

## LIEUT. KITCHENER'S REPORTS.

## IV.

P. E. F. CAMP, TAIYEBEH, 30th May, 1877.

THIS month's work has finished the Survey up to the northern boundary, the River Leontes. The next camp will be at Banias, and when that is finished there will only be the strip along the seashore to do to finish the survey of the north. I hope this will be accomplished before the end of July.

On the 2nd of May camp was moved from Meirôn to Dibl, a Christian village eleven miles north of Meirôn. The inhabitants were extremely glad to see us, as our presence afforded them some protection. They were debating whether they should desert their village for some safer place, but finally decided to remain and see how matters would turn out. There are several large Christian villages in this part of the country, and they are naturally in a great state of alarm and panic. They fear, in case of a Turkish defeat, that the neighbouring Mohammedan villages will revenge it on them. They are anxious to buy arms and defend their lives and property in case of attack, but up to the present time the Mohammedans have given very little cause for alarm. The Government has always promptly suppressed any fanatical feeling, and is evidently doing its best to tide over a critical time. The Christian villages are very superior in cleanliness to their Moslem neighbours, and a great deal more care is taken in the cultivation of the ground. They are generally surrounded by vineyards and fig-trees, and a few mulberry-trees are cultivated. The people are simple and devout, looking up to their priests as their guides in every difficulty; they are mostly Maronites, and the priests marry. Every village has its little chapel, and at Dibl they had a service every evening. After sunset a bell was beaten in the village, and all the male population went to chapel, where there was a short service in Arabic. After this they often came and sang and danced in front of our tents till a very late hour. The country round our camp consisted of low hills, either cultivated or covered with brushwood. To the west the brushwood increased, and the wadies ran in deeper gorges down towards the sea. Villages are very numerous and seem to be prosperous; they have generally large herds of cattle and goats, and are surrounded by well-tilled fields. There are not so many olive-trees as in the south. The water-supply is principally from cisterns which keep the rain-water; besides these, large birkets or pools of rain-water occur at every village; springs are rather scarce.

At the village of Yârûn, south-east of Dibl, are the remains of an early Christian church. The ruins occur on a tell immediately east of the village, and the foundations of the church, with three apses, are clear. It measured eighty-eight feet long by fifty feet wide, and the stones are large and well-dressed. The capitals are principally Corin-

thian, and the church was paved with Mosaic work. A good many carved stones lie about, and there are cisterns and an old rock-cut birket, with a double round arch for supporting the water-wheel. West of the church was another round birket of good masonry. In the mosque of the village I found a Greek inscription—the left-hand side had been cut away, on the right a palm-tree was very well carved in relief. The stone measured five feet by two feet four inches. A plan of the church and drawings of the detail have been made. The village is built round the east and northern slopes of a slight basalt outbreak, the top of which has been quarried into large cisterns, and the natives asserted it was once the site of a castle. Large well-dressed stones are continually dug up, and there are several sarcophagi and rock-cut tombs round the village. The inhabitants are half Mutwâly, half Christians. At el Khûrbeh and Tell 'Ara—ruins half a mile south—I found similar cut stones and some columns; at the latter place there is a large sarcophagus.

North of Yârûn, on the top of high hills, is the village of Marûn. Here there are also some similar carved stones to those at Yârûn, mixed up with large well-dressed stones, apparently the remains of an early Christian church. There is an inscription on the remains of an architrave. At Dibl, in an ordinary rock-cut tomb with ten square-headed loculi, there is also an inscription—it occurs immediately above the loculi; and another on a stone dug up in the village. There are also remains of a fine mosaic pavement, in a fair state of preservation, in the village.

The most extraordinary ruins of this neighbourhood are those of Belât (marble), which have been described by Dr. Robinson (*Later Biblical Researches*, page 65). On the top of a high wooded ridge are the ruins of what must have been a noble temple. The remains of sixteen columns are apparently *in situ*, and six of them still bear an architrave. If the building was originally uniform it would have been formed of a double colonnade of twelve columns, the intercolumnar distance varying from six to eight feet. The total length of the colonnade is ninety-nine feet seven inches, and its breadth sixteen feet; the whole is surrounded by a wall at a distance of seven feet. The columns and architrave make a total height of fourteen feet six inches. The entrance was probably in the centre of the eastern side, where two columns are squared on the outside—it was probably double, with a round column between. The end columns at both ends of the colonnade were squared on the outside, forming a double column on the inside, exactly the same as in Jewish synagogues, such as at Kefr Ber'am, where the southern columns of the portico were two double columns corresponding with those at the north end of the building. Another point of resemblance is the direction of the colonnade, being within twelve degrees of north and south. The columns are very much weathered, and some of them are considerably out of the perpendicular. There seems to have been no elaborate decoration—the architrave is not cut, and the capitals are simply rounded blocks of stone. A plan and photographs were taken of the ruins. Adjoining,

on the eastern side, are the foundations of some buildings. Enclosing a paved court, with a large cistern in the centre, flights of steps led down the side of the hill.

Er Rameh, the ancient Ramah of Ashur, is a small Mutwály village two miles west of Dibl. It is situated on a rocky watershed where two valleys start east and west; the sides of the hill are terraced, but there are no other remains of antiquity except a few sarcophagi; the hills around are covered with brushwood.

At Kh. Shélabun, about the same distance east of Dibl, there are two very finely ornamented sarcophagi on a raised platform; the ornamentation consists of figures bearing up wreaths and trophies of arms similar to those at Kades described by Major Wilson.

On the 16th camp was moved to Kades, the ancient Kedesh of Naphtali. The road led past Bint Umm Jebeil, a populous Mutwály village, where a market is held every Thursday, which is largely attended. Kades is situated on a spur overlooking on the east a long narrow plain, which runs north and south, and is enclosed by low hills covered with brushwood. On the east these hills fall abruptly to the Huleh marshes. Tell Hará stands out prominently to the south-east, and its eastern slopes descend to the northern shore of the Lake Huleh. Immediately below the steep slope of the hill is a very large spring, 'Ain el Melahah, which at once turns a mill. West of the lake is the broad plain of El Kheit, occupied by Arabs and a few Mughrábins; the lake is three and a half miles long, and broadest at its northern extremity, where it ends in an impenetrable jungle of papyrus canes growing out of a marsh, which extends for five and a half miles north, and is about two miles broad. One and a half miles south of the lake is the bridge across the Jordan, Jisr Benát Yákuḅ, over which passes the main Damascus road. Opposite the bridge are the ruins of an ancient khan, and south are the remains of a small Crusading fortress called Kasr 'Atru. The whole district is, by tradition, intimately connected with the life of Jacob. There is only one place in this district that might have been the site of Hazor; it is called Ard el Sauwád, and is immediately west of Khürbet el Wukkás. A square plateau of considerable size appears to be artificially constructed, with traces of walls upon it. The natives assert that it was not a ruin, and it has more the appearance of a camp or entrenchment, perhaps to guard the Damascus road, than the ruins of a large town. There are some large springs in Wády Wukkás, just below this site. Tell Hará, identified by Major Wilson with Hazor, appears much more like the site of an ancient and royal city. The name Hará seems to me to be more nearly allied to Harosheth of the Gentiles; perhaps this is the site of Sisera's head-quarters.

The ruins at Kades are of considerable extent. The village is situated at the end of the ridge, and below it there is a spring. A few columns and capitals are found in the village, but the principal remains occur beyond the spring. The first building is a masonry tomb thirty-

five feet square; solid piers at the four corners support round arches, which rise to a height of twenty-one feet; between these arches are the loculi, three between each, and one on either side of the door, which takes up the southern side. The arches were walled up on the outside, and the whole was probably covered with a dome. There is a niche on the outside, to the right of the doorway; a little beyond this there are several sarcophagi on a raised platform; two double and two single ones still exist; they were formerly carved with figures, but these have been effaced. The next building, about 100 yards east of the first, is the Temple of the Sun, which has been examined and described by Major Wilson. The building forms a rectangle 63 feet by 75 feet, and one of the doorposts still standing is 15 feet high; the masonry was large blocks of well-dressed limestone. On either side of the main entrance are two small doors with ornamented lintels; and outside these, on the left, is a niche with traces of a robed figure cut on it, and on the right a small projection has a hole leading to the interior, through which money might be passed; on the inside there was a recess in the wall opposite the orifice. The highly-ornamented lintel has been described by Major Wilson. Plans and photographs of all these buildings were taken.

Four miles south of Kades, in the hills descending to the plain, are the ruins of Keisun, where are the remains of an ancient temple; three bases of columns still remain *in situ* on a wall over a ruined birket facing north, and one has fallen from its position. To the west there are pedestals in the walls, as if for columns; both sides, north and west, seem to have been washed by the water of a large birket, and a causeway was found across from the north-west corner to the temple. There are remains of a highly-ornamented cornice similar to that at the Temple of the Sun at Kades. On a stone, with a slight draft round it, I found a Greek inscription, a copy of which is enclosed. There are a good many rock-cut tombs around the ruins.

North of Kades, on a spur running out into Wady Selúkiah, occur the ruins of a small Crusading fortress called Kalát ed Dubbah. The Crusading remains of large drafted stones with rough projecting bosses are slight, and the place was probably totally destroyed when taken; it has been rebuilt under the Saracens, and these latter walls are in fair preservation. A rock-cut ditch encloses the castle. There are several cisterns and a few sarcophagi cut in the rocks near. The castle is now inhabited by two families; it measures 100 feet wide by 220 feet in length, and encloses a courtyard. A plan has been made of the building. The position in the wady is very picturesque and romantic; high hills close it in on both sides, so that it is not visible until quite close. In the centre, on a very narrow ridge rising about half as high as the surrounding hills, stands the castle. It is so shut in by hills that I believe it never has been seen by any travellers before. To the west of the castle is the village of Shakrà, where I obtained a copy of an inscription.

The sheikh of the village was extremely rude, and threw stones against the inscription when I attempted to copy it. I therefore left without doing so, and reported the matter to the governor, who immediately put the sheikh in prison. The next time I went to the village there was no opposition to my copying the inscription, I therefore had the sheikh set at liberty. At the village of Kunin there is a lintel seventeen feet long, with an inscription.

On the 24th camp was moved to Taiyebah, a village within easy distance of the Leontes, the northern boundary of the Survey. From this camp three Crusading castles were photographed and planned.

The castle of Tibnin stands on a high steep ridge breaking down from the west; the north and south slopes descend to the same deep wady, which makes a curious bend, cutting the ridge about half a mile east of the castle. Immediately below the castle on the west is the small village of Tibnin, containing 200 Christians and 450 Mutwaly. A broad paved way led up from the village to the castle, and the slopes were faced with dressed stones, at a steep angle; there were no ditches, as the ground falls all round. The castle measures 512 feet north and south, by 440 feet east and west. The principal walls are Saracenic, only the bases of a few towers on the outside showing Crusading work. These consist of either large stones roughly squared, or of similar stones drafted with the bosses left rough. In the interior the Crusading remains are all of finely-dressed stones. The modern Saracenic work has now fallen to ruins; in the north-west corner, however, there are still large vaulted chambers, and sufficient accommodation for the Modir or governor of the Blâd Beshâru, who is an intelligent old gentleman, exceedingly polite and obliging. The principal portion of the interior of the castle is a shapeless mass of ruins. The view from the castle is very fine, over undulating and cultivated ground to the sea and Mount Hermon in the distance.

We know from William of Tyre that the castle was built in 1107 A.D. by Hugues de St. Omer, Seigneur of Tiberias, and received the name of Toron. It is expressly stated that it was built because no strong place existed on the road from Tiberias to Tyre, and the remains may therefore be taken as a fair example of the Crusading style of masonry.

Hunin is another Crusading castle, eight miles north-east of the latter; it was on the ancient road from Tyre to Baniyas, and must have been a place of considerable strength. It is situated on a slight elevation in a gap in the hills, where they fall steeply to the Huleh valley. Adjoining the castle on the east is the small village of Hunin. The castle measures 740 feet east and west by 340 feet north and south. On the west a rock-cut ditch, 40 feet broad, surrounded a citadel 240 feet square, separating it from the remainder of the castle. There were two entrances, one by a causeway which led up to the castle on the south, similar to the one at Tibnin, and the other was a gateway in the eastern wall, which still remains, showing Crusading work. The whole of the interior is a mass of shapeless ruins, and most of the Saracenic

walls and buildings are also ruined. There was a mosque on the south side, but the roof has fallen in. The Crusading remains show similar work to that at Tibnin in every respect, and there seems to be nothing which would lead to giving to this castle an earlier date than the former.

In Ansel Jelil, by El Kâdy Mujir ed Din, a history of Jerusalem and Hebron, dated 900 A.H., it is said: After the battle of Hattin, as Saladin went to Tyre, he detached a chief to invest the castle of Hunin; the garrison were reduced by famine and surrendered. Saladin gave the castle to one of his chiefs, Beder ed Din Widram el Bârizny.

Kal'at esh Shükif, the Crusading castle of Belfort, is much the finest building in this part of the country. Situated on the top of an almost perpendicular precipice, which descends 1,500 feet to the River Leontes, it is thus quite impregnable from the east. On the west the ground falls rapidly, so that the castle is on the top of a narrow ridge running almost north and south. The castle measures 500 feet long by 200 feet broad east and west; the greatest diagonal length to outside of rock-cut ditches would be 700 feet. A broad rock-cut ditch, with large reservoirs for water, surrounded the castle on three sides; the fourth was defended by the precipice. The rocky escarp of the ditch was faced with well-dressed stones, and the top crowned by round towers and ramparts. The base of one round tower at the south-west corner forms a striking feature, as the circle has been strictly preserved, gradually increasing in size down to the bottom of the ditch; the whole was faced by smooth-dressed stones. The entrance is at the south-east corner, and the passage was carried along the eastern front on a terrace overhanging the precipice, considerably below the main portion of the fortress, which was reached by stairs at the north-east corner. There is a plentiful supply of water in immense cisterns. On the top of the castle is a small groined building which may have been the chapel.

The masonry of this building is of the same type as Tibnin and Hunin, drafted stones with rough bosses on the outside, and smooth-dressed stones on the inside. Some of the ancient walls were nine feet thick, and built with wonderful solidity. There seems to have been a later addition in Crusading times on the east side of the castle, giving probably increased stable accommodation; this part is all of smooth-dressed stones. The principal doorways were formed by lintels cut to represent drafted voussoirs; there is also a pointed arch in the drafted masonry wall, the only difference being that the bosses of the voussoirs were hammer-dressed. On the top of these magnificent Crusading remains the Saracenic masonry looks ridiculously small and insignificant. The castle of Belfort is first mentioned by William of Tyre as the refuge of the Christian knights after being defeated by Saladin near Banias in 1179 A.D. The Crusaders evidently knew the value of stone walls against the attack of irregular forces. Small garrisons in Belfort town and Hunin must have kept the whole of the north secure against raids.

Belfort is the most northern point of the Survey. The country has now been surveyed from Bir Seba to a point north of Dan.

At the village of Abrikhâ there are the remains of an early Christian church; one of the columns is still standing, bearing its capital, and several pedestals are *in situ*. Under the altar there was a rock-cut tomb, with the entrance to the east, outside the church.

The amount surveyed up to the end of May is 640 square miles.

The country is still quiet, though disturbed by numberless rumours, which are started without the slightest foundation. A good many of the Christians have left their villages in this part of the work, but apparently without cause; the Government officials are doing all they can to keep the people from panic.

## V.

### CAMP AT NAKURAH, 30th June, 1877.

On the 2nd June the survey of the country round Taiyebeh was completed and camp was moved to Banias.

The road descended steeply to the Huleh plain, here covered with basalt rock and *débris*, and considerably raised above the marsh, which commences about five miles south. After crossing the bridge over the Nahr Hasbany, a fine torrent running in a deep gorge it has cut for itself out of the basalt rocks, the plain appears to be studded with small springs that bubble up everywhere, the water now running to waste, as this portion of the plain is uncultivated; these gradually increase as we approach the great spring of the Nahr Leddûn. Tell el Kâdy, the site of Dan, is a round tell, broad and low, on the northern side, rather steeper to the south; it is situated a mile south of the slopes of Hermon, and stands up prominently on the plain, marking the boundary of the basalt. There are two springs at Tell el Kâdy; one of them, the largest in the country, starts on the west side of the tell, the other from the centre joining the first stream immediately south of the tell, where they form the Nahr Leddûn. This is the largest source of the Jordan, being, as far as I could judge, about twice as large as the Nahr Hasbany. The ruins on the tell are very slight. I saw nothing but the basalt remains of modern cattle-sheds. Two very large trees by the side of the centre stream shade the tomb of a dog which has been turned into a holy place under the name of the Sheikh Merzuk. It must have been the favourite of some Arab chief.

The river rushes away south through luxuriant vegetation, irrigating the country round; it passes Khurbet Dinfah on the east, a smaller mound than Tell el Kâdy, with no ruins of importance, which has been identified with Daphne. The stream then runs close alongside the Hasbany and joins the Nahr Banias four miles south of Tell el Kâdy; the two together are then joined half a mile farther south by the Hasbany.

The ancient records always speak of the spring at Banias as the source

of the Jordan, and, though the correctness of this has been doubted, they seem to have been quite right. Working up the river, the Hasbany joins the stream composed of the Nahr Leddûn and the Nahr Baniâs, and as it is smaller than either of them there can be no doubt that it is only an affluent of the River Jordan; farther up these two separate, and then, the flow of water being nearly equal, the longer course was taken, and the source was fixed in the romantic cave of Baniâs. The water from the Leddûn is much diverted for irrigation purposes in the plain, which yields splendid crops, and some of the water is even carried into the Nahr Baniâs.

From Tell el Kâdy to Baniâs the road passes through park-like scenery, the country being thickly studded with trees, principally oak, not very large, but very refreshing after the bare plain on the west of the tell. After mounting a slight ridge, the village of Baniâs is seen situated in a small plain at the junction of two wadies coming from the north and east; these join in front of the town and run south. The village is completely surrounded and shut in by trees of all sorts, and looks remarkably green and lovely, with the castle of Subeibeh towering above it.

On approaching the village the rushing water is seen falling over cascades, tearing through thickets, and almost hidden by creepers. The source is to the north-east of the town, and the stream runs west till it joins the wady from the north at the north-west angle of the town, in which there is also a small stream; it then rushes down a steep fall forming a foaming torrent to its junction with Nahr Leddûn.

A bridge crosses the stream before the town. The spring itself is a few hundred yards east, and before reaching the bridge a great deal of the water is diverted for irrigation and to turn mills in the town. Little streams seem to be running in every direction, cooling the air, and making this one of the most lovely spots in Palestine. Above the spring there are about forty yards of stones and *débris*, which gradually rise to a large cavern in the face of the rocky cliff. The roof of the cavern has fallen in, but it shows no visible signs of artificial work. Immediately to the right are the three niches for statues, two of which have inscriptions on tablets cut in the rock; these have been often copied and described.

On the left of the cavern, high up on a ledge of rock, is the little Moslem sanctuary to el Khudr, or St. George; the rock is a good deal cut on this side to allow of buildings on the ledges, and the hill-side seems to have been terraced, and the walls of the terraces ornamented by small stones three inches square set diagonally in cement. A little farther west, about 200 yards from the spring, some mosaic pavement was found running under the roots of very large olive-trees.

The town was naturally fortified on three sides, north and west by the river, and south by a deep valley. On the eastern side a wall with three large square towers was defended by a broad and deep ditch, which was probably flooded with water. At the north-west angle

another large square tower defended the bridge over the river and the northern side, where the river does not run so deep as on the western side, and therefore more liable to be attacked. Surrounded by water, and with strong towers and walls, this must have been a very strong place in the early days of siege operations.

All the fortifications are of large drafted stones, and appear to be Crusading work; they probably are the remains of the citadel of the town alluded to by William of Tyre (XX.), which resisted Noor ed Deen's attack on the town.

The only other remains of ancient Baniyas are some fine granite columns lying about, and the remains of a Roman aqueduct running through the town, now almost buried in refuse.

The castle of Baniyas, Kal'at es Subeibeh, is situated on a lofty spur  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles east of the town, and towers nearly 1,500 feet above it. It is the finest ruined castle I have seen in the country, measuring 1,450 feet from east to west, by an average of 360 feet north and south. Deep valleys defend it on the north and south; on the west there is a rock-cut ditch, and the end of the spur falls steeply away from it; on the east, the only approachable side, it is difficult of access, as the rocks rise steeply from the narrow ridge to the castle. The walls are defended by round towers, and are built of drafted stones with the bosses left rough, having a good many masons' marks. There seems to have been an earlier tower at the north-west angle, built of much larger stones, with the faces hammer-dressed, and without masons' marks. Some of the stones are double drafted; in this portion there are the remains of an undoubted pointed arch, thus limiting the date of the most ancient portion.

In the interior the rock rises to nearly the level of the top of the round towers, and at the eastern end is a massive keep. A good many chambers are still perfect. The Saracenic repairs seem not to have lasted as well as the ruins themselves, and, except the inscriptions cut on more ancient work, they have almost totally disappeared. The earliest of these dates from 625 A.H., and details how Melek el Azis Murâd ed Din, nephew of Saladin, rebuilt the eastern portion of the fortress. There are several others of nearly the same date, relating how different kings and sultans restored or rebuilt portions of the walls. The castle is well supplied with water in very large cisterns. A special plan and photographs of the castle were made. On the 11th camp was moved to Mahrakah, a village on the highland of Phœnicia, about two hours east of Tyre. The road led across the deep Wady el Hajeir, in which there is a fine spring, and past Kal'at Marûn, a modern Saracenic castle, to Mahrakah, which is situated on the top of a ridge. The rocks of this district are composed of white chalky limestone, and the valleys are deep and difficult to cross. The country is thickly covered with villages, but, except just round them, is bare of trees, and has a very barren appearance. A remarkable feature is the number of olive-presses; they occur on almost

every top, and are different to the more southern ones. Two square pillars of stone stand side by side about five feet high, with a slit cut in each of them, and by them is the circular stone press about four feet in diameter. Occasionally the round stone is also there that crushed the olives by being rolled round the press. The stone pillars, which do not occur in other parts of the country, were evidently to hold up the rolling stone, and the centre of the press is always raised slightly to receive the framework to which the roller was attached. They have a very ancient appearance, and as these pillars stand up very distinctly all over the country they look like ancient landmarks. The steep hills are almost all terraced, and there are a great number of ruins, showing that the ancient population of this part must have been very great. No remains of importance were found; all the ruins are simply heaps of stones with door-posts and lintels of stone. Some rude figures cut in the rock occur at different places; they are of the rudest description, occasionally only a parallelogram with a small circle for the head, which is pierced for eyes, mouth, &c. Others are better finished, and show portions of the dress. They occur on the face of the rock generally near tombs. Another feature in this part of the country are the large number of sarcophagi, which occur all over the country, some on pedestals, some lying on the ground. The grandest remaining is the tomb of Hiram, though I think there must have been formerly many equally magnificent, though now ruined. A very good view of this tomb is given by Dr. Tristram. The sarcophagus measures twelve feet long by six feet high, and the largest portion of the pedestal, which projects at five feet above the ground, is fourteen feet two inches long by nine feet nine inches broad. On the north side steps lead down to a small rectangular rock-hewn chamber; it was arched above and was full of water. This, and many places in the country round, I was told, were excavated by the French. Some enthusiastic Freemason has left a badly-scratched representation of the crossed triangles on the tomb. Tyre has been so often and so thoroughly described that I shall not attempt a description in this month's report; next month I hope to spend a few days there to plan and photograph the cathedral. I was much struck with the enormous monolithic columns of red granite which had been used in that building; they have evidently been taken from some ancient temple, and two of them are perfect double columns, as in the Jewish synagogues. If these were taken from an ancient temple, not a synagogue, it would appear that the Jews imitated those ancient buildings, and would account for the double columns at Belât, which may have been a copy of the more magnificent temple at Tyre.

Our next camp was at Nakurah, which we reached on the 22nd. Here we closed the triangulation of the north, the point on Ras en Nakurah being our last station. The country round this camp is principally limestone hills covered with small scrub and bushes. The roads are very bad. There are two large Christian villages in the neighbourhood, Alma and Bussa; the latter is situated on the south side of the Ras en Nakurah,

and contains from 1,200 to 1,300 inhabitants. The former is on the top of the hills, and shows by its superior cultivation that these bare hills might be made very productive. The country east of Alma is principally given up to the Arabs of the Haramsheh and Khletât tribes. Some members of the former are active thieves. Not long ago an Englishman was robbed on the road to Tyre, a little north of the Ras en Nakurah, and there are continual tales of robbery and murder in this district. North of our camp on a high top is Kal'at Shem'a, only 140 years old, and uninteresting except from its fine position. This country, which looks so bare and uninviting, was once covered with villages, the ruins of which occur on almost every top. Nothing of interest was discovered at any of them. They are mostly merely heaps of stones, with traces of foundations and cisterns. Some of them have a few pillars and tombs. At Kh. Umm el 'Amûd there are a good many columns and other traces of an ancient temple; there are also remains of an ancient mosaic pavement and a good many olive-presses. The French have excavated here. The road from Tyre to Akka shows a large amount of ancient paving, particularly so after passing the white promontory Ras el Abiad. An interesting inscription was discovered at the 'Ain at Nakurah, giving an account of the mending and enlarging of this road. Unfortunately, the name of the king is cut out. The inscription reads: "He has given the order to make the road broader and to build the walls of it between Akka and Tyre. By the virtue of God, our King, his Highness, the Great Sherrif (name broken), The Victorious (broken), He is great and high and pure. This inscription was written in the year seventy and eight hundred." The year 870 of the Hejira would be 1294 A.D., and at that time there reigned over Egypt and Palestine edh Dhahr Khushukdum, one of the Memlûk rulers: he reigned  $7\frac{1}{2}$  years and died in 1296. The inscription is probably due to him. I made an expedition by sea to the end of the Ras en Nakurah, in order to see an inscription I was told existed on the face of the rock. There was nothing but a few natural marks in the rocks, which looked something like letters. I expect the boatmen have started the delusion in order to get travellers to hire their boats.

One of the most remarkable monuments of antiquity in the country is a solitary column that stands upon the low hills forming the eastern edge of the Akka plain, immediately north of the entrance of Wady Kurn; it is called Khûrbet Hamsin. Three courses of large stones form a pedestal 11 feet by 10 feet and 9 feet high. A deep moulding runs round it near the top, almost entirely worn away by the weather. The column is composed of 11 circular discs 2 feet 10 inches high, and is 17 feet in circumference. It does not stand on the centre of the pedestal, being only one foot from the eastern edge. The total height of the monument is 40 feet; around it are a few ruins with some small columns and a few old olive-presses.

The amount surveyed up to the end of the month is 870 square miles.

I hope to finish the survey of the north about the 15th of next month.

There is very little information in the country of how the war is really going on, though there are a great many rumours started without foundation. All regular troops have now left the country for the seat of war. The Bedouins of the Beni Sakr tribe have taken advantage of this, and are now in the ghor under their chief, Fendy el F'ais. They muster about 4,000 spears. Their raids are quite unopposed by the authorities, and I hear they are demanding the Khowy or Arab tax from the fellahin. Fendy el F'ais, I am told, took £300 from Tiberias on this plea a short time ago.

## VI.

### CAMP AT ALEIH, *August 14, 1877.*

On the second of the month camp was moved to Yânûeh, a small village situated on the brow of the hills east of Akka. We were here 1,500 feet above our last camp at Nakurah, and consequently in a much pleasanter climate. The view over the whole of the Akka plain, bounded by Carmel and Râs en Nakurah, was very fine. Unfortunately two of our baggage camels fell on the road up the hills, and one of them died; the mules had, therefore, to make a second journey, and it was 2 a.m. before we got all our things safely into camp. Nothing of importance was broken. The country round our camp was principally composed of rocky hills, covered with small scrub and brushwood, only used as pasturage for goats. The cultivation occurs in patches near the villages, and large tracts of country lie waste which were probably once covered with vineyards.

The work from here was entirely surrounded by surveyed country, which made our progress more rapid. In the ten days we finished 140 square miles. The heat was very great in the low portions of the work, and the want of roads and difficulty in finding and examining ruins in the thick brushwood made it more tiring and took up a good deal of time.

The principal ruin of importance is the Kal'at el Kurein; in the Crusading times this was the Château de Montfort, and previous to its history under that name there appear to be no records of its existence. It is situated on a spur from the hills forming the southern bank of the Wâdy el Kurn, and is about 560 feet above the river in the valley below. The slopes from the sharp ridge on which the castle was placed descend very steeply on the north and east to the river, which here forms a bend on the west to a valley running into Wâdy el Kurn, and on the south it is cut off from the hills by an artificial ditch, which also formed the quarry where the splendid stones used in the construction of the building were excavated.

The ridge was not cut away to receive the castle, the outer walls were built some little way down the slope, the same as in several other

Crusading castles in this country, such as Belfort and Subeibeh. Thus a solid building was formed, the core being of natural rock; in this enormous cisterns were excavated, and on it the upper stories of the building rested firmly. The walls were all built with great care of large well-dressed stones, drafted on the outside, and with their faces smooth-dressed; the interior work was not drafted. These walls closely resemble the earliest portion of the masonry at Kul'at Subeibeh, and have been assigned to Phœnician origin, principally on account of the splendid size of the stones employed, and from the drafting and dressing, which resembles the Herodian work at Jerusalem. In both cases, however, there are undoubted remains of pointed arches, which seem to prove that the art of building had not degenerated in more modern times.

At the south-west angle one of the lower courses overlaps the courses below; it seems to have been thus constructed either to prevent scaling or to increase the size of the platform above; it seems to me to be a great defect in the defences of the castle, as it would form an easy lodgment from which the walls might be undermined, and unless carried up in successive courses, much higher, of which there is no proof, would have been easily surmounted by a scaling party.

On the northern side of the castle a large octagonal pillar remains, which probably formed a part of the chapel of the castle. The dimensions of the castle were 570 feet long, north and south, by from 84 to 125 feet broad. The remains are now unfortunately only slight, and are mixed up with Saracenic work of probably the time of Dhahr el Amr.

In the valley below there is a fine spring besides the stream of running water; there are also the remains of an ancient bridge, which probably carried an aqueduct over the river to drive a mill immediately below the castle. The position is a fine one, and the castle must have been of great strength.

Photographs and a special plan were made of the ruins.

M'aliâ is another Crusading site  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south-east of Kal'at Kurein; it was called Château du Roi. No traces of the ancient buildings now remain *in situ*, but there are a large number of drafted stones with bosses left rough built into modern walls and lying about.

A modern Christian village now occupies the place; it is situated on a round space, forming the south-east corner of two ranges of hills coming from the north and west, and rises steeply from the broad valley; on the south it is slightly detached from the hills by small valleys,

In the south-eastern portion of our work from this camp a large number of Druses are settled in one of their villages, el Bukeiah; there are also some Jewish families who till the ground. They state that their land has been handed down from generation to generation for a great number of years. I believe these are the only Jews who own and till land in this country. It is curious that they should thus appear close by where we find so many ruins of their ancient synagogues.

One mile and a half west of our camp is the Kal'at Jiddin, built in the time of Dhahr el Amr, who ruled this country as an independent chieftain. The castle from a distance has an imposing appearance, but on close inspection it is found to be a badly constructed pile of buildings without interest and rapidly falling to ruin. It is quite unoccupied, though there are several chambers and vaults that could serve as habitations. The country round is given up to the Arabs, except close round some small hamlets, where a few crops are grown.

On the 10th July the survey of the north was finished, containing 1,000 square miles of country; 2,773 names have been collected, and 476 ruins have been visited and described, some with special plans. All the villages have also been described with regard to the number and religion of inhabitants, the remains of ancient buildings, and the nature of the country round, &c., &c.

The water-supply of the country has also in all cases been specially described.

The whole country has been hill-shaded; the altitudes of a great number of points have been obtained by aneroid readings besides the observed heights.

Special notes have been taken on the geology, archæology, &c., of the country.

The line of levels connecting the Mediterranean and the Sea of Galilee was completed on the 24th March.

Photographs have been taken of the more interesting sites in the country.

On the 11th, camp was moved to Haifa, and after four days' arranging stores, &c., we marched up the coast to Aleih, where Mr. Eldridge, H.B.M's. Consul-General, has his summer residence. The journey was very trying from the intense heat. Office work was at once started, a room in a ruined house close to our tents being all we required.

I hope early in September to be at work in the south, the only portion now remaining to complete the Survey of Palestine.

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*Commanding Palestine Survey.*

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## NOTES FROM THE MEMOIR.

*Zion.*—In a former paper I noticed the occurrence of this name at some distance west of Jerulalem. I may perhaps be allowed to cite some of the passages tending to support my view that Zion is to be taken as a district name, like "Mount Ephraim." From 2 Chron. xxxiii. 14, and xxii. 30, we gather that Hezekiah's aqueduct was brought to the west side of the City of David from Gihon, which was the Virgin's Pool, according to the Jews, the Lower Gihon being Siloam in the