

The name is that of the Murex, and means "snail" in Hebrew (the Arabic *Halzûn*). It has thus the same derivation with Porphyreon, also named from the Murex which yielded the purple. Reland supposes a connection with the text (Canticles vii. 5), "Thy head like Carmel, and the hair of thy head like purple," as alluding to the fishery of the Murex near Carmel. Chilzon is noticed, according to this authority, as a town from which, as far as the ladder of Tyre, the Murex was caught, but Neubauer supposes the word to be used only for the name of the mollusk in the Talmud.

In another ancient itinerary the town Chilzon is noticed as distinct from Haifa, and might be the northern or true Porphyreon. In the Targums the Chilzon or Murex is noticed as among the riches of the tribe of Zebulon, and as "coming up into the hills" (Buxtorf). This seems to give a clue to the real position of the place, for Zebulon did not possess any of the land north of Sidon where Porphyreon really stood, but the country from Carmel to Acre, and the Belus, in and near which the Murex is found and was caught originally.

The name still exists. It is applied to a large valley, a confluent of the Belus, called *Wâdy Halzûn*, "the valley of the snail" (or Murex). Here, then, if anywhere, Chilzon most likely stood, and not at Haifa, as supposed by Reland, if, indeed, a town of the name ever existed.

The fishery of the Murex extended from Phœnicia down to the Bay of Acre, and along these shores the mollusk (*Murex Trunculus*) is still found.

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BARAK AND SISERA.

Judges iv.

THERE are few episodes of the Old Testament history on which more light has been thrown by the Survey discoveries than that of the famous defeat of the Canaanites under Sisera.

The topography hitherto has been wonderfully obscure. The central position is Tabor. Hazor, Kedesh, and Bitzaanaim have been generally placed in Upper Galilee, over thirty miles from Tabor, whilst Megiddo has been placed close to Taanach, fourteen miles south-west. This is contrary to what we generally observe in the Scripture narrative, for the places noticed in a single episode are almost always close together.

I propose to show how the whole scene can be laid in the neighbourhood of Tabor within a radius of five or six miles.

The kings of Canaan (or of the low lands) were governed by Jabin, who lived at Hazor. They assembled at Taanach, and by the waters of Megiddo, but the battle was apparently not fought close to these places, for in Psalm lxxxiii. we read that they "perished in Endor," and the

army of Sisera was destroyed in the Kishon, which has its origin far north of these towns.

It cannot be supposed that Barak would desert the fastnesses of Tabor and undertake a long march of fifteen miles over the boggy plain to attack the Canaanites strongly placed on the slopes of the low hills at Taanach. Scripture says, "I will draw unto thee, Sisera . . . unto the river Kishon." And here, with the full advantage of a rush from the high ground, Barak, like Napoleon in his battle of Tabor, descended upon the Canaanites, who were driven into the bogs and swamps from which the main stream of the Kishon rises, and in which the Turks lost so many men in the later battle. It is true that an affluent of the Kishon comes from near Taanach, but the *Mujahiyeh*, or "spring head," is under the Nazareth hills, just west of Tabor.

The notice of Endor shows that the kings in the first instance advanced from the south, and no doubt posted themselves at the foot of the conical mountain on which Endor is placed before venturing into the open plain south-west of Tabor. Thus the position of Megiddo at the ruin called *Mujedda*, in the Jordan valley, which I proposed in a paper on the subject on entirely different grounds, is in accordance with this advance. The "waters of Megiddo" must be the innumerable streams of the broad valley of Jezreel and the springs which flow in abundance from the mound of *Mujedda*.

The defeat of Sisera drove his host into the Kishon, "that river of battles—the river Kishon" (according to Gesenius' rendering instead of "ancient").

This points to the identity of Harosheth of the Gentiles with *el Harathiyeh* as generally accepted, and the name "wooded country" is derived, no doubt, from the fine oak woods on the hills west of the Kishon, towards which the Canaanites who succeeded in getting through the swamps would have fled.

But Sisera fled away by himself to the plain Bitzaanaim, which was in the neighbourhood of that Kedesh where Barak had gathered his men before advancing to Tabor.

Barak was of the tribe of Naphtali, and this has directed attention to *Kedes* (Kadesh Naphtali) and the great plain near it. We must then suppose Sisera to have fled for thirty miles, over mountains 4,000 feet high, through the most difficult country in Palestine. We must suppose Barak to have marched down from these hills to the plain, and then back again to Hazor, over the waters of Merom, according to Josephus.

There is, however, a far simpler explanation. There is a *Kedesh* on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, only some sixteen miles from Tabor, a place appropriate for a gathering of the tribes and within the bounds of Naphtali, as that tribe held all the country east of Tabor. And between this Kedesh and Tabor there is a broad plain, and in it a place called *Bessum*, a word radically identical with the name Bitzaanaim, and close to the towns of Adami (*ed Dâmeb*) and Nekeb (*Nakib*), which are noticed in the Book of Joshua (xix. 33) in connection with Bitzaanaim.

Thus the whole of Sisera's flight is reduced to the far more probable distance of five or six miles from the scene of his defeat—a distance possible for the powers of a man so exhausted as Sisera was, and is directed in a line just opposite to that of the pursuit of his army towards Harosheth. It may be added that the name Bitzaanaim has not been recovered in the old supposed position, and does not occur in any other part of Palestine.

Much might be added in illustration of this episode with regard to the storm, the meteor shower, the butter given by Jael, the hammer and nail, and the alleged reasons, according to the Jews, for the murder; but this paper is intended to point out only the probable topography of the account.

C. R. C.

MEETING OF GENERAL COMMITTEE.

THE Annual Meeting of the General Committee was held at the office of the Fund on Tuesday, July 17th, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Barclay in the chair.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

2. The following Report of the Executive Committee was then read:—

“The Executive Committee have, on resigning the trust committed to them on June 26th, 1876, to render an account of their administration and work during the past twelve months.

1. On their first sitting Mr. W. Hepworth Dixon was elected Chairman for the year.

2. The number of meetings held during the year has been twenty-four. There have also been meetings of the Publication Committee, the Finance Committee, and various sub-committees, specially appointed from time to time, to investigate and report on matters of importance as they occurred.

3. The exploration work of the year divides itself into two portions—the field work, and that of drawing the map, calculating the observations, and preparing the memoirs. From June to January the whole strength of the Royal Engineers in the service of the Committee was employed on the latter branch of work, two officers and five non-commissioned officers being engaged upon the map in an office taken for them for this purpose. The result is that out of twenty-six sheets, twenty are so far advanced that, were it not for a few points of difficulty which must be answered by re-examination of the ground, they might be put into an engraver's hands at once. As regards the memoirs, which are the special work of Lieutenant Conder, the last report of progress shows that the whole of the names collected by Lieutenant Conder for the map—6,000 in number—have been translated, compared with the official lists and those of Rogers, Robinson, Zeller, and others, and the translation has been completed as far as possible. This very important part of the