

it follows naturally that the valley gate must have been in a position near to, or leading into, that valley, and also affording egress to the western exterior of the Upper City. Professor Wright's site leads neither into the *gai* nor to Tophet (1897, p. 73), but into the *emek*.

It might be added that with the valley gate near the north-west corner of the Upper City—the expression (Neh. xii, 31) *on the right hand*—precisely describes the southern march of the Ezra procession.

The theory of Robertson Smith and Professor Sayce (1884, p. 73) entirely excluded the south-west hill from præexilic Jerusalem, and so, of course, did not locate the valley gate near the Jaffa gate. Neither of these writers, however, made good his theory in these pages. I have pointed out (1889, p. 209) how absurd it would have been for the Jews to have made a pool (and fortified it) at the foot of the south-west hill at Siloam, if that hill had been left outside Jerusalem for the enemy to occupy it. What fun the Chaldeans would have had in rolling big stones down hill into the water or against a wall so remarkably illplaced!

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## NOTE ON MIZPEH AND SHEN.

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THE site of Mizpeh of Benjamin has long been sought in vain. That it was somewhere near Geba (*Jeb'a*) seems to be indicated by 1 Kings xv, 22, which indicates also a frontier fortress near Ramah (*er Râm*). In Joshua (xviii, 26) it comes next to Beeroth (*Bireh*). It occurs again with Gibeah and Bethel (Judges xx, 1), the latter being mentioned in verses 26, 31, though not in the authorised version (*see* also xxi, 18), and it was celebrated in connection with Samuel's victory (1 Sam. vii). It was still known in the second century B.C. (1 Macc. iii, 46).

It has never before occurred to me, nor have I seen it suggested by any other writer, that the conspicuous site called *Tell Nasbeh* occupies just the proper position on the watershed south of Bireh. The change of M into N so often occurs that this name might well represent Mizpeh. The identification leads us to seek for Shen and Ebenezer in the same vicinity; the former may be *Kefr Shiyân*, a ruin west of Ramallah and east of 'Ain 'Arik (Archi); and Ebenezer must have been a monument on the highest part of the watershed between these two (*see* 1 Sam. vii, 12).

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