

8. *The Byzantine Period.*—Survival of paganism. Chrysostom's and Cyril's description of Syria. The Eastern rites, baptism, &c. The heresies of the age. Superstitions. Byzantine trade. The alphabets employed. Luxury and poverty. Architecture of churches.

9. *The Arab Conquest.*—Early monumental history of the Arabs. The Persians in Syria. The rise of Islam. The sources of the Koran. Arab civilisation, architecture, literature, trade. The Dome of the Rock. Kufic and Neshki alphabets. Coins of the Khalifs. Toleration of the Christians.

10. *The Crusaders.*—Sketch of Crusading history. The origin and character of the Crusades. The Latins and the Eastern churches in Syria. Architecture. Government, trades, dress, and armour. Civil and ecclesiastical division of the country. The great castles. Literature, art, coins, seals, pictures. Decay of the Franks. Richard and St. Louis. The military orders. Assassins, &c.

In order to make the narrative as continuous as possible, details and *excursi* are confined to foot-notes, where authorities are quoted. The book is illustrated with three maps, taken from non-Biblical sources, representing Syria in 1300 B.C., in 500 A.D., and in 1300 A.D. There are besides about thirty illustrations, chiefly the author's own drawings from the original objects, including plans, inscriptions, statues, rude stone monuments, views, &c.

The book is dedicated by permission to H.R.H. Prince Albert Victor C. Edward of Wales, K.G., in memory of his interest in Palestine during his visit to the Holy Land in 1882. A good index is to be added, with description of illustrations and list of principal authorities. The author has striven to avoid controversy, and to render the work as completely as the limits allow a picture of Syrian civilisation in the various periods under notice.

NOTES BY CAPTAIN CONDER.

I.—BRONZE VASE FROM NABLUS.

THIS curious jug, now in the office of the Fund, I purchased in Nablus. The three heads represent some Pagan triad, but there is nothing to show date.

I observe, however, a representation on an engraved gem from King's Gnostic collection (Plate IV, Fig. 5, p. 209, King's "Gnostics"), very like my vase. Mr. King calls this a Bacchic vase.

II.—“TWENTY-ONE YEARS' WORK.”

I MAY perhaps be allowed a few remarks on this excellent summary just published by the Palestine Exploration Fund Committee.

The map, p. 49, will be very useful. The “Pool of Bethesda” is shown in the present traditional site. In the fourth century it was shown at the “Twin Pools” at the north-west angle of the Haram. I believe Robinson's site at En Rogel to be the true one. It will be noted that the newly discovered wall is within some 30 yards of my proposed second wall. As to the course of the first wall on the south, I have shown it in my later maps rather further south than the line attributed to me on this plain. Warren's Ophel wall ought to be shown at the south-east angle of the Haram.

Page 64. The identification of Zephath and Sebeita is unsatisfactory. The two words have no letter in common. The Arabic for Zephath would be Safa.

Page 65. Hazeroth is not likely to have been as far north as Prof. Palmer thought. The true site is probably Burckhardt's 'Ain Hadhrah. I may note here that I have read carefully Dr. Trumbull's work and Mr. Baker Greene's “Hebrew Migrations,” but do not agree with the topographical views of either. The latter especially is open to severe criticism, and ignores much that has now been made quite certain. For instance, Engedi is moved to the south of the Dead Sea.

Page 70. Shutneh is not the proper Arabic equivalent of Sitnah, which is spelt with Samech. Still the identification is not impossible.

Page 90. I feel great difficulty in accepting the “Rock altar” of Zorah, though Dr. Chaplin tells me he thinks it is one. Flat rocks were used as altars in all countries, but I know no instance of a hewn rock altar, and the picture recalls some of the quarry cuttings commonly found in Palestine.

Page 117. There appears to me to be no reason at all to identify Wâdy Suweinit with the rock Rimmon.

Page 129. Salam Isim should be Salem Tsion. The tombs found by M. Clermont-Ganneau, north of Jerusalem, are probably crusading. That of Simon the Just here figured is not one of them. It is further north.

Page 175. The large survey made under my direction of Gezer does not seem to bear out the theory as to the Levitical limits of the city. Careful search was made on all the rocks for further inscriptions, but none were found. These texts are the most puzzling of the antiquities of Palestine.

Page 189. The discovery of other tombs renders the proposed fixing of the Holy Sepulchre at the one here drawn less certain. It will be noted that I never more than suggested a possibility in this case.

Page 196. My description of the stone over Jacob's well will be found in the “Memoirs,” Vol. II. This stone is certainly not older than the twelfth century A.D.

Page 203. Not only is Smith's "Bible Dictionary" rendered antiquated by its Jerusalem and other topographical articles, but the progress of archæology leaves it far behind in many other respects—*e.g.*, the article on the Phœnicians is now quite out of date. A more compendious dictionary is much needed, and nearly every article would probably have to be rewritten. The hasty critical articles in the new edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica" do not supply this want. The best work of the kind, the "Variorum Bible," is too slight for the purpose of a scholar. There is indeed at present no really modern Bible Dictionary.

III.—KOKABA.

THIS place, mentioned by Julius Africanus (see Eusebius, H. E. I., viii, 14), and in the Onomasticon, *s.v.* Choba, and again by Epiphanius, Hæres xviii 1, xix 1-2, xxix 7, xxx 2-18, xl 1, liii 1, was beyond Jordan in Bataned, near Edrei and Ashtaroth Karnaim. It has been vainly sought on former maps, being a town of the Ebionites or early Christians of Bashan. On the new survey of the district I find a Kaukab marked seven miles west of Tell 'Ashtarah. It is said in the memoir to be a large ruin with ancient masonry. This seems to me the best find in the limits of the piece of Bashan surveyed.

LIST OF IDENTIFICATIONS, BY CAPTAIN CONDER, R.E., INSERTED ON BIBLE SOCIETY'S NEW MAPS.

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| 1. Luz. | 17. Naarath. |
| 2. Migdol el. | 18. Jazer. |
| 3. Ummah. | 19. Gibeah. |
| 4. Dabbasheth. | 20. Kirjath Jearim. |
| 5. Beth Dagon. | 21. Hareth. |
| 6. Lasharon. | 22. Kanaan. |
| 7. Adami. | 23. Debir. |
| 8. Remeth. | 24. Hezron. |
| 9. Rabbith. | 25. Bamoth Baal. |
| 10. Tirzah. | 26. Beth Peor. |
| 11. Abel Meholah. | 27. Beth Jeshimoth. |
| 12. Ramoth Gilead. | 28. Beth Gamul. |
| 13. Rakkon. | 29. Hill Hachilah. |
| 14. Timnath Serah. | 30. Mejarkon. |
| 15. Bezek. | 31. Archi. |
| 16. Bezek. | 32. Seneh. |

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| 33. Bozez. | 39. Irpeel. |
| 34. Nephtoah. | 40. Archi. |
| 35. Galem. | 41. Caphar Hananiah. |
| 36. Beth Hacerem. | 42. Archelais. |
| 37. Hazor (Benjamin). | 43. Beth Laban. |
| 38. Gederah (do.). | 44. Kadesh on Orontes. |

The boundaries of the tribes, and those of Judea, Samaria, Galilee, &c., are also as laid down by Captain Conder, R.E. The scale of the maps does not admit of introducing many names of minor importance which are, nevertheless, now well fixed.

ACROSS THE JORDAN.

A REPLY TO C. R. C.'S NOTES THEREON.

In the April *Quarterly Statement* (1886) I find some "Notes on Across the Jordan," by Captain Conder. The remarks made are very useful, and I am thankful for the author's thorough critique and review, but I find it necessary to reply to a few remarks, and to correct some errors made in the press.

1. *'Ain es Sfëra* (or es Sfeira), pp. 259, 262, of Mr. Oliphant's account, proposed to be rendered "the yellowish spring" by Captain Conder, is correct and has to be written **عين الصفيرا**, according to information gathered on the spot.

2. *El 'Araj* written **الأعرج**, p. 244, of Mr. Oliphant's account would doubtless render "the lane," but never "the ascent" as Captain Conder proposes, which had to be spelled without an aleif **العرج**; there is no reason to call the place an ascent, while it is situate on a dead level plain, the Buteiha. I have also mapped and explored the site, and would maintain with Mr. Oliphant the original spelling and meaning.

3. *Tuld Kana'an* **تلول كنعان**, p. 199. *Tuld* must be written with one l in the middle, not "Tullûl" as adopted in the "Map and Memoirs of Western Palestine." The singular **تل** has a sheddi ^ˆ but the plural **تلول** no more. The same mistake must be altered in "Tullûl el Hesh," p. 231. *Kana'an* is the carefully gathered original correct spelling.

4. *Et T'reh* was originally spelt **الطيرة** by me, but was altered in the press into the false **التيرة**.

5. *Wâdy 'Ulleika* **وادي علقية**, p. 101, can also be written **عَلَيْقَى**, but is omitted in the map. It is the Wâdy running close east to 'Arâk el Heitalyeh into the Yarmûk, and must be trans-written with two l's, not