

III.

THE PLACE OF ELIJAH'S SACRIFICE

Is near the edge of a hollow or sloping plateau, about 300 feet below the actual south-eastern summit of Carmel, and probably close to a spring which Tristram shows to be a never-failing one from the fact of the shell-mollusc *Neritina michonii* being found in it. The sea can be seen from the *shoulder* of the mountain, about ten minutes' walk from this spot. Hence it was not necessary for Elijah's servant to go to the very top seven times, as some writers assert.

Everything here, as elsewhere, corroborates the minute accuracy of the Scripture narrative.

HENRY BRASS.

St. Matthew's, Red Hill,
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REV. C. DE CARA AND THE HITTITES.

IN a letter to the "Civiltà Cattolica," the Rev. C. de Cara, S.J., has recently announced :—

"Of the similarity of the characters of the archaic alphabet of Cyprus with those of the inscriptions of Hamath near the Orontes, no one has sought the reason which now I have found, and which seems to me convincing, viz., that the origin of the archaic Cypriote is due to the Hittites."

It is curious that the Rev. Father should claim a discovery already indicated by Fr. Sayce in 1880, and which I have endeavoured to elaborate for the last three years; but the result, no doubt independently reached, serves to show the soundness of a comparison so generally accepted.

C. R. C.

PELLA.

DOUBTS having been expressed as to the position of Pella, and its identity with Fahil, the following notes may be of use :—

Jabes, a large village, was six Roman miles from Pella, on the way to Gerasa. Amathus, beyond Jordan, was 21 Roman miles from Pella, towards the south (not the Amathus near Gadara, but the southern town of the name). Arbel, beyond Jordan, was "in finibus Pellæ." Jabesh Gilead was six miles from Pella, on the mountain in the direction of Gerasa (see "Onomasticon"). In the Talmud הַמְּתוּחַ דְּפַתְלָא or "the Hot Bath of Pella" is mentioned (Tal Jer Shebiith, vi, 1), evidently the springs at Tell Hamma. The name of Jabesh is preserved in Wâdy Yâbis. Amathus is Tell Ammâta, 15 Roman miles in a direct line south of Fahil.

C. R. C.