

from the upper seats of the westernmost of its two theatres could enjoy one of the finest prospects in Palestine. Five great fortresses were in sight, besides the whole country, rich in cities and villages, from Hermon almost to Jericho; and at their very feet the Sea of Galilee, covered, as it then was, with vessels, and surrounded with life. The splendid view from this point is worthy of being described with great minuteness of detail. What remains of Gadara shows that it was a place of elegance and wealth. Josephus speaks of the villas about it; and at one place, three miles a little south of east from the city, near a large cistern, I dug down and found a beautiful tessellated pavement. Four miles east of Gadara, on the road leading to Capitolias (now Beit er Ras), was a temple, and the foundations and some portions of the columns which remain show that it was a structure of more than ordinary size and magnificence. Between this temple and the city itself the way was lined with tombs. In prosperous times this city of the dead, with its elegant and costly sepulchres, must have been one of the attractions of the place, as well as its temples and theatres, and wonderful prospect, and its hot baths at the foot of the mountain below it. Here at Gadara, after the destruction of Jerusalem, the Jews had a flourishing school, and the Rabbis used to visit the springs, and walk for recreation along the shaded banks of the river. The far-famed springs at Tiberias are insignificant in size in comparison with those at el Hamma, and it seems a pity that the delightful waters of the latter should flow on for ever without being enjoyed by those who would appreciate and be benefited by them. It may be well to give a list of the hot sulphur springs in the Jordan valley. They are at Tiberias, at Gadara, at Wady Hammet, Abu Dhableh, north of Pella, at the mouth of Wady Zerka (not the mouth of the river itself, for the mouth of the river is fully eight miles from the mouth of the wady), at Tel el Hammam, near Livias, in the Shittim plain, and at Callirrhoe. The latter, indeed, is not in the Jordan valley, but it is appropriately mentioned in connexion with the series on the east side of the river. Those at Tiberias and Callirrhoe are the hottest, while those at Callirrhoe and Gadara send forth the greatest volume of water.

SELAH MERRILL.

THE SHAPE OF THE MOABITE STONE.

THE Rev. F. A. Klein writing to the *Athenæum* (Aug. 12, 1876) on the finding and destruction of this monument, insists that the stone was rounded at the lower end. The restoration by M. Clermont Ganneau (*i.e.*, the photographer of the Fund), from his own squeeze, shows it square. Mr. Klein says, however:—

“I have seen it repeated again and again in the *Athenæum*, and books and pamphlets, probably on the authority of the statements in the *Athenæum*, that the Moabite Stone was *square* at the lower end, and not oblong, though I had plainly stated that it was *not so*.

"I would, therefore, for the information of those who are anxious to know the *truth* on the subject, positively declare that the Moabite Stone was rounded off at the lower end in exactly the same manner as at the upper end. I could not possibly be deceived on the subject, as I saw the stone in the daytime, with both my eyes open, and drew a sketch of it, not after some weeks from recollection, but at the time and on the spot, as I still have it in my sketch-book. An exact copy of it was published in the *Illustrated London News*. As regards the measure, I could not give it with the greatest exactness, as I took it by the span, and subsequently ascertained it approximately in feet and inches.

"If the 'restored Moabite Stone' presents a square form at the bottom, this is no proof that my sketch is incorrect, but simply that there is some mistake in the restoration of the monument; and there is not the least doubt that, if properly restored, it will have an oblong shape at the lower end exactly in the same manner as at the upper end. I am sure that scholars who take an interest in this most valuable monument of antiquity will be glad to get as many reliable particulars about the same as possible, and, besides, it seems that the question of round or square shape may in some manner affect the inscription (at least, the two or three lower lines) itself, and thus has become of some importance."

SAMARITAN TOPOGRAPHY.

1. THE SAMARITAN BOOK OF JOSHUA.
2. THE SAMARITAN CHRONICLE.

A MINUTE inspection of the topography of the Book of Joshua, and of the Old Testament generally, leads to the striking discovery that the information concerning that part of Palestine occupied by Ephraim and the half tribe of Manasseh is extremely fragmentary as compared with that relating to other portions of the country.

A few words will be sufficient to make this clear.

(1) In the first place, we have no account of the conquest of this part of the land. The first eight chapters of the book record the taking of Jericho, and of the eastern hills as far as Bethel, and Ai near Bethel; the building of an altar on Ebal follows immediately in the Hebrew text (Josh. viii. 30), without explanation as to the history of the conquest of this part of the land.

In the Septuagint version, however, the order is here different, and the first verses of the next chapter (Josh. ix. 1, 2) precede the account of the ceremonies at Shechem. Thus the destruction of Ai is in this order followed by the general description: "When all the kings which were on this side Jordan, in the hills, and in the Shephelah, and in all the coasts of the great sea over against Lebanon . . . heard, They gathered themselves together to fight with Joshua and with Israel with one accord." The erection of the altar on Ebal then follows.