

LIBNAH.

By Lieut.-Colonel CONDER, LL.D., R.E.

THE site of Libnah remains uncertain. It indicates the "white" chalk of the Southern Shephelah, and it was taken by Joshua (Joshua x, 30) after Makkedah and before Lachish and Hebron. It was a royal city (xii, 15), and was attacked by Sennacherib coming from near Jaffa after the siege of Lachish (2 Kings xviii, 17; xix, 8). These indications are not very precise, and in the Onomasticon it is not clear that the site was known, but it cannot have been very far from Lachish. The large mound of *Tell en Nejeleh* has been suggested, and is no doubt an ancient site, but the names have no connection. There is, however, a ruin about 10 miles south-east of Lachish (*Tell el Hesy*), called *el Benawy*, which would be a possible corruption of the name Libnah.

Sennacherib might not unnaturally advance in this direction, where a large valley leads up into the Judean mountains, and would reach it coming from the north after Lachish. Joshua, on the other hand, must have passed by Lachish, and returned to take it before ascending to Hebron. There is no known name in the plains of Philistia which can represent Libnah, but *el Benawy* is a ruin near the foot of the hills.

 THE VALLEY GATE AND THE DUNG GATE.

By Rev. GEORGE ST. CLAIR, F.G.S.

DR. T. F. WRIGHT spends two-thirds of his letter to show that Nehemiah, in enumerating the gates of Jerusalem, proceeds by the north and west to the south. As this is evident on the face of the description, and is assumed in my book on "Buried Cities," I do not know why he should waste his space to prove it. The question was rather whether Dr. Wright's hasty adoption of two newly-discovered gates as the Valley Gate and the Dung Gate, was so sure as to justify him in crowing over "all the geographers." His wall and gates seem to be post-Christian, and are not necessarily on the same sites as Nehemiah's.

In my book I show good reasons for putting the Valley Gate near the present Jaffa Gate, in the middle of the west wall; and in this I agree with Lewin, Schick, and others. The Dung Gate would then necessarily be south or south-east of the Valley Gate. Professor Wright thinks he finds the Valley Gate near the south-west corner, and in order to support this position quotes Nehemiah as stating that the Dung Gate was a thousand cubits further east; whereas, as he now confesses, "the text does not say east" at all.

My opinions published in 1891 were founded on a study of all the results of exploration and excavation up to that time. I am ready to revise them should Dr. Bliss's work disprove any of my suggested identifications ; but at present that does not appear to be the case.

MEDIÆVAL TOPOGRAPHY OF PALESTINE.

By Lieut.-Colonel CONDER, LL.D., R.E.

IN preparing a new map of the Latin Fiefs in Western Palestine, I have added a few names to those mentioned in my former paper (January, 1890), which are, as far as I can ascertain, not yet fixed :—

1. *Capfar Suma*, belonging to the Abbey of Tabor in 1103 A.D., is probably *Kefr Sumei'a*, west of Toron.
2. *Meschia*, of the same list, apparently is *Mes-hah*, near Tabor.
3. *Bene Habeth*, of the Holy Sepulchre in 1114, is perhaps for *Beni Hârith*, north of Jerusalem.
4. *Luceri*, of the Hospital near Mirabel in 1122, perhaps the ruin *Sh'ârekh*, west of Râs el 'Ain.
5. *St. Job*, belonging to St. Mary of Jehosaphat in 1129, is the present *Deir Eyâb*, near Bâb el Wâd.
6. *Gemmail*, of the same list, will be *Jemm'ain*, south of Nâblus.
7. *Jebethza*, of the Hospital in 1129, probably *Jebâta*, west of Nazareth.
8. *Aldefie*, or *Hautfie*, of the Hospital in 1131, is perhaps another form of *Dufeis*, south of Carmel.
9. *Caper Salem*, of the same list, is perhaps now *Selmeh*, near Jaffa.
10. *Hale*, of the Hospital in 1136, is apparently *Yâlo*, near Amwâs, which may be the *Meimes* of this list.
11. *Bothme*, of the same list, is *Deir el Butm*, near Blanchegarde.
12. *Charraubet*, of this list, is *Khurâbeh*, near Ramleh.
13. *Helhtavrahin*, of the same list, is probably for *Deir et Tahâneh*, near 'Ain Shems. This would indicate that *Deir el Cobebe* is not Kubeibeh, north-west of Jerusalem, but more probably *El Kubâb*, near Ramleh.
14. *Huzemia*, of the Holy Sepulchre in 1132, near Kâra and Jabbûl, is probably not Ikzim, but the ruin *Hukeimiyeh*, north of Beisân.
15. *Tamarin*, of the Hospital in 1168, is probably *Tumrah*, north of Gaza.
16. *Vuetmoamel*, or *Odomamel*, probably stands for *Wâdy en Naml*, north-west of Jerusalem.
17. *Lachamberlaine*, a place near Subebe (or the Castle of Baniâs), may have been corrupted to *es Sanbariyyeh*, a place near Tell el Kâdy.
18. *Sida*, belonging to St. Sion in 1178, is *Saida*, north of Samaria.
19. *Casforana*, of the same list, is probably *Kefr 'Ana*, near Lydda.