oppressed and wronged. There was no security of property, no freedom of the press. Bribery and corruption in our sense of the word were mild terms to use. And unfortunately the maladministration commenced at the top. No Pasha could afford to be honest; no Governor-General could venture to be just. Unhappily the days had gone by when the Moslem rulers were tolerant of creeds and fostered the trade of Jews and Christians. During the days of Saracen learning both Jews and Christians were permitted full freedom of religious worship and a certain amount of liberty, but Seljuk and Turk scared liberty away full eight centuries ago, and it had not returned. As to the present condition of the country, in the plains the soil was wonderfully rich, and wells could be sunk, though at considerable depth. The hillsides were bare, the soil having tumbled to the bottom of the steep, deep valley; but there it lay ready for redistribution. The fountains were dry, the hill tops were denuded of their trees, the clouds were wanting. In spite of the Government, the influence of Europeans was altering Palestine for the better, and he had seen changes take place under his own eyes in the space of three years, and he could point to places where cultivation had been fostered by societies where the whole climate had altered. The fellaheen were the farming population of Palestine. There was no reason for supposing that they were the Arabs of the desert. All testimony went to show that they were the people of the country from the earliest date—that they were the direct descendants of the "hewers of wood and drawers of water" who were left in the land at the time of the conquest by Joshua. They would readily sympathize with Europeans, especially with Englishmen, and very soon attached themselves to them. Though called Moslems, their religion was certainly derived from ancient sources. Mixed up with the Moslem creed, they had certain old customs of very ancient date, which had a strong smack of the worship that obtained at the time that the Israelites entered the land. The people were divided into two distinct classes—tent-dwellers and house-dwellers. The former were nomads, and less under control than the latter. The houses ranged in magnificence from straw huts to stone mansions. It was stated that the Jews were returning to Palestine in great numbers. That was true, but they only went there to die when at an advanced age. The Jewish population did not naturally increase. They occupied four holy cities—Jerusalem, Hebron, Safed and Tiberias. They were also to be found in the towns on the coast in small numbers. Few of them belonged to Palestine—that was to say, they had for the most part returned to Palestine in later times, having been wandering or located in other countries. The Jews were divided into two principal sects in Palestine—those from Germany, Russia and Poland, and those from Morocco (exiles from Spain). There was also a small sect of reformed Jews, called Careites, who rejected tradition and adhered only to the Scriptures. The Jews in Jerusalem might, perhaps, number 10,000, of whom 6,000 were Artikibasim and 4,000 Sephardim The latter came from a Moslem territory, while the former were looked upon as foreigners. The Sephardim asserted that they were colonists in Spain at the time of the crucifixion, and were in no way responsible for the rejection of the Messiah, and they reasoned in a very subtle manner that as He was rejected He could not be their Messiah. And one of the Rabbis informed him that the second advent of the Christians would be the coming of the Messiah to the Jews. They had the same features as the Jews of Morocco. They had light, sometimes red hair. They were robust industrious and accustomed to hard work, honest, straightforward, and fond of agriculture. The Artikinasim were a peculiar people, full of wild, fanatical zeal. He was bound to say of the Jews generally in Palestine, that he found them of great assistance to him, and most friendly, even in matters where their religious convictions might have arrayed themselves against the work he carried on. The language spoken in Palestine among the people was Arabic, differing in dialect from the Bedouin. The Turkish officials spoke Turkish, and some of them did not know Arabic, and were looked upon as aliens by the native population. The fertile Gerizim and the sterile Ebal, the mountain of blessing and the mountain of cursing, stood side by side, there being really little to choose between them. Some writers said that Gerizim was originally intended as the spot where the Ark of the Covenant was to rest, but that circumstances subsequently forced Jerusalem or Zion on the people, Certainly of all places in Palestine there was no more fitting place or the ceremony then enacted. In the gorge between the two mountains were two natural theatres half a mile in diameter and facing each other, forming one amphitheatre in which the assembled hosts of Israel could meet face to face to hear and respond to the law read by Joshua. Up the valley and beyond this theatre was the ancient city of Shechem, now Nablous. This city was the headquarters of the Samaritans, whose existence at the present day at the root of the holy mountain was one of the most astonishing testimonies to the historical accuracy of the Bible. A few years ago this people had colonies in Damascus and other cities of Syria. A few centuries ago they extended into Egypt. Gradually they had dwindled in numbers until at length they were but a few families, numbering in all 150 persons, left as a testimony. They still clung to the side of their holy mountain, where they continued to eat the "Passover," as they had done for over 2,500 years. This was the only known instance of the continuance of any religious rite for so many years. Their religion was remarkable for its simplicity, being founded on the five books of Moses and the book of Joshua. Beyond this they would not go—it was their all. They were Saducees, believing in no resurrection. They therefore required no prophets as to the future, no Messiah, no scheme of salvation. It was simplicity itself—a code of morality in this world, and then it all ended. They were bitter enemies of the Jews. The Samaritan customs and records were the most interesting to a Biblical scholar that the world possessed at the present day. He had had the good fortune to be present at the celebration of the Passover, and in a humble manner to partake of it; and without any hesitation he would say it was the most remarkable sight now to be seen on earth—it was the one connecting link with the far away past.

Story of Sam Small.

Speaking of a witty character, in his lecture at Toronto last night, Sam Jones, the revivalist, told this story of his colaborer in the revival movement: I believe this is the best one I know of. We tell the story on Sam Small. I wish he was here. He'd enjoy it as much as anybody. Sam was always smart and bright. I believe in many respects he's the brightest man I ever saw. It is told on him that he stood on the street there in his city, and he was very tight—or very loose, I believe, would be the more expressive word. (Laughter.) He was waiting for a street car. A car came along at last, and he stopped it and went to get on. The cars down there have a little step at the end for you to get on. Sam mounted this, and then turned round with his back to the horses, and just then the car moved on and Sam Small was thrown out into the road. They helped him up and put him in the car again, and Sam stood there and brushed the dirt off his coat and looked around and said to a passenger: "Did y' have a collision?" "No; we never had any collision," said the passenger. "Well," says Sam, "Did y' run over a preshpish?" "No, we never run over any precipice." "Well," says Sam again, "Did y' run off the track?" "No, we didn't run off the track," said the passenger. "Well," says Sam Small, "If I'd known that I wouldn't have got off." (Loud laughter.) Sam Small's legs would get drunk, but his head never. (Applause and laughter.)

An Astonished Creditor.

"Would you believe it, Bromley? Fenwick dunned me for his bill yesterday. The twentieth time, I'll swear. But I astonished him."

"By putting him off again?"

"No; by paying him."—*Philadelphia Call.*

Some One to Speak for him.

"Well, Thomas, you say you have a recommend?"

"Waal, yes, sah; I brought my fadah' long to recommen' me; he's knowed me all my life, sah."—*Harper's Weekly.*

THE report of the Scranton, Pa., Board of Trade for 1886 says that all the pure anthracite coal in the world is contained in 470 square miles of territory in Eastern Pennsylvania, and that the annual product from this region has increased from 174,734 tons in 1830 to 23,437,252 tons in 1880, and 31,623,529 in 1885.

An enterprising Londoner has opened an office and announces that he will organize balls and social entertainments for hostesses who dread the mental strain.

Factor Jones and Dick Bullock, two of the negroes who murdered George Taffe in the Chocktaw Nation, Ark., because he discovered them killing his cattle, and who were released on bail, were caught by a mob on Wednesday, taken to the scene of the murder, and riddled with bullets. The other murderers are in jail.

Frances Hagerman and Leonora Johnson, colored, occupied an attic bedroom at the former's home on Carlisle avenue, Cincinnati, on Thursday night, in which was a stove communicating with the same flue that belonged to a grate in the room below. Fire was kept in the grate, and the gas suffocated the two girls.

EXPLORERS ASTONISHED

Remarkable Discoveries That Some of Them Have Recently Made.

It happens now and then that an explorer makes a sensational and wholly unexpected discovery. Several unique facts with regard to certain tribes of savages have recently been ascertained. Mr. W. Montagu Kerr, for instance, has found among the Makorikori tribe in Africa, whom he is the first to describe, gunpowder which they make themselves for use in the flint-lock muskets which they obtain from native traders.

This tribe lives far from the east coast and quite a distance south of the Zambesi River. Their gunpowder burns slowly and its explosive force is far inferior to that of ours, but it answers their purpose very well. They mix the efflorescence of saltpetre with charcoal which they make from the bark of the mufati tree. This mixture is baked in an earthen pot for several hours and then it is pulverized and spread in the sunlight, where it is left for some time. It is not at all likely that the Makorikoris, like the Chinese, discovered the art of making gunpowder. Their fathers doubtless learned it from the Portuguese or from slaves who had lived among white men on the coast. We hear strange things once in a while of African tribes, but it was hardly to be expected that a wholly unknown tribe, hemmed in by the mountains of inner Africa, would be found engaged in the manufacture of gunpowder.

A few years ago Lieut. Wissmann came home and told a remarkable story about tribes he had met with south of the Congo River, who were far more civilized than most African people. His report is now fully confirmed by the travels in the same region of Lieuts. Kund and Tappenbeck. They found last year, between the Congo and the Saukuru rivers, many street villages, with large, gable-roofed huts standing squarely on either side of the street, inhabited by brownish-red, fine-looking people. These villagers have advanced notions of comfort. They sleep on wooded bedsteads instead of on the floor. Their homes are the largest yet found in Africa, and are kept clean. Their streets are about fifty yards wide, sometimes two or three miles long, and are carefully swept. Refuse of all sorts is taken away and thrown into pits dug for the purpose. They are clever hunters and train their dogs to follow game. They carve pestles out of ivory for pounding manioc, and they have astonishing skill as wood-carvers. Lieut. Kund brought home two wooden cups representing negro heads, which might readily be taken for European products, owing to their superior workmanship. Behind the houses of this populous Zenge tribe are neatly kept gardens and plantations of bananas.

When Lieut. Holm visited an isolated settlement of East Greenlanders two years ago he was astonished to find among these natives, of whom the world had never heard, walrus spears of which the handles were made of wood, although no timber grew there, and the points of hoop-iron. He ascertained that the sea-currents had brought these useful commodities to the poor Esquimaux in the shape of wreckage and iron-bound boxes.

It has recently been shown that in parts of Chili where European trees and plants have been introduced the native flora is actually disappearing and the imported vegetation is flourishing in its place. Exporters are often surprised to see the familiar plants and fruits of other regions growing as exotics where they did not dream of finding them. Kerr discovered the tomato in the far interior of Africa, and Schweinfvrth was much astonished to find tobacco in the heart of the continent, where it was raised and enjoyed by natives who had never heard of its American home, though the name by which the weed was known among some tribes was doubtless derived from our name for it.—*New York Sun.*

Equalizing Home Work.

"I have about come to the conclusion that no man is good enough for even a passably good woman," said the proprietor of the Coon Range all sorts store, as he glanced at a lank fellow who had just made a disastrous raid on a box of matches. "Every man has an easier time than his wife." "I've thought of that a thousand times," replied old man Gatewood, known through the neighborhood as Lazy Sam; "I know that I have an easier time than my wife, but I'm bringing the thing down mighty nigh equal now. I don't believe in allowing a woman to mighty nigh kill herself at work, let me tell you, and for some time I have been shaping my points so that she won't have such a hard time." "Equalizing it, eh?" "That's exactly what I'm doin', gentlemen. Last year my po' wife had to chop all the wood and fetch all the water." "And you have relieved her of that, eh?" "Wall, partly; she only has to chop the wood now. My boy is got to be big enough to tote the water. I tell you what's a fact, a man ought to think uv these things."—*Arkansaw Traveller.*

A Sort of No-School Headache.

Mamma—"No, darling, you certainly can't go with such a splitting headache as you have. It isn't possible that it has got well in so short a time."

Edith—"Well, mamma, it's not zackly a headache. I—I think the ache's in my hair."—*Harper's Bazar.*

The protracted litigation over the Phillips estate, of Montreal, has been terminated by a compromise giving each of the three heirs $250,000.

Antonia Rosa, wife of a Chicago clothing cutter, hanged herself and her 13-months-old child on Thursday. It is supposed she was insane.

The Federal Grand Jury at St. Louis yesterday returned seventy-two indictments against various judges of elections, supervisors, alleged voters, etc.

Mr. Jervey—Is Mr. Podgers at home? Girls at the door—No, sir; he went away about fifteen minutes ago. Ah-um, when will he return? He said he wouldn't be back for several hours. Thank you. Will you please announce me to Miss Prodgers?

A British Cabinet Council was held yesterday, lasting three hours. The chief business was in relation to Egypt. The Cabinet approved a circular note to the Powers, explaining England's views on the Egyptian question, both financially and military. The action of the Irish Executive was also approved.

CANADIAN MARBLE.

The Largest Deposit in the World Found in North Frontenac.

One of the largest deposits of marble in the world is on the Mississippi River, in the county of Frontenac, and it is by far the most valuable of any on the American continent. It embraces a wide range of varieties, a superior fine white marble predominating, equaling in fineness the best statuary Rutland, but is much stronger and more resembling the Italian statuary marble. This entire deposit is very well located for easy and economical working, being near two good water powers. The country around, heavily timbered, will yield plenty of wood for building and fuel for many years. The Canada Pacific Railway runs within a few miles of this property, while the Grand Trunk Railway short line from Toronto to Montreal is surveyed to run still nearer. Additional shipping facilities may be secured at a moderate cost by improving the navigation of the lake and river to the crossing of the Kingston & Pembroke Railway, whence the marble could be shipped to Kingston and thence distributed. This marble would at once command the trade of Canada on account of the protective duty upon marble imported into Canada from the United States or Italy. Vermont marble finds a market in Australia, South America, the West Indies and England, in which market this marble could compete on equal terms. The Government considered this deposit valuable enough to send cubes of it to the Colonial Exhibition in London, but on account of the quarry not being developed, the cubes were of surface marble, but are pronounced by experts as very fine specimens. The property, some 600 acres in extent, is owned by Mr. W. E. Sanford, of Hamilton.—*Brockville Recorder.*

Dr. Black's Ten Laws of Health.

1. Pure air is the food of the lungs. This is obtained by scientific ventilation, which consists in admitting currents or movements of air into the apartments through two or more apertures.

2. Good and properly cooked food; not food seasoned to cover up decay, partial or complete.

3. Water not iced, but cooled by being placed upon the ice, either in pitchers or bottles.

4. Adequate exercise in the open air in order to help the skin to throw off the effete matter.

5. The sun bath. Not sitting or reading in darkened rooms, or those lighted by gas. Gas burns up oxygen very rapidly. Sitting under a gas-jet turns the hair gray, and by overheating the scalp destroys its vitality and causes the hair to fall out.

6. Proper and sufficient clothing. That which is loose, light and warm. Light colors for summer and dark for winter. In winter wear a flannel bandage around the abdomen.

7. Occupations which are of an outdoor character—eight hours for work and eight hours for sleep, eight hours for rest. The ten hour rule has killed more than disease.

8. Personal cleanliness is essential. Bathe once a week. Baths to be of the same temperature as the body. Bathing enables the skin to throw off effete matter, causing the dead and useless epidermis to peel off.

9. No marriage with a near relative.

10. Avoid wine, whiskey, beer and tobacco. Keep thy soul and body clean.

A Specimen Brick.

A mother gave her little boy two bright, new pennies and asked him what he was going to do with them. After a moment's thought, the child replied: "I am going to give one to the missionaries and with the other I am going to buy a stick of candy." After a while he returned from his play and told his mother that he had lost one of the pennies. "Which did you lose?" she asked. "I lost the missionary penny," he promptly replied. How many grown people are like that little boy!—*Richmond Religious Herald.*

Very Securely Hitched.

Chief of Police—Yer go right back thar an' hitch yer horse. Only t'other day a feller lef' his hoss loose, an' it run away an' knocked ther hull front of Lif Jarvis' butcher-shop in.

Horse Owner—Waal, 'e is. I got um hitched ter the waggon, an' it's good ez any post, ez ye'd know if ye druv um ten miles. —*Harper's Weekly.*

SOME years ago Paul Bert, the French savant just dead, visited Havre while a severe epidemic of small-pox was raging in that port. Noticing on his return to Paris that the mortality was daily on the increase, he began to entertain doubts as to the efficiency of vaccination as a prophylactic, and resolved to solve the problem to his own satisfaction by experiments on his own person. He accordingly got himself vaccinated, and, going a fortnight afterward to the Charite Hospital, he courageously had himself inoculated with the virus of a man who was dying of the small-pox. No ill effects having resulted from this terrible experiment, M. Paul Bert was completely won over to the cause of vaccination, which throughout the remainder of his life had no warmer supporter. It is characteristic of the savant that he never breathed a word of this to any one, evidently regarding the trial to which he had subjected himself, and the fearful risk which he had run, as a commonplace episode in the career of a votary of science.

At a wedding breakfast in New York the bride's brother officiated as an amateur photographer and took an excellent picture of the pretty scene.

The 1,600 convicts in Sing Sing prison eat twenty-one barrels of flour daily.

The Spanish Government proposes to establish commercial bureaus in London, Paris, New York, Mexico and Buenos Ayres.

In St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Toronto, last Sunday, the collections in aid of the augmentation of stipends amounted to the handsome sum of $1,609.

A coroner's jury yesterday returned a verdict that John Armstrong, the victim of the St. James (Man.) tragedy, died by his own hand by shooting himself.

A story is told that a few days ago the dying wife of a workingman in Montreal informed her husband that he would find in one of the drawers of her bureau a sum of money which she had saved cent by cent since their marriage. Upon examining the drawer a sum of nearly $900 was found.

Dr. Talmage on Christmas.

Christmas bells ring in family reunions! The rail-trains crowded with children coming home. The poultry, fed as never since they were born, stand wondering at the farmer's generosity. The markets are full of massacred barn-yards. The great table will be spread and crowded with two or three or four generations. Plant the fork astride the breast-bone, and with skilful twitch, that we could never learn, give to all the hungry lookers-on a specimen of holiday anatomy, Florence is disposed to soar, give her the wing. The boy is fond of music, give him the drum-stick. The minister is dining with you, give him the parson's nose. May the joy reach from grandfather, who is so dreadfully old that he can hardly find the way to his plate, down to the baby in the high-chair, who, with one smart pull of the table-cloth, upsets the gravy into the cranberry. Send from your table a liberal portion to the table of the poor, some of the white meat as well as the dark, not confining your generosity to gizzards and scraps. Do not, as in some families, keep a plate and chair for those who are dead and gone. Your holiday feast would be but poor fare for them; they are at a better banquet in the skies. Let the whole land be full of chime and carol. Let bells, silver and brazen, take their sweetest voice, and all the towers of Christendom rain music.

An Unfaithful Wife.

Mrs. McDonald, a Toronto woman, ran away from her husband in July last with a man who went by the name of Green, but whose correct name is Cross. She took her two children with her. The couple came to Hamilton and stayed for a while, but subsequently settled down between here and Dundas. A few days ago a detective from the Queen City arrived, and with Detective Reid, of Hamilton, began a search for the unfaithful wife. The officers traced her to her new home, and succeeded in getting possession of the youngsters, who were sent back to their father at Toronto. Mr. McDonald didn't care about having the woman back, and she remained with Cross.

Safe, Sure and Painless.

What a world of meaning this statement embodies. Just what you are looking for, is it not? Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor—the great sure-pop corn cure—acts in this way. It makes no sore spots; safe, acts speedily and with certainty; sure and mildly, without inflaming the parts. Do not be imposed upon by imitations or substitutes.

In the Italian Chamber of Deputies yesterday Signor Ricotti, Minister of War, after reading the military budget, declared that Italy was now in a position to mobilize and victual 400,000 troops, not counting the reserves. The work of providing the troops with repeating rifles has been begun, and 1,000,000 of them would be in use by 1888. Though at the present there was nothing to threaten the peace of Italy, it was useless to ignore the warlike indications in the East. He believed Italy would be well prepared in the event of an outbreak in politics. The Chamber has approved of an extra credit of $5,000,000 for the War and Marine Departments.

A Deep Mystery.

Wherever you are located you should write to Hallett & Co., Portland, Maine, and receive free, full information about work that you can do and live at home, making thereby from $5 to $25 and upwards daily. Some have made over $50 in a day. All is new. Hallett & Co. will start you. Capital not needed. Either sex. All ages. No class of working people have ever made money so fast heretofore. Comfortable fortunes await every worker. All this seems a deep mystery to you, reader, but send along your address and it will be cleared up and proved. Better not delay; now is the time.

The British Postmaster-General announces that the mail agreements for the trans-Atlantic service will expire on February 28th, and he invites fresh tenders. He says that experience has proved that a tri-weekly service via Queenstown is the best, but while giving preference to Queenstown, other things being equal, he is prepared to consider offers from other ports. He prefers to engage monthly or quarterly the most efficient vessels, but will entertain tenders for a one year contract from March 1st, or for a longer period, if the terms of service are completely satisfactory.

The Manitoba Legislature will meet about the middle of February.

THE

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I CURE FITS!

When I say cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again, I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a life-long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Post Office. It costs you nothing for a trial, and I will cure you. Address DR. H. G. ROOT,

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DUNN'S BAKING POWDER

THE COOK'S BEST FRIEND