

LITERARY REMAINS OF C. F. TYRWHITT DRAKE,
WITH A MEMOIR.*

THE "Journal of the Palestine Exploration Fund" is the fittest place wherein to notice, however briefly, a work which gives an account, modestly but clearly written, of the comparatively uneventful life of one, whose various qualities and qualifications fitted him in a remarkable manner for the excellent work he accomplished during the two years and a half he was employed on the Survey of Palestine.

Born at Amersham in 1846, and educated at Rugby and Wellington College, Mr. Drake went to Cambridge in the hope of being able to carry out the solid student work for which he had already given good promise, especially as an accurate observer of subjects of natural history. But, though tall and otherwise robust in frame, Mr. Drake suffered from an incurable chest disease, which compelled him after a short stay at Cambridge, where he distinguished himself as a rifleman, to go for the winter (of 1866) to Morocco. Here, however, he was able to complete most successfully the ornithological studies for which he had shown so decided a taste while yet a schoolboy, and, in two visits he paid to this part of Africa (valuable as these were to him personally, that they gave him a practical insight into the habits and the language of Arab populations), to collect and bring home no less than 169 species of North African birds, many of them of considerable interest and variety. In 1868, he for the first time visited Egypt, and came to the natural conclusion that "the sphinx was rather a delusion," and, in 1869, commenced his exploration of the Holy Land; first, alone, in Sinai, and subsequently with Prof. E. H. Palmer in the Desert of the Tih—the University of Cambridge having given him a small grant to enable him to prosecute his researches there in natural history. The scientific results of this pedestrian expedition have been published in the *Quarterly Statements* of the Palestine Exploration Fund. About the same time, or rather on the conclusion of this tour, Mr. Drake had the good fortune to make the acquaintance of Captain and Mrs. Burton, some appreciative notices by each of whom, incorporated in this memoir, showing how highly he was esteemed by them, and being, at the same time, among the most interesting communications the editor has been allowed to embody in his narrative.

In company with Captain Burton, Mr. Drake made more than one journey of exploration, most of which are published in their joint volumes entitled "Unexplored Syria," the most important, probably, being that to Hamath, where he was able to obtain paper squeezes and photographs of the famous hieroglyphical inscriptions still remaining there. It is now generally admitted that the Rev. W. Wright made the first suggestion that these inscriptions were of Hittite origin. One

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district of Upper Syria, that of *El Alah*, Mr. Drake examined alone, and found there many ruined cities abounding in Greek inscriptions.

In the autumn of 1871 Mr. Drake "volunteered" his services as naturalist, draughtsman, and linguist for the "Survey of Palestine," which were gladly accepted, and, going out early in 1872, became for some time, owing to the sudden illness of Captain Stewart, the head of the exploring party. Soon after, however, Lieutenant Conder took the chief command. From that time till his unfortunate death on June 23, 1874—that is for about two years and a half—Mr. Drake was of the greatest assistance on the "Survey." What he did has been for the most part admirably detailed in the letters from him, published from time to time in the *Quarterly Statement*; but in these he did not tell the world, what it is most important should be recorded—viz., how greatly the expedition was aided by his remarkable serenity of temper and invariable good humour, together with his singular skill in dealing with the native population. Of his letters the editor justly remarks, that the charm of them lies "in the quiet style, the earnestness, and the occasional strokes of humour" which characterise them and demonstrate "the unpretending thoroughness with which he went about his work. Always, whether he wrote, spoke, or worked, it was as the quiet typical English gentleman."

It will be readily believed that in a life so busy, as long as he had the power to make use of his abilities, and yet, withal, so short, Mr. Drake had but little time for writing either books or brilliant essays; besides, however, his letters, he left behind him several papers, more or less finished, which the editor of this memoir has very properly made public. They are as follows:—

1. "Modern Jerusalem" (printed separately as a pamphlet), pp. 51-113.
2. "Notes for the History of Jerusalem" (a plan for a larger and more comprehensive work), pp. 115-147.
3. "Notes for Travellers in Palestine," pp. 149-178.
4. "Morocco and the Moors," pp. 179-211.
5. "Notes on the Birds of Tangier and Eastern Marocco," pp. 213-236.
6. "Reports on the Natural History of the Tih," pp. 237-277.
7. "Extracts from Journal in Egypt," pp. 279-305.

We recommend this record of a life, short, indeed, but rich in work, to those who followed Charles Tyrwhitt Drake's too brief career in the Holy Land.