

Gibeah of Saul. In this case also we have to contend with an assumption of Dr. Robinson's. There is no connection either by name or distance between Tell el Fâl (probably a corruption of the Hebrew Ophel or "tumulus") and Gibeah; and after many visits to the site I entirely failed to find any traces of a town or village. *Tell el Fâl* is an isolated monument (probably a beacon) and not a city at all.

In writing on this question Mr. Birch concludes that the Gibeah where the Levite's concubine was killed was not Geba of Benjamin, but a distinct city. It is, however, worthy of notice that a confusion is here introduced by the authorised version which in two cases reads Gibeah where the Hebrew has Geba. This has already been pointed out by Mr. Grove:—

"That they may do when they come to Gibeah (לִבְעָה) of Benjamin, according to all the folly they have wrought in Israel (Judges xx, 10), and again:—

"The liers in wait came forth out of their places, even out of the meadows of Gibeah (מִמְעַרָה גִבְעָה literally "from the cave of Geba," Judges xx, 33); this shows that linguistically no distinction was made between Gibeah and Geba, just as the word is now spelt indifferently *Jeba'* and *Jeba'h*.

Josephus places Gabaoth Saule at the Valley of Thorns; and if he refers to Wâdy Suweint ("valley of the little thorn tree"), this favours the identification with *Jeba'*.

That Gibeah of Saul was a district having its capital at Geba would seem to follow from the following passages:—

"The uttermost part of Gibeah, under a pomegranate tree which is in Migron" (1 Sam. xiv, 2), Migron being near Ai, probably a district name or that of a natural feature (c.f. Isaiah x, 28).

"Saul abode in Gibeah, under a tree in Ramah" (1 Sam. xxii, 6) Ramah being south of W. Suweint and west of *Jeba'*.

C. R. C.

NEW IDENTIFICATIONS.

Beit ^AAula has generally been identified with Bethul, but is too far in the hills. The suggestion of Beit Leyi for Bethul leaves Beit Aula for Holon (Joshua xv, 51), which fits far better topographically.

Zephathah (2 Chron. xiv, 10) is probably the present *Sâfieh*. See foot note to the note on Kadesh Barnea.

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