

a year, they were engaged on laying down the map. Early in 1877 the party was again in Palestine under Kitchener's command, Conder being still invalided, and, by October of the same year, Kitchener was able to telegraph to the Committee that the great Survey of Western Palestine was completed. He remained for some months going over doubtful points throughout the country, and in September, 1878, he sailed for Cyprus to take up the command of the Ordnance Survey of that island, to which he had then been appointed.

We are fortunate in being able to present to our readers a good portrait of Lieut. Kitchener, taken at the period of his service to the Palestine Exploration Fund.

J. D. C.

LORD KITCHENER AND PALESTINE EXPLORATION.¹

A GEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE.

By PROFESSOR EDWARD HULL, LL.D., F.R.S.

WHILE the country is mourning the loss of its greatest soldier may I be permitted to add to the numerous accounts we receive of Lord Kitchener's experiences by a few details of his earlier career, before he had risen to the high position he attained on defeating the Mahdi at the battle of Khartum? At the time I speak of (1883) he was in command of the British force in Cairo as Captain Kitchener, R.E., while Sir Evelyn Baring, now Lord Cromer, was Her Majesty's Consul-General for Egypt. It was towards the close of this year that the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund decided to undertake a geological reconnaissance of Western Palestine and the Sinaitic Peninsula, and it was on arriving in Egypt with the party under my command that I had an opportunity of making the acquaintance of this able public servant. Through the recommendation of the late Major-General Sir Charles W. Wilson, Kitchener received permission to join our party in order to carry out the trigonometrical survey of the region of the Arabah Valley, between the Sinaitic Peninsula on the south and Southern Palestine

¹ Reprinted from the *Morning Post*, June 12, with the kind permission of the editor and the author.

on the north; in other words between the Gulf of Akabah and the Dead Sea. Accompanied by Sergeant-Major Armstrong, R.E., he ascended Mount Sinai (Jebel Musâ), 7,373 feet above the sea, on Tuesday, 20th November, and planting his theodolite on the roof of the little Mosque took a series of angles on all the conspicuous heights within sight of that celebrated Mount wherewith to connect their positions with his base in Southern Palestine. This experiment was afterwards repeated on Mount Hor (Jebel Haroun), 4,780 feet above the Gulf of Akabah, the tomb of Aaron.

BY THE SHORE OF THE DEAD SEA.

On Sunday morning, December 16, we camped by the shore of the Dead Sea of Palestine, among the Ghawarneks, a settled tribe of Arabs cultivating the ground and herding camels. Here we were destined to remain for several days, including Christmas Day, awaiting the arrival of horses and mules from Jerusalem. Meanwhile, great events had occurred in Egypt during the six weeks we had been absent from Cairo and wandering along the Arabah Valley. Christmas Eve brought with it tidings from Cairo, the first we had received from the outer world up till this period, four Arabs of the Hawatat tribe, on swift camels, headed by a sheikh, arriving in the afternoon in our camp and bearing a letter addressed to me by Sir Evelyn Baring. It informed us of the defeat of General Hicks's army in the Sudan, and stated that some anxiety had been felt concerning us on the part of our friends, both in England and in Egypt, as the news of the disaster might have occasioned a hostile feeling amongst the Arabs towards Europeans. The letter was intended to put us on our guard should we perceive any symptoms of such feeling. The Arab party had tracked us step by step from Suez to Jebel Musâ, thence to Akabah, and then down the Arabah Valley to this spot. Being well mounted, they had accomplished the whole distance in twenty days. We were by no means sorry to have an addition to our party of four dependable Arabs, whose head sheikh in Cairo was held responsible for our safety. The messengers were accompanied by a small party of the "hawks" of Petra, who said we must now retrace our steps to Akabah, as "the infidel dogs" had been defeated.

I need not say how deeply grateful we all felt to Sir Evelyn Baring for the steps he had taken for our safety. The opportune arrival of Sheikh Arari, of Wâdy Musâ—the dominant lord of the

region, who was very friendly and agreed to accept a small sum by way of trespass money—smoothed all difficulties, and left the way open for our party to continue our progress to Jerusalem. The return of the Arabs to Cairo gave our valued companion an opportunity for returning to his duties in Egypt. Captain Kitchener took his departure for Cairo with his Arab escort, to organise a force to avenge the defeat of Hicks's army, as also to prepare for still further achievements. He little thought at that time of the great career that awaited him in the service of his country and in the cause of civilisation.

AN ARABIC SCHOLAR.

I may add that from the time just referred to till that of Lord Kitchener's tragic death I have had the pleasure of regarding the great soldier as a personal friend, through the interchange of occasional correspondence and by some personal meetings. During our wanderings in the Sinaitic Desert his presence with our little party was a source of strength. On several occasions, such as that when he ascended Mount Hor and when others of the party elected to descend into the ancient capital of Arabia known as Petra, he was of exceptional service in negotiation with the Arabs (who evinced an intention to oppose our progress) owing to his knowledge of Arabic, which he spoke fluently, and to his acquaintance with the habits of the wild natives. It is doubtful if the Expedition would have accomplished its object to the full extent of the instructions of the Society by which it was organised without the presence of its ablest member, whose loss we now mourn.
