

Tarku. The people called *SU* (in Assyrian, *ḫissatu*, or "multitude," probably the same as the Turkish word *soi*, "race"), who spoke the Akkadian language, also adored Istar, and in the enumeration of their gods we find mentioned the names of *Tartakhanu* and *Taraku*, in the great enumeration of gods worshipped in Assyria—both native and foreign—in the seventh century B.C. The first of these names appears to be in Akkadian "Lord of Justice;" the second may be connected with the common Turkish *Tar* for "deity." In Akkadian, the great god Ea is called *Dura* and *Tarakhu*. These names thus appear to connect the Hittites with the Akkadians. The symbolism of Hittite statues representing deities is also the same found among the Akkadians.

DEAD SEA OBSERVATIONS.

(Continued from "Quarterly Statement," 1904, p. 281.)

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THE visits paid to the Dead Sea in the latter half of 1904 show a continued fall of level, and the lowest level of the season is $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches lower than the lowest of last season, and $23\frac{1}{2}$ inches lower than the level in April (1904). I have here to record two visits, one paid in August by Mr. Hornstein and myself together—an extra visit in anticipation of my departure to England—and the regular autumn one made by Mr. Hornstein alone in October.

SECOND VISIT TO 'AIN FESHKHAH, 1904.

Visit made from our school-boys' camp in *Wādy Kelt* on afternoon of August 24th. After emerging from the wādy we crossed the Jericho road and descended to the Jericho plain by the *Akbat esh-Sharīf*, an ancient route still used by some native travellers. On our whole route we encountered no human being.

Weather.—Early in the afternoon there was an east wind; this gradually became south-east; about 5.30 it dropped altogether, and soon after a strong, cool, north-west wind arose, which greatly moderated the sultry heat.

The atmosphere was far from clear. On our way to the Dead Sea the mountains to the east were very indistinct, especially where they stretched northwards. There was a large fire somewhere near the Jordan, to the north—probably due to some of the inhabitants consuming their superfluous *vibn*—and the smoke from this, together with that from the fire at 'Ain Feshkhaḥ (see below) hung like a long brownish

cloud along the level of the mountain summits. The mountains to the west were also somewhat misty. Later, as we returned, the atmosphere had cleared. The surface of the sea was smooth, and there were neither waves nor "white line."

State of the Level.—At the "observation place" a fall of 13½ inches since April. At the rock in the pool the level appears to have fallen 12 inches, but here exactitude was somewhat difficult, as the point from which I take the measurement, which I had painted white on my last visit, had been wilfully blown off by means of a small charge of gunpowder. This is the kind of thing the mischievous and suspicious *bedawy* loves to do.

Barometric Observations.—Mill at *Wady Kelt*, August 24th, 10 a.m., 30·3; *'Ain Feshkhal*, 6 p.m., 31·1; Jerusalem, August 25th, 10 a.m. 27·62.

General Observations.—Some half-a-dozen coneys seen among the rocks near the *'Ain*, tempted from their burrows by the commencing twilight. An unsuccessful shot caused their hasty retirement.

A large vulture was also found sitting on a rock near the *'Ain*. No water flowing from the *Haish el-Mukdam* (see *Quarterly Statement*, 1904, p. 87). At the oasis we found three *Abu dis* men engaged in setting fire to the reeds. One who was near the road began to make off rapidly on our approach. The conflagration was gaining ground as we came, and dense volumes of smoke were ascending; some hour and a half later, when we were leaving in the gathering darkness, the fire had assumed large proportions, and the scene was picturesque in the extreme. The raging flames, alternately bursting out and dying down, illuminated the great columns of smoke and shed a lurid glare on the precipitous mountains to the west, while the full moon shed its silver light over the quiet sea to the east.

THIRD VISIT TO 'AIN FESHKHAL, 1904.

This autumn visit was made by Mr. Hornstein on October 26th.

Weather.—Fine; atmosphere perfectly clear; wind north-west in the morning but changing to south-west in afternoon.

"White line" visible but somewhat broken; ran from north-east to south-west across the sea.

State of Level.—Still lower than in August. At observation place it had fallen 10 inches; at Pool, now very shallow, only 7 inches.

Barometric Readings.—October 25th, Jerusalem, 5 p.m., 27·6; Khan of Good Samaritan, 8 p.m., 29·4; October 26th, Jericho, 5 a.m., 30·5; *'Ain Feshkhal*, 7·30 a.m., 31·4.

Temperature.—Air, 80° F.; water at *'Ain*, 75° F.

General Observations.—No people seen on route to the springs. In the afternoon some *Abadéyeh* Bedoin began descending the rocks above *'Ain Feshkhal* to water their flocks. Only small birds seen. The reeds over the large burned area brilliantly green and fresh.