

of rock and brushwood, and on the other the great hill of Shaaraim and the olives and terebinths at its feet, will give a far better idea of the scene than any I can convey in words; but to one standing on the spot and looking across to the high and broken line of the hills of Judah, and at the broad vale in which a great host might easily have encamped, there will appear to be a perfect fitness in the site to the famous events occurring in it.

CLAUDE R. CONDER, Lieut. R.E.,
In Command Survey of Palestine.

THE SAFED ATTACK.

MOUNT CARMEL, 15th July, 1875.

BEING placed in command of the expedition, owing to the temporary illness of Lieutenant Conder, I write by his wish to inform the Committee that the survey is at present entirely suspended in consequence of two causes—the first being a murderous and unprovoked attack on the party by Moslem inhabitants of Safed (particulars enclosed); the second the gradual spread of cholera over the north of Palestine. Lieutenant Conder and myself consider, under these circumstances, that we cannot take the responsibility of conducting the party again into the field till a very severe punishment has been awarded to the inhabitants of Safed, and until the steady advance of the cholera is checked. I feel certain that neither of these obstacles will be removed under two or three months.

Dr. Varton, who is at present in attendance on Lieutenant Conder, with Dr. Chaplin, and other medical men, predict an unusually unhealthy autumn, which will be followed by the two or three months of winter, during which work is impossible.

The non-commissioned officers, though ready to go through any amount of work or danger, are much discouraged at the prospect of an indefinite delay without employment, which, in my opinion, is more trying in this climate than work. The south country is also closed, as the Arabs have refused to lay down their arms, and are, I believe, still engaged with the Government.

Under these circumstances, Lieutenant Conder and myself both consider it our duty to recommend the Committee to break up the expedition for a time, and recall the non-commissioned officers, empowering Lieutenant Conder and myself to remain as long as the legal proceedings require our presence. In case of any delay or difficulty in obtaining justice, we feel we have a right to expect that the Committee will give us their strongest support. Lieutenant Conder has considered it his duty to report the facts of the case to the Deputy Adjutant-General, Royal Engineers. He has telegraphed to Constantinople, and placed himself in communication with the Consul-General at Beyrout.

Lieutenant Conder is at present in bed, recovering from an attack of fever, brought on by the severe nature of the wounds on the head he received in the fight at Safed. Five of our servants are ill in their beds, besides one in hospital at Safed, and I myself am still suffering from the bruises I received during the engagement. The non-commissioned officers were only slightly bruised.

H. H. KITCHENER, Lieut. R.E.

Copy of Letter to the Consul-General of Beyrout.

HAIFA, 14th July, 1875.

SIR,—I have to request your interference in an exceedingly serious case of murderous and unjustified assault on my party by the Moslem inhabitants of Safed, who, at the time at which I write, are still unpunished.

On Saturday, the 10th July, we arrived about 4 p.m. at Safed, from "El Ba'ineh," and erected our tents on a piece of uncultivated ground under olives near 'Ain el Beida, north of the Moslem quarter. A number of Moslems became spectators of our proceedings. A small English tent was being erected when many of these persons, including one well dressed in a turban and white abba, came down to it and began in a very insolent manner to examine it, laying their fingers on everything and behaving with marked want of courtesy and respect. I am informed that they said they had seen "many dogs like us before."

A ten-chambered revolver, hanging on a tree by the tent, was missed at this moment, and its owner, one of my servants, began to inquire whether any one had seen it. I am informed that the leader of the Moslems cursed him in reply. At this moment I came out of my tent, where I was resting, and heard my head servant address this man with civility, using the expression *hadrabuk*, and telling him to go away, as it was not his business. I heard the sheikh reply violently with imprecations, and saw him fling two or perhaps three very large stones at my head servant. The latter did not reply by violence, but took the bystanders to witness that an unprovoked assault had been made upon him. I advanced as quickly as I could without arms, and with nothing in my hands. Before I spoke a single word the sheikh seized me violently by the throat. In defence I struck him in the face with my fist, and knocked him down. He got up and again assaulted me, when I struck him right and left, and cut open his lip. When on the ground he drew a knife, which measures half a foot length of blade. My head servant fortunately saw him just before he stabbed me, and two of my people took it away from him, and seized him, intending to retain him until the arrival of government officials. They also bound him, but not by my order.

The sheikh called out many times, "Where are my young men?" (*shebab*), and some of those who were with him ran to the houses.

A crowd collected in an astonishingly short time, and in a few minutes it must have numbered two hundred or more men.

I ordered the sheikh to be immediately released, but he refused at first to leave the camp, though he subsequently retired for arms. Meanwhile he encouraged his people to kill all the Christians.

They began by a shower of enormous stones upon our party, which only numbered fifteen persons, of whom two were ill at the time.

Lieutenant Kitchener and myself, supported by our three non-commissioned officers, none having any firearms or other offensive weapon in our hands or about our persons, endeavoured to calm the disturbance, and to separate the crowd from our servants, who, infuriated at the treatment I had received, were anxious, in spite of their small numbers, to attack the Moslems. The five Europeans were in imminent danger of their lives from the falling stones. Whilst thus engaged, Lieutenant Kitchener was seriously injured on the thigh with a huge stone. Corporal Armstrong and Corporal Brophy less severely on the feet. We restrained both parties, and entirely prevented our servants from using any offensive weapon, though many of them were struck on the head and body with stones. As soon as a separation had been made, I ordered all my party into the tents, to prevent aggravation of the infuriated mob, who were heaping every species of blasphemous epithet on our religion and on the Saviour. The natives of my party were too excited to obey my order. I went out in front and threatened the mob with heavy future punishment, daring them to stone me, but they had lost their senses too much to be intimidated.

At this moment there arrived a number of armed men, apparently the sheikhs of the quarter, who encouraged the crowd. Of these, one man had a large scimitar and a carbine, another a battle-axe; two had large clubs (*dabbás*), and another a long gun. To these weapons I can swear and believe there were many more.

Lieutenant Kitchener and I were immediately surrounded. Three came to me and asked with curses what I was doing. An old man thrust his battle-axe violently into my side, but I did not like to strike him, though I had now a hunting crop in my hand. I told them they were mad, and would be severely punished if they struck an Englishman. About this time other members of the party saw a gun levelled at me five yards off, but fortunately the man's hand was caught before he fired. A man now came into the crowd which surrounded me, and dealt me a blow on the head with a large club with great violence, causing two wounds on the side of my head, covering my face with blood. A second blow, directed with full force at the top of my head, must inevitably have brained me had I not put my head down to his chest. My servants gave me up for dead. The blow fell on my neck, which ever since has been so stiff and swollen that it is impossible to turn it round. The rest of the party saw me fall. As soon as I got up I dealt this man a blow in the face with the handle of my whip which staggered him, but my whip flew out of my hand and left me entirely unarmed. I must inevitably have been

murdered but for the cool and prompt assistance of Lieutenant Kitchener, who managed to get to me and engaged one of the club men, covering my retreat.

A blow descending on the top of his head he parried with a cane, which was broken by the force of the blow. A second wounded his arm. His escape is unaccountable. Having retired a few paces from the thick of the fray, I saw that the Moslems were gradually surrounding us, stealing behind trees and through vineyards, and I well understood that in such a case, unless the soldiers arrived at once, we must all die. Many of the servants had indeed already given up hope, though no one fled. I gave the order to leave the tents and fly round the hill.

Lieutenant Kitchener was the last to obey this order, being engaged in front. He retreated to his tent, and whilst running he was fired at, and heard the bullet whistle by his head. He was also followed for some short distance by a man with a huge scimitar, who subsequently wounded with it more than one of our people.

Gaining the cover of some trees, we stopped on a bare hill-side to consult, and ventured back to the brow to reconnoitre. At this moment the soldiers arrived with an officer, and the English Consular-Agent, Herr Marcus Cigal. I am informed that all the offensive weapons were immediately concealed, the stoning and blasphemous language ceased at once, and not an individual of the crowd remained.

I confine this report to the actual experience of myself and Lieutenant Kitchener. The evidence of the rest of the party was taken by Herr Marcus. The more serious injuries may be briefly summed up as follows:—

1. Lieutenant Conder: Two raw wounds on the head, and violent swelling from a blow on the neck.
2. Lieutenant Kitchener: Bruise covering all his left thigh, and another on his arm. Both still very painful.
- 3 and 4. Corporals Armstrong and Brophy: Bruised with stones.
5. Daud (groom): A large raw wound on the side of the head, requiring to be sewn up. He remains very ill with wounds and fever in the Jewish Hospital, *Safed*, and when I last saw him was in a precarious condition.
6. Yakúb (cook): Severely beaten, and hit in the side and on back with large stones. Appeared to be dying.
7. Habib (dragoman): Was fired at, was severely hit in the wind with a stone, and lay on the tent floor incapable of defending himself. He received many other blows.
8. Hasein (muleteer): Received two wounds on his head and neck with clubs and stones, and was shot at.
9. Hassan Abeideh (muleteer): Struck with sticks and stones. A violent blow with the scimitar levelled at him cut the tent ropes in two.

The rest of the fifteen were all more or less injured with clubs, stones, and a few with sword cuts. The only wonder is that more

injury was not done, but this is perhaps due to the conspicuous dress of the Europeans, especially Lieutenant Kitchener and myself, who wore white jackets, and stood in front of the party.

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This report was left unfinished by Lieutenant Conder when he was taken ill. It will, I think, inform the Committee of all the necessary particulars of the conflict. We retired next day to Mejdal Karum, and on Monday arrived here.

H. H. KITCHENER, Lieut. R.E.

THE ARABS IN PALESTINE.

(Read at the Royal Institution and reprinted from "Macmillan's Magazine.")

THE labours of numerous explorers, and especially of the Palestine Exploration Fund, have thrown much light on Biblical archæology and topography, and many memorials and souvenirs have been found which help to make us in some degree familiar with the old world of Bible times; but of the country and its inhabitants, as they are at present, it is not too much to say, that but very little is known, especially as regards the light that may be thrown by them upon the past. It is to this modern Palestine—the Palestine of the Arab, as it may be called—that the following observations refer, and they have been made in the hope of showing how the attentive study of it may serve to light up and explain many a dim and misty page in the history of the Palestine of old.

The Biblical texts have been worked at by successive generations of commentators, until all that could be got from them has been extracted, and the periodical return of certain exegetical combinations shows that the series is complete, and the question, so far as they are concerned, exhausted. Next to the important facts which may result from future excavations, there are, in my opinion, two things required to lift Biblical archæology out of the vicious circle in which it has a tendency to turn, and to give it new life—viz., a thorough investigation of the writings of the various Mohammedan authors in the original Arabic text, and an exhaustive study of the manners, customs, and traditions of the sedentary fellaheen of Judæa. For both, a knowledge not only of literary Arabic, but also of the vulgar tongue, is absolutely necessary.

Up to the present time very little information as regards Palestine has been derived from Arabic historians and geographers; with the exception of four or five, and those not the most useful for our purpose, they have been almost entirely neglected. This is a mistake, for they contain a whole mine of valuable indications which may put us on the path of great discoveries, especially of the topographical kind, by adding to the chain of traditions the link, so difficult to seize, which connects the actual