

It is curious that east of Acre is a valley marked on Van de Velde's as Wady *Shagghir* or *Shā'ab*, and a district in Galilee is called Esh Shāghur.

Ayal (the hart) is mentioned in Psa. xlii. 1, which is allowed to have been composed on the eastern side of the Jordan, and why not, I would ask, by David, while he lay at Mahanaim? If this city be identified with Mahneh, it is a remarkable coincidence that close to it is a village named el-Mesar (Van de Velde) or Mezer (Finn's "Byeways," p. 67), recalling "the hill (really *mountain*) *Mizar*," while not far off a fine view is obtained of Mount *Hermon*, and probably of the *Jordan* valley, answering to the words, "the land of Jordan and of the Hermonites" (Psa. xlii. 6).

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AI.

TRULY Ai is like a will-o'-the-wisp. It has been seen at Et-Tel, Haiyan, Kh. Haiy, and Rummon; yet still it eludes unanimous identification.

On the new map Et Tell is marked E.S.E., and Michmash, near Kh. Haiy, a little S. of S.E. from Beitin (Bethel). Thus the expression, "Ai, on the east side of Bethel" (Josh vii. 2), does not exclude any of the above-named sites. Michmash was *eastward* from Beth-aven (1 Sam. xiii. 5 = to the east of Bethaven.—Sp. Comm.), which again, apparently, was "on the east side of Bethel" (Josh. vii. 2). The words "east side" fail, therefore, to help us in choosing between the four places already specified, while, if Deir Diwan be Bethaven (as first proposed by Mr. Finn), then *eastward* in 1 Sam. xiii. means something very little east of due south.

In Josh. vii., viii., and Neh. vii. 32, Bethel is so closely connected with Ai, that it seems to me that Aija (Neh. xi. 31) and Avim (Josh. xviii. 23) must be allowed to be Ai, which I regard as also being Aiath (Isa. x. 28).

The cliff Rimmon (Judg. xx. 45) appears to me to be identical with the Rimmon (Auth. V. translated "pomegranate") of 1 Sam. xiv. 2; and the boundary of Benjamin I take to have been drawn south of Rummon, which in this case cannot have been the site of Ai, though it is visible from Geba.

As the height of Almit is 2,089 feet, of Hizmah 2,020 feet, and of Geba 2,220 feet, the first of these must be visible from the last, as the intermediate distance is about two miles. Thus all the places named in Isa. x. 28-32 (as supposed to be identified on p. 58, *Quarterly Statement*, 1877, and p. 133, 1878) have been *ascertained* to be visible from Geba, except three—viz., Gallim, which has not been tested, Ramah, which I still hope will prove to be visible, as Almit and Laish have done (*Quarterly Statement*, 1877, p. 205), and lastly Ai (or Aiath), which is visible if it be Et Tel or Kh. Haiy, or Rummon, and probably so if it be Haiyan.

Ai must have had a good supply of water close at hand, as was the case at Jericho, Bethel, Gibeon, &c. To help us, then, in identifying its site, we have (1) a spring, (2) an open valley (*emek*), (3) another valley (*gai*), not to speak of ruins or a position commanding the road from Jericho. Surely we may hope that the new map will solve the difficulty.