

AMONG THE DRUSES.

The Centre of Many Sacred and Historical Associations.

While my two days' experiences at the Neby Shaib were in the highest degree novel and picturesque, and enabled me to obtain an unusual insight into the manners and customs and religious observances of the Druse nation, my stay at this shrine of their pilgrimage was by no means destitute of archaeological interest.

In the overhanging rocks on the other side of the gorge, immediately opposite my tent, were several sepulchral chambers, all traditional burying-places of people more or less historical. Some of these I examined. The largest was one entered by a doorway, which had recently been inhabited, for the framework of a wooden door to it still remained, it was supposed to be the burial-place of one of Jethro's daughters.

About a hundred yards from the Neby Shaib issues from the mouth of the gorge a copious spring, which in fact forms the course of a brook that ultimately finds its way into the Sea of Galilee. It commences its beneficent course, however, by fertilizing a large area immediately surrounding the village, where flourishing gardens of oranges, lemons, figs, apricots, pomegranates, and other fruit trees impart an air of luxuriant fertility to the landscape not common in these parts.

I found some immediately adjoining the garden. What had evidently once formed part of an old Byzantine church was here turned into a mosque; and upon one of the stones was a curious Cufic inscription. In some of the other gardens were traces of foundations, indicating that in old times Hattin must have been the site of a considerable town. It is about two miles from the ruins of Irbid (which is no doubt the Arbela of Josephus) and is probably the Capar Hittia of the Talmud, but I find no mention of the Hattin ruins in the memoirs of the Palestine exploration fund, nor of the Cufic inscription which I found.

The plain was now waving with grain, nor would it be possible to imagine a more fertile or luxuriant upland. On its margin, where it breaks off abruptly into the marvellous gorge of El Hamam, with its precipitous sides rising 1,200 feet sheer up from the little stream which trickles at their base, are the ruins of Irbid, interesting as containing the remains of the oldest Jewish synagogue probably to be found in Palestine.

The steep hillside which slopes down to the edge of the cliff is very rocky, and numerous sarcophagi are carved on the surfaces of the natural slabs. The largest measures from six feet to six feet five inches long and one foot two inches deep, being round at the head and square at the foot, which is slightly deeper. There was a ledge cut round to receive the stone cover, and a channel made to keep the surface water from running in. They were of all sizes, some, evidently, for small children and babies. But the most remarkable tomb was one which opened out of

A DEEP ROCK-OUT CHAMBER, which appeared to have been in connection with a wine press. The ante-chamber formed a sunk court, about twenty-feet by ten, and contained a sarcophagus. It opened into a tomb containing six loculi. My guide was the Jew who had entertained me in the garden, and who was well versed in local traditions.

He informed me that here were supposed to be buried four of the sons of Jacob, he did not know which, and Jochabed and Dinah. He also pointed out to me the tomb of the Rabbi Nitai, who was supposed to have built the synagogue I had been examining, and who was a native of the place, and lived about 200 years B.C.; also a mound of stones covering apparently a rock tomb, which he declared was the burial place of Seth, the son of Adam; but, although from much habit I am accustomed to swallow a fair amount of traditional information, I was unable to push my credulity thus far. It is described, however, by the Abbe Gersson. A. D. 1561, as being in a cave with a spring to which a flight of steps led down. The tombs of Zerah and Zephaniah were also pointed out. Indeed there were few places in Palestine where in the same limited area such a number of distinguished personages of sacred history are buried as in the neighborhood of Arbela or Irbid. I do not now include the tombs of the numerous rabbis whom the Jews hold sacred. If it has a character for sanctity, it must at one time have had a reputation for strength. From its position it must always have been a military stronghold. Josephus tells us, in his life, that when he was governor of Galilee he fortified it, and laid up stores of grain here; and it is without doubt the Casale Ardelle of the Teutonic knights (1250 A. D.), the D. being an error for B, as it is mentioned in connection with Tiberias and Beisan, both places not very distant.

The only biblical reference to this place is that made by Hosea, when he says: "Therefore shall a tumult arise among thy people; all thy fortresses shall be spoiled as Shalman spoiled Beth-El in the day of battle." As we stand here we can almost look into the caverns with which the face of the opposite cliff is perforated, while the one on the edge of which we stand is

LITERALLY HONEYCOMBED with these subterranean abodes. They are of immense extent, and are placed over each other in different stories; some are walled up, leaving doors and windows. Some idea of the extent of this singular natural fastness may be formed from the fact that it is capable of containing six thousand men. The caves communicate with each other by

subterranean galleries. These are the fortified caverns mentioned by Josephus in connection with Arbela. Rachides, the general of Demetrius, the third king of Syria, when he invaded Palestine, encamped at Arbela and subdued those who had taken refuge in the caves. This event is narrated in Maccabees, where the caves are called "storied." It was here, also, that Herod the Great had his famous fight with the robbers who had made their dens in the caves, letting down his soldiers in baskets, and fighting them in midair.

I was determined to push my explorations to the summits of the rocky crests which frowned above, and are called the Horns of Hattin. Scrambling up the steep, rocky hillsides, we found ourselves at last obliged to leave our horses and make our way on foot over the huge blocks of basalt which are thickly strewn around these singular peaks. On reaching the top we found that they had been artificially superimposed one on the top of another, so as to form a rocky rampart of immense solidity. Both crests had, at some period of remote antiquity, been thus fortified. Beneath one of them were the foundation and ruins of an ancient town which the inhabitants call "Medinet el Inweilab," or "the ruins of the long tower." At the southeast of the hill is an oblong cavern cut in the rock and cased with cement, which may formerly have been a cistern; and not far from it are the foundations of a building which the natives say was a Christian church before the conquest of the country by the Mohammedans, who subsequently converted it into a mosque. Nothing could be more striking than the view from the summit of the highest horn. Immediately beneath us, some six or seven hundred feet below, I looked down into the gloomy gorge, with the white walls of the Neby Shaib contrasting with the black basalt rocks, its terraces covered with groups of brightly costumed Druses, their songs as they danced in circles reaching us on the still air of evening, and beyond the modern village of Hattin, surrounded by orange groves and fruit gardens of the most brilliant green. Stretching away on all other sides were uplands of waving grain, till they either sunk away into valleys or terminated at the base of hills which rose abruptly above them. To the northeast the precipitous sides of the Wady Hamam, honeycombed with caves, formed a vista through which appeared in the distance a green strip of the plain of Gennesareth; beyond it the waters of the sea of Galilee, seventeen hundred feet below us, gleamed in the setting sun. From its eastern margin rose the steep cliffs above which is the vast plateau of Jaulan, once the grazing lands of the flocks and herds of Job, while a line of conical volcanic peaks, backed by snow-clad Hermon, closed the prospect.—Cor. New York Sun.

A ROCKY MOUNTAIN STORM.

A Peculiar Experience.

Blissfully unconscious of impending adventure, a gay party of Chicago pleasure-seekers started out from Manitou Springs recently. It consisted of five equestrians—viz., Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Hall, Miss Sadie Bates, Miss Grace and Master Hall, accompanied by Mrs. F. T. Sherman, Mrs. H. L. Thayer, and Little Goodwin Thayer in a buggy, M. S. Thayer holding the lines. The destination chosen was a tableland beyond "Glen Eyrie," called "the Mesa," a Spanish word for plateau. A glorious canter was enjoyed through the "Garden of the Gods," and the beautiful valley beyond, reaching as far as "Glen Eyrie," the charming property of Gen. Palmer. A murky, threatening sky excited some remarks, but as similar cloud effects had clustered around the distant hilltops for several days without bringing the much-needed rain no particular apprehension was felt. At "Glen Eyrie" the road turned abruptly, making an ascent up the side of what to our Chicago residents was quite a steep hill, the road being cut shelving out of the hillside. Away to the south, where the mysterious beauty of the gateway to the "Garden of the Gods" loomed up in its silent majesty, a cloud of whirling dust was observed and commented on, but no suspicion of what it portended entered the minds of our uninitiated novices. With many an exclamation of delight at the extreme loveliness of the valley view, backed by the gardens of the "Rockies," and with many a jest and a laugh, the party rode gayly up the ascent, when just on the summit of the hill, on the brow of the precipice, a terrific wind struck them. With the natural instinct of facing a foe, the equestrians turned and headed their horses to the hurricane; but the ladies in the buggy being in the rear and the buggy-top affording the greatest resistance to the wind, they realized at once their danger and sprang at once from the vehicle just in time to bid adieu to hats, handkerchiefs, dust-ers, wraps, etc., which soon sought a more sheltered locality in the valley below. Mr. Hall, bareheaded and almost blinded by the fury of the gale, sprang from his horse, and just succeeded in catching the frightened animal in time to prevent his precipitating himself and the buggy after the other portable property. Grasping him with one hand and his own—an excitable, nervous horse—with the other, he succeeded in forcing them away from the brow of the hill.

Little Goodwin Thayer, aged 7 years, a slight child, was held down to the ground by his mother, or the wind would certainly have carried him over, while Mrs. Sherman clung with great presence of mind to the slender bushes. The little mountain pony Grace Hall rode seemed to take it all as a matter of course, and halted stubbornly in the most dangerous spot of all, browsing contentedly, while the child was apparently in the greatest danger. The violence of the storm increased steadily for about ten minutes, during which the little party pushed forward to a safe spot, all having dismounted. Fortunately the horses behaved well, standing firmly, though evidently frightened, or we might have had something more serious to chronicle than a severe fright. Soon a brisk shower of hail added to their discomfort, as by this time all heads were bare, the remaining hats having gayly cavorted over into the valley. The rain and hail fall brought a slight abatement of the wind, and Mr. Hall led the procession, by this time a very draggled and woe-begone looking company, down the hill to "Glen Eyrie," where a kind welcome and refreshments were received.

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The Courtship of Napoleon III.

There are some curious anecdotes about Napoleon III. in the "Souvenirs of Compiegne" recently published by "Sylvanecte," who appears to have been one of the Legitimist neighbours of the Emperor in that vicinity of Compiegne forest. One says that Napoleon's fascination for Mademoiselle de Montijo, who afterwards became the Empress Eugenie, dated from the time when that sprightly beauty gave him a sharp horse-whipping. The Emperor had invited Mademoiselle de Montijo and her mother to Compiegne, and showed them much attention at hunting parties. One evening, when the hunt came home late, Napoleon so enraged the beauty that she caught up her riding-whip and gave it to him over the head and ears. This soon brought about an explanation, and in course of time came the famous letter in which Napoleon expressed his desire to have Mademoiselle Eugenie to wife—a letter which the mother lost no time in making public, and which is now religiously preserved in the archives of the family at Madrid. According to "Sylvanecte," the future Empress was much persecuted by Napoleon before he made her his proposal of marriage, and it is related that on one occasion he was so enraged because she would not grant him a rendezvous—asked for while they were out riding—that he put spurs to his horse and galloped away, leaving her to find her way home through the forest as best she could. The poor girl lost her way, and did not reach the palace until nine o'clock in the evening, when all the guests and the domestics were thoroughly alarmed for her safety.

What Makes a Home?

It is an excellent thing to have a well-kept house, finely appointed table; but after all, the best cheer of every home must come from the heart and manner of the home mother. If that be cold, and this ungracious, all the wealth of India cannot make the home pleasant and inviting. Intelligence, too, must lend its charm if we would have home an Eden. The severe style of household neatness seldom leaves much margin for intellectual culture; a simpler style of living and house-furnishing would set many a bonded slave at liberty, and add vastly to the comforts of all the household. There are cabin homes that have been and are remembered with pleasure, because of the beautiful, loving presence there; and stately homes without it are but dull and cheerless habitations.

Fighting Peccaries.

A peccary is in all respects a hog. He looks, smells, tastes like a hog, and is a hog, but for a thing of indomitable courage of the lower type, for a later of quenchless fury, and for a fighter to the last throeb of his heart he has no parallel in the animal kingdom. They never begin a war, but when one is assailed the entire drove rush to the attack as men rush when martial vigor urges them. Each bead-like eye is a fire spark; tusks are protruding, the echinated spine frightened, and a woe to the wretch who falls into their path. Gored, bitten, torn, tramped upon, and eaten up, to the very last shred of his clothing—such is the fate of the man caught by a drove of angry peccaries. With the same fury they assault a wolf or attack a bull, and neither the wolf nor the bull can stand up against a charge of half a dozen peccaries. Both know this and flee in terror from the field.

Catarrh—A New Treatment.

Perhaps the most extraordinary success that has been achieved in modern science has been attained by the Dixon Treatment of catarrh. Out of 2,000 patients treated during the past six months, fully ninety per cent. have been cured of this stubborn malady. This is none the less startling when it is remembered that not five per cent. of the patients presenting themselves to the regular practitioner are benefited, while the patent medicines and other advertised cures never record a cure at all. Starting with the claim now generally believed by the most scientific men that the disease is due to the presence of living parasites in the tissues, Mr. Dixon at once adapted his cure to their extermination; this accomplished the catarrh is practically cured, and the permanency is unquestioned, as the majority of cases being cured at one treatment. Sufferers should correspond with Messrs. A. H. DIXON & SON, 305 King-street West, Toronto, Canada, and enclose stamp for their treatise on catarrh.—Montreal Star

Cremation is making great strides in France where the Prefect of the Seine mean to establish Siemens furnaces in several of the cemeteries in Paris, and proposes to cremate all persons whose remains are not claimed by their friends. If this experiment proves successful, the Government will probably introduce a general bill on cremation in the Chamber, and the Council of Health is now considering the different ways of detecting traces of poison.

Oh! how tired and weak I feel, I don't believe I will ever get through this Spring house-cleaning! Oh yes you will if you take a bottle or two of Dr. Carson's Stomach Bitters to purify your blood and ne up the system. In large bottles 50 cents.

A child in Lominister, Mass., placed in the garden a small piece of looking glass in an upright position, and for a week a sparrow has spent three hours each day capering in front of it. It will stand and peck away at its reflected self until it gets thoroughly excited, then run back and forth along the fence, then return to its attack, and continue it until it falls exhausted and apparently dead. On recovering it flies away, only to return at the same hour the next day and renew the contest.

Childhood's Memories

Come back laden with the joys and pleasures of that dream time of life when sweet anticipation glistened with brightest hues the future as it stretched out before us. Only the pleasures hoped for us entered the heart then. But as we grow older, to one and other comes the awakening. If you should be troubled, not in heart, but in feet, with corns, and they make life miserable, go to the nearest drug store and buy a bottle of Putnam's Corn Extractor, the "sure, safe, and painless corn cure," and you will be quickly relieved, and happiness will ever after brighten your path. N. C. Polson & Co., Kingston, Prop's.

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