

a naturalist, are excellent qualifications for the work. Mr. Palmer will, at all events, give us a full account of the people, their history, numbers, organisation, manners, customs, and traditions. Through these inquiries, some light may perhaps be thrown upon the Israelite stations in Numbers xxxiii. It would have been satisfactory to have found an experienced surveyor among the party, but this deficiency may be counterbalanced by a systematic examination of the ground, coupled with such an itinerary as Dr. Robinson supplies in his "Biblical Researches."

T. S.

NOTES ON A VISIT TO SAIDA IN JULY, 1869.

BY CAPTAIN WARREN, R.E.

THE journey up from Jerusalem to Beyrout, overland, in the summer time, has two advantages to those who can enjoy riding in the full blaze of a Syrian sun for several hours every day.

1st. The days being so much longer and the roads dry, a journey that takes the whole day in winter can be accomplished by noon.

2nd. All the under-vegetation being burnt up, any architectural remains can be examined without difficulty.

Starting on 11th July from near Jerusalem, without tents, and provided with letters to the several Turkish governors, and (through the kindness of M. Ganneau) with introductions to the various Latin convents, I arrived at Beyrout in eight days, including one day's detention at Saïda.

On the second day, at Jentn, midway between Nablûs and Nazareth, we found no accommodation whatever; but, the soldiers having lately moved down to Beisan (where a block house has been built), we were able to get possession of the chief room in the deserted serai.

We arrived at Nazareth on the third morning about eleven o'clock. I paid a visit to Dr. Varton, to whom Dr. Chaplin has confided the care of the meteorological instruments of the Palestine Exploration Fund at this station. It is gratifying to see how much interest he takes in this work; and it would be very desirable to send some more mercurial barometers out to Jerusalem, so that Dr. Chaplin could supply Nazareth and Gaza.

The observations at the two hill-stations, Jerusalem and Nazareth, as compared with those at Jaffa and Gaza, will be of great interest; as will those again compared with those taken by Mr. Eldridge in the totally different climate of Beyrout and the Lebanon.

I understand that observations were taken at Saïda by the American missionaries for several years. It would be desirable to obtain permission to examine these, and publish what would be useful.

Next day, from Nazareth early, I passed Sefurieh. There are several interesting remains about this town. I examined the square tower at the top of the hill, and do not think the lower stones are *in situ*; they have sunken marginal drafts, and some stones are 2ft. 6in. in height and 4ft.

in length, but they are somewhat carelessly worked, and very inferior to those in the Haram Area at Jerusalem. It was interesting to find a Phœnician sarcophagus used as one of the corner-stones of this tower. I enclose a sketch of it, and also of a pedestal lying near. Passing on through Kana-el-jelil and Jafat (Jotopata), I arrived early in the day at Akka, and paid a visit to the pasha: he was extremely obliging, and gave me orders for visiting every place in the city. I was very much struck with the air of bustle and stir about Akka after Jerusalem. The Turks and Arabs are certainly moving on in this part of the empire. At Jerusalem, Nablous, and Akka they are extensively repairing the serais of the pashas; but, at the latter place, the people have led the way by repairing the mosque, and (putting aside the nature of the style) it is really very thoroughly repaired. The change after the neglected, dilapidated Haram Area of Jerusalem to this little compact mosque of Akka is complete: the interior of the building new and clean, the floor carefully covered with new matting, the court outside well paved and swept, the fountains flowing with water, and the whole area filled with palm and other trees, so as to have a shade all round, and giving a charming air to the little place.

The master-gunner of the garrison took me all round the city walls. He appeared to have a peculiar satisfaction in showing every place which had been damaged by the English or French. It was rather disagreeable to see the waves dashing into breaches in the walls made so many years ago; but yet it shows a higher state of vitality when the mosques and houses are repaired in preference to the city walls.

Next morning I was much interested in the aqueduct which should carry water into Akka. Half-a-mile before reaching the city it has occasion to cross a hollow piece of ground; the water is carried along in two earthenware pipes on the surface of the ground; and at intervals it is forced up hollow columns of masonry open at the top, so that a minimum pressure, due to the height of the column, is exerted upon the pipes. Unfortunately one of these columns is out of order, and the water, in a stream sufficient to supply a city double the size of Akka, only serves to irrigate a little piece of meadow land.

I had been told by Dr. Barclay to look out for a solitary column on a hill to the right, somewhere near Neby Daood, and went over to a village in that direction to inquire about it. With one exception, the people gave evasive answers, and roundly abused the only man who seemed inclined to be communicative. I have found before, in the plain of Philistia, that the people are more suspicious and less frank than the mountaineers; and that the only way to get information out of them is to make assertions, when they will contradict you if you are wrong. We had to leave the place without finding what we wanted; but a man followed us, and, as soon as he was out of sight of his comrades, told us that the only large standing column was at Hamsin. As we rode on we saw it standing up by itself on the top of a small hill, and, on examination, I found it to be the same as is spoken of in Dr. Thomson's "Land of Israel," page 83.

I send a sketch of it, with the mouldings; the dimensions were not accurately taken: the capital I could not find, but there is a twelfth stone of the column lying near.

Passing the Rasel-Abiad, the Scala Tyriorum (where the path has now been made quite easy), there is on the right the village of Monsûrah, where I have been told, recently, a small pyramid of black stone has been found, apparently to commemorate some victory. This stone is said to have a square base, the sides being equilateral triangles: no inscription was found on it.

We passed out of our way again to visit "Hiram's Tomb," as I was anxious to see if there were any masons' marks on the stone. I could see only two: one is a Christian cross of the Byzantine type at the western end, of which I have got a squeeze; it appears to be ancient. The other consists of a square and compasses, very recently and rudely cut, apparently by some enthusiastic "mason," who should have learnt the proper use of his chisel before he attempted such a task.

We did not arrive at Tyre until after sunset, and, having to get into Saida early next day, I had to leave without examining the old walls.

After passing the Nahr-el-Kasimiyeh about one hour, and when opposite to Neby Sûr (called by a fellah there Neby Tûr), I noticed on the left, close to the sea-beach, some upright stones, and on coming up to them found them to form a rectangle, the sides nearly facing the cardinal points of the compass. The stones stand about four feet above the surface (see plan), and are about two feet by one foot thick; they stand nearly upright, and are from six to eight feet apart; about twenty feet to the east is one solitary stone; the north-west portion of the rectangle is wanting. The story given was that they had been men turned into stone by the curses of Neby Tûr. I was struck by the fellah calling the Neby "Tûr," because he called the city "Sûr."

In the "Handbook for Syria" (Ed. 1868), we find, page 375, "We observe on the right a circlet of upright stones, to which a curious legend is attached," &c. It is probable that it is this rectangle that is referred to, since at a short distance the stones appear as though in a circle.

Saida is described in "Robinson's Biblical Researches":—The houses and city walls are built of freestone ashlar, said to be dug up, for the most part, from ruins existing at a few feet below the surface, in the vicinity of the city. Some of the stones in the walls of the private houses have incised characters on them; on one house I noticed three stones about twelve feet from the ground, each with a mark like the Phœnician aleph.

On making inquiries, I could not hear of any sunken marginal-drafted or "bevelled" stones having been dug up; the old stones appear to be squared, or ashlar, without a conspicuous draft.

In the castle or citadel which is above the city, the older portion of the wall (ascribed to Louis IX., A. D. 1253) is of two constructions: one portion is built of very small ashlar, and on it I could see no characters cut;

on the other portion, which may be of the same age, but is built of old material, I observed three or four characters, two of them, a cross and an arrow, high up out of reach; but close to the ground was a triangle, *in course of construction*, which is probably completed by this time, if the artist engaged on it has kept to his work. The stones of this portion are about twenty-two inches long, and thirteen inches high; two or three only of the stones have any marginal draft.

I could see no characters on the stones of the inside walls of this upper castle, but I here only made a very hurried examination. In the sea-castle the walls are evidently of very different ages, but none of the visible portions appear to have been built before our era, and there appear some reasons to suppose that the older portions may have been constructed by the Moslems, or in the time of the Crusades; for example, in one portion of what appear to be the older walls, huge granite columns are used as through bonds, just in the same way as they are at Ascalon and Cæsarea, and in the upper part of the east wall of the Haram area at Jerusalem.

If, however, we were certain that the older visible walls of this castle were built by the Moslems or Crusaders, there would still be the probability that the present stones, as they now appear, were used in the latter days of the Roman Empire, and that they may have been used previously in another form at an earlier period, for there is an arched doorway, very well preserved (of which an elevation is given), which is very similar in its details to examples of Roman architecture (rustic work) given by Vitruvius, and the stones generally, in their bevel, appear to be of a Roman type. The impression I obtained from the two visits I paid to the castle is, that the stones were at one time ashlar, without a draft, and probably with the present Phœnician marks on them; that they were cut down in the time of the Roman occupation of the city, and the marginal draft was then sunk and the bevel cut; and that again they were used at a later period, without being reworked, by the Moslems or Christians.

I have, however, to remark that, in some cases, what appear to be modern buildings abut against the old walls, and have preserved portions of them in a manner that is very surprising, if we are to suppose them to be of very great antiquity.

The stones in the older portions of this castle are "bevelled," but they differ very much from those at Jerusalem, to which the term "bevel" does not appear appropriate. They (at Saida) are formed by sinking a draft about two inches deep round the margin, and then bevelling off the projecting face at an angle of 45°. In some cases it appeared as though the draft and bevel had been cut over a portion of the Phœnician sign.

In comparing, however, the bevelled stones of Saida with those of Jerusalem, the difference in the nature of the stone must not be forgotten; a draft sunk only from a quarter to three-sixteenths of an inch, similar to those on the stones of the Haram esh-Sherif, would appear very insignificant on the open freestone of Saida, and would probably be worn away in a very few years if exposed to the weather.

Dr. Thomson, at page 158, of "The Land and the Book," gives some

very interesting particulars upon this subject, some of which I take the liberty of quoting:—

“Most of the towns along the Syrian coast, however, are built of an argillaceous sandstone, mixed with comminuted shell, which, though porous and easily cut, will yet, if protected from the weather, last for ages; but, when exposed, it disintegrates rapidly, and soon melts away to dust. This process is hastened every time the ruins are *worked over* for new buildings. The stones must always be re-cut before they are put into a wall, and, after being thus reduced two or three times, they become too small for use, are thrown into the fields, and quickly dissolve. . . . In other places, where the material is compact limestone, and not subject to these causes of destruction, it is broken up and burnt to lime.”

The larger visible stones in the sea-castle are generally under two feet in height, and about four feet in length; it is possible, however, that there may be much larger stones of a more ancient wall *in situ* in the thickness of the present walls, for on creeping through a broken portion of the northern wall overhanging the sea I found above my head a stone which measured quite 8ft. north and south, east and west, and I could see no signs of any joint. This stone, then, would be in keeping with those which still remain on the reef of rocks forming the ancient harbour, the largest of which measures about 11ft. by 12ft. and about five feet in height, and weighs about thirty-five tons. I could see no signs of any novel or draft on the stones forming the *walls* of the harbour, although dowel holes cut in these stones and in the rocks are very distinct.

Mons. A. Durighello, the vice-consul for France, took a great deal of trouble in showing me what was most interesting at Saida, especially the Phœnician tombs in which so much has been found; but I was disappointed to find that the nature of the rock in which they are cut prevents their being finished off in any manner, and the sides in many cases have been coated with plaster, so that they now have a very dilapidated appearance.

I could neither see nor hear of any *red paint* marks on the plaster, similar to those we have found on the walls of the Haram esh-Sherif. The sarcophagi are generally cut out of the solid mountain limestone (the tombs being sandstone) and have devices on them which I have seen in Palestine; at Sefûrieh, the sarcophagus built into the corner of the tower is very similar to those found in these tombs at Saida. There is the rectangle with the triangle at each end, and also the disc (sun?) with the band underneath; the device of the rectangle with the triangle at each end (see sketches) was also to be seen on the Phœnician sarcophagi near the river Damûr, and I have seen it in Palestine, more especially over a ruined bridge on the east side of the Jordan, where the Zerka issues into the plain above the ford of Damieh.

M. Durighello was kind enough also to show me all the little pieces of pottery which he had lately found in his excavations, and I noticed that they are precisely similar to what we find at Jerusalem in the middle of

our sections, below the early Christian pottery, and above the pottery found at the south-east angle of the Haram. I did not see any pottery similar to what has been lately found at Cyprus.

Mr. Arbela, the English consular-agent, was good enough to show me some columns he had found in his garden. Of one, the pedestal, base, and capital are lying together; on the pedestal is an inscription in Greek (of which I have an excellent squeeze), dedicated to the emperor Hadrian. The base is Attic, and the capital Corinthian. On the bed of the latter is the mason's sign or name, in Greek, incised, but it is difficult to make it out at present. I have a squeeze of it.

It is interesting to remark that there are incised marks on the walls of the city, showing where the aqueduct runs, in the shape of a round O: but this mark must be quite modern.

M. Durighello is going to preserve either squeezes of, or the stones themselves, which he finds in future in the ground bearing Phœnician marks. He took me to see the capital of a column lying in a mosque, of which he has the fellow in his possession. I forward you a sketch of it; it appears to be somewhat similar to the capital of one of the monoliths at the Golden Gate, Jerusalem.

I am able to send you about twenty of the characters from the sea-castle walls, reduced from squeezes, and about twenty more which I sketched.

On arriving at Beyrout I found that the consul-general, Mr. Eldridge, who was away on business, had very kindly made some preliminary arrangements about a house in the mountains, and I had no difficulty in securing it at once.

C. W.

THE COLEOPTERA OF PALESTINE.

BY G. R. CROTCH, ESQ., ASSISTANT-LIBRARIAN OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF CAMBRIDGE.

ON receiving, through the kindness of Lieutenant Warren, a small collection of *Coleoptera* from the environs of Jerusalem, he has suggested that a short account of these would not be unacceptable for the *Quarterly Statement*. It will be, I fear, however, almost impossible to extract much interest from a subject so little calculated to attract the general public. The *Coleopterous Fauna* of Palestine has received a fair share of attention of late years; the rich collections of M. de Saulcy, whose son is an ardent entomologist, laid the foundations of our knowledge; M. Peyron, long resident at Tarsus and at Beirout, has also enriched the French collections with many new and interesting species; M. Ancey, whose captures were described last year by the Abbé de Marscul, largely added to the list; and the immense collections of M. Piochard de la Boulerie, who has recently spent three months in Syria, bent solely on amassing *Coleoptera*, will, when examined, give a thorough idea of this interesting fauna. The species collected by the Rev. O. Pickard, Cambridge, when in company with the Rev. H. B. Tristram, were also of the highest interest; these an