

models which had been beautifully fashioned in wood: the panels on them are clear evidence of this; they had also been ornamented with metal bosses. The stone doors of Persia speak for themselves, and tell of danger from sudden attacks. This suggests that the transformation on the east of the Jordan from wood to stone implies a change which had taken place at some former date in the condition of the country, that a peaceful state had been succeeded by an unsettled period, during which the use of stone for doors became, as we find in Persia, a necessary precaution. The substantial form of the original wooden, as well as the elaborate reduplication of them in the lithic material, is not consistent with the idea of a hasty or momentary adoption, but points, in both cases, to a considerable duration of time when each of them had been in use. We may thus derive a hint from these peculiar portals which may be of some historical significance.

WILLIAM SIMPSON.

II.

THE STONE DOORS OF TIBERIAS.

THE stone door at Tiberias figured and described on page 79 of the last *Quarterly Statement* is the same that I saw in 1880, and which I described in my "Sacred Palmlands" in the following words:—"Tiberias, March, 31 I long to know the date of a pair of massive old stone doors which we saw inserted into the gateway of a modern Jewish house as we passed through the town this morning. No sooner had we stopped to notice them than the Jewish proprietor, accompanied by a number of his relatives and friends (belonging to the Askenazim and Polish Jews), came out and gathered in a group around us. They told us that the doors had lately been discovered buried under the present edifice. They are carved in imitation of wood, the design on them being bosses arranged quincunx fashion, alternating with panels. In the upper inside panel is a projection hollowed out apparently for the reception of the bolt which kept their massive folding doors securely fastened. I observed a block of stone also with bosses carved upon it, built into a house further on, and other remains of this sort are to be found here. I fancy by the style of workmanship they belong to the same period as the giant cities of Bashan." The sketch of the stone door made on the spot by my mother (who was travelling with me) is identical with the engraving on page 79 illustrating Mr. Oliphant's paper.

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