SECTION I.

INTRODUCTION.—BEIRUT AND THE VICINITY.

The preparation of the former Biblical Researches in Palestine, combined with the results of personal observation, awakened in the author's mind a more lively sense, than he had ever felt before, of the deficiencies yet remaining in our knowledge of the Historical Geography of that sacred land. Questions not unfrequently arose, which personal inquiry on the spot might have solved in half an hour; but to which no amount of reading or investigation at a distance could ever afford an answer; inasmuch as they had never been brought before the mind of any traveller. In this way the idea and the desire of once more visiting the Holy Land became fixed in the author's mind.

Not that the proper exploration of that land is a thing to be accomplished during one visit, or by repeated visits, of a few months at a time. Nor can such an exploration be regarded as within the power and opportunities of any single individual. To cultivate aright the particular field of historical topography, would require a residence of several years, and a visit to every town and village, to every mountain and valley, to every trace of antiquity and ruin. And when we further take into account how little is yet known of the vicissitudes of the climate and seasons, of the agricultural products, and generally of the geology, botany, beasts, birds, fishes, reptiles, insects; and consider too the importance of a familiar acquaintance with the language and habits of the people, as the only means of holding direct and satisfactory intercourse with them; we shall soon become aware, that neither by one traveller, nor by many, in our day, will all the questions relating to the Holy Land be fully solved.

In my own case, I proposed nothing further on a second visit, than to investigate anew certain points, as to which doubts had been expressed; and to examine some of those portions of the
country not included in our former routes. Such were Galilee, and the regions east and west of the great northern road leading from Jerusalem by Nābūlus. I was willing to leave it to circumstances, whether to enter again the southern desert and perhaps ascend Mount Hor; as also whether to extend my journeys northwards as far as to Antioch, or eastwards into Haurān. Nor was I disappointed in being unable, from want of time and other hindrances, to accomplish anything in respect to either of these latter particulars. It was enough, to be permitted once more to contribute my mite for the illustration of any portion of that land, towards which the attention and affections of the Christian world have been now for eighteen centuries so earnestly directed.

Although I had thus for a long time cherished the idea of such a journey, it was not until the summer of 1851, that there appeared any immediate prospect of its being realized. In the autumn of that year, the Directors of the Theological Seminary with which I am connected, took up the subject of their own accord; and passed resolutions cordially authorizing me to undertake the journey, and granting me the necessary leave of absence. Accordingly I embarked at New York on the 20th of December, 1851; was in London on the 1st of January; and, after a fortnight spent in that metropolis, proceeded to Berlin, where my family were already residing. Here I was greatly indebted to the ready kindness of Ritter and Lepsius; not to speak of various interviews with Humboldt, Buch, and other veterans of science.

From Berlin to Trieste my route in February 1852 was the same as in November 1837, by way of Halle, Dresden, and Vienna. At that time the journey was slow, dreary, and very fatiguing. Now, thanks to the completion of most of the railway lines, the traveller is carried forward with speed and comparative comfort; though in Austria, neither the speed nor the comfort of the trains is equal to what is common in Prussia and Saxony. The aspect of the country in winter was of course not otherwise than dreary. The railway over the Semmering was not yet completed; nor that between Laibach and Trieste; so that these intervals had still to be traversed by diligences sufficiently uncomfortable. Along the whole of the latter distance, which includes also the Karst, the remarkable tract of high table land near Trieste, we had torrents of rain. On my return in the month of July, I was greatly struck with the picturesque beauty and general fertility of Carniola and Styria; and with the appearance of prosperity and abundance which everywhere prevailed. No railway has anywhere laid open finer scenery, than that along the valleys of the rivers Sann and
Save, between Cilly and Laibach; where these streams have
rent for themselves a passage through the ridges of the Julian
Alps. The same is true of portions of the valley of the Mürz.

At Trieste I embarked, Thursday, the 12th of February, on
board of the steamer Africa for Smyrna. This was one of the
new and swifter vessels of the Austrian Lloyd; and was capable
of an average speed of eleven or twelve miles the hour in
smooth water; the older steamers not usually exceeding about
eight miles the hour. Yet the times of departure along the
route remained for the most part unchanged; so that the gain
at the end of a voyage was in general inconsiderable; unless
where the last run was a long one. Instead of touching, as for-
ermerly, at Ancona, we now kept a straight course down the
Adriatic, passing on the east of the large island Lissa and other
smaller ones. We thus saw Meleda on our left, which has some-
times been erroneously held to be the Melita of the New Testa-
ment, the scene of Paul's shipwreck. High winds and frequent
rain made the voyage unpleasant as far as to Corfu; where we
cast anchor for several hours. Afterwards the weather cleared
up; and we proceeded under bright Grecian skies and with soft
breezes. We passed at evening through the narrow cliff-bound
channel between Ithaca and Cephalonia; touched for half an
hour at Zante; and next morning were abreast of Navarino
and Modon. We now had upon our left the snow-clad peaks
of the ancient Taygetus; until in the afternoon we rounded
Cape Matapan, and just at evening Cape Malio; and then took
a straight course for Syra. The scenery and impressions of the
whole voyage varied little, of course, from what I saw and expe-
rienced in 1837.

We dropped anchor at Syra on Tuesday morning. This is
still the central port, where the different lines of steamers meet,
coming from Europe, Constantinople, and Athens. At this
time the days of both the Austrian and French lines happened
to coincide; so that no less than six steamers were anchored
together in the harbour. Here we lay thirty-six hours, till
Wednesday afternoon; from no necessity whatever, except to
await the time of departure fixed years before for slower vessels.
We reached Smyrna early on Thursday morning, Feb. 19th;
having accomplished the whole voyage in somewhat less than
seven days; while the running time was less than five days.

The steamer of the regular line from Smyrna to Beirut was
to leave on the following Monday; but a vessel on the route to
Constantinople had just been disabled, and replaced by the one
destined for Beirut; and it was now necessary to await the arri-
aval of another. I was thus detained a week in Smyrna, in the
estimable family of my friend and former pupil the Rev. E.
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Riggs. This delay gave opportunity to visit again, and with more leisure than formerly, the massive, but not very extensive remains of antiquity in and around the city. The most important of these is the ancient fortress on the hill which rises southeast of the city, and on the slope of which the city is partly built. Traces of the ancient wall run along the crest of the ridge for a considerable distance. Not far below this wall, in a depression of the hill, is the site of the ancient stadium, where Polycarp is supposed to have suffered martyrdom. On the steep slope below the fortress are massive remains of an ancient theatre; and in the same quarter, within the city, are several columns still standing, which once belonged to an extensive temple.

The population of Smyrna is now reckoned at about 150,000 souls; of whom nearly one half are Muhammedans. The Christian quarter has of late years increased rapidly.

Smyrna was the seat of one of the seven churches of the Apocalypse; but is not elsewhere mentioned in the New Testament. The great apostle of the Gentiles would seem not to have visited Smyrna; although he abode so long at Ephesus. His journeys between the latter city and Troas or Macedonia, were probably made by sea, leaving Smyrna far on the right.

Of the three American missionaries residing at Smyrna at the time of my visit, Messrs Riggs, Benjamin, and Johnston, the two former were mainly occupied with the Armenian press; and Mr Riggs was engaged in a laborious revision of the modern Armenian version of the Scriptures. Both of them were afterwards transferred, with the press, to the mission at Constantinople; while Mr Johnston has returned to the United States.

In the afternoon of Thursday, Feb. 26th, I went on board the steamer Stamboul, one of the older and slower vessels, somewhat the worse for wear. Hitherto we had had no deck passengers; but now the quarter deck was divided longitudinally in the middle by a fence, leaving only one half free to the cabin passengers. The other half was covered by a low awning; and was crowded with passengers of various nations, all huddled together like sheep in a fold. Here, and also scattered midships and forwards, were Russians, Poles, Wallachians, Greeks, Armenians, Jews, and Turks; men, women, children, and slaves; all bound for Beirut, and most of them for Jerusalem, against the approaching Easter. Most of them rarely changed their place, or came out from their stalls. The filth which accumulated, especially during sea-sickness, and the odours diffused over the ship, may be better imagined than described. Nor was

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1 Rev. 1, 11. 2, 8. 2 Acts 19, 8. 10. 3 Acts 20, 1. 6. 13–16.
the main cabin quite free from similar drawbacks. But, after the first night, the good-natured steward took pity on me; and, as there were no ladies on board, he gave me one of the state-rooms of the ladies' cabin, where I made myself quite comfortable. Similar scenes of deck travel occurred also on my return, as far as to Syra.¹

During the early part of the night we had high winds and a rough sea, with much sea-sickness. We passed Scio (Chios) about midnight; and at sunrise had entered the Icarian sea, hav- ing Samos behind us in the north, and Icaria in the northwest. Distant in the southwest, and partly seen over intervening islands, was Patmos, the scene of the glorious visions of the be-loved disciple; while nearer at hand lay the main line of the Spo- rades, including Lepsia, Leros, Kalymnos, and others. The coast of Asia Minor on our left was a succession of mountain promono- tories and jagged ridges, with deep bays and inlets running up between. These islands, the Sporades, are the picturesque tops of similar mountains, whose bases are submerged; gems of beauty strewed upon the placid bosom of the Ægean sea. The morning was without a cloud, rejoicing in the brightness of an oriental sun; and the scattered islets appeared as if lifted out of the water and suspended in the air.

Soon after noon we approached Cos (Coos), which seemed to lie across our course. The vapours driven up by the south wind from the sea beyond, gathered along the summit of its mountain ridge, and produced slight showers. We left the island with its white town on our right; and passing near the long and lofty promontory on which Cnidus stood of old, we laid our course, still among noble islands, for Rhodes. It was nightfall before we approached that island; and as the haven is narrow and difficult, our captain preferred to anchor for the night in a small land-locked bay on the opposite coast, once guarded by a small fortress.

On the morning of Feb. 28th, we came in an hour to the ren-owned city of Rhodes, where we again dropped anchor. We had time to walk through the streets, and visit the chief points of in-terest. Every thing wears the aspect of neglect and consequent decay. There is little left for the massive fortifications to protect; they seem almost as if built without an object. The harbour is diminutive and unsafe. The present town occupies but a small portion of the ancient site. The houses are mostly of stone; but low and mean, threaded by narrow lanes. The main street is nar-row and straight, running up from the port. It is the “Street

¹ I know of no more life-like descrip- tions of such deck scenes, and generally of Mr Thackeray’s “Trip from Cornhill to Cairo,” first impressions in the east, than those in Vol. III.—I*
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of the Knights;” and on the fronts of the low stone houses are still seen the escutcheons of some of the noblest families of England and France. But the houses are now the home of the Turk; grass springs up in many of the streets; and although the soil of the island is fertile, and the climate the finest in the Levant, yet intolerance, indolence, and thriftlessness, are producing their legitimate effects; commerce is dying out; and decay and ruin everywhere prevail.

The interest of this voyage had been greatly enhanced, not only by the distant view of Patmos, but also by the circumstance, that for most of the distance our track was nearly the same as that of the apostle Paul on his last return from Macedonia to Syria. He had gone afoot from Troas to Assos; there embarking he came with his companions to Mitylene, and the next day over against Chios. Thence their course seems to have been around the eastern end of the island of Samos to the town of the same name, and so to Trogyllium opposite, in one day; and in another day to Miletus, where Paul held his last affecting interview with the elders of Ephesus. “From Miletus they came with a straight course unto Coos, and the day following unto Rhodes.” The apostle was thus at least five days in passing over a route, which we traversed in little more than twenty-four hours. From Rhodes he sailed eastwards to Patara on the coast of Lycia; and thence on a direct course to Tyre, leaving Cyprus on the left hand.

We left Rhodes in the afternoon of the same day, and laid our course for Cyprus. The rugged coasts of Lycia were visible on our left, until hidden by the shadows of evening. The next morning, Feb. 29th, the mountains of Cyprus were rising on the horizon; but it was afternoon before we approached the western end of the island, and passed along not far distant from the coast. We thus had a view of the great plain, lying between the mountains and the sea; which Pococke describes as about fifteen miles long by three broad. It seemed fertile, and was covered with groves of olive trees. We could see several villages; the largest being Baffia, the representative of the ancient Paphos, once the chief city of this part of the island and the residence of a Roman proconsul.

Here too the apostle Paul once preached the gospel in company with Barnabas, on their first missionary journey. Embarking at Seleucia near the mouth of the Orontes, they had landed at Salamis, on the eastern coast of Cyprus; the ruins of which town are still seen about four miles north of Famagusta, on the north side of a small stream. From this place they

1 Acts 20, 13—21, 3.
3 Descri. of the East, II. i. p. 225.
passed through the island to Paphos; where the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, became a believer; and the sorcerer Elymas was smitten with blindness.¹ — Old Paphos, with the celebrated temple of Venus, lay sixty stadia further south, and ten stadia distant from the shore.²

It was towards evening when we rounded the long, low, narrow point of Cape Gatta, and bore away for Larnaka, where we anchored in the open roadstead early in the morning of March 1st. This is now the chief place of commerce on the island, and the residence of the foreign consuls. The Marina or port is at the landing-place; while the smaller, but more aristocratic village, where the consuls reside, is a mile or more from the shore. The place is unhealthy. The houses are mean, and the surrounding country poor.

In the open space between the two portions of the town, the frequent traces of foundations and fragments of walls indicate here an ancient site. So numerous indeed are these remains, that the ground is still occasionally dug up in various places, in order to obtain the stones for building. The town which of old stood here was Citium, a city of some note, the birthplace of the philosopher Zeno. It was probably a Phoenician colony; as is evinced by the thirty-three Phoenician inscriptions (Inscriptions Citienses) found here and reported by Pococke in 1738.³

We remained at Larnaka until the afternoon; and then laid our course direct for Beirut. We reached that port very early in the morning of Tuesday, March 2nd; and our eyes, as we came on deck, were greeted with the sight of "that goodly mountain, even Lebanon," whose loftier peaks were now wreathed in snow. Mr Hurter, the missionary printer, was soon on board to welcome me, and to conduct me through the noisy crowd. After brief delay at the custom house, and a ride on horseback of a mile or more, I found myself at home in the house of my tried friend and former companion in travel, the Rev. Eli Smith, D.D. It was a real pleasure thus to meet him again in Beirut, and find him surrounded by an affectionate family. His house is on the high ground southwest of the city, among the mulberry orchards. The house in which Mr Hebard formerly lived, with whom I resided in 1838, is quite near the southwestern gate of the city; and is now occupied by the missionary chapel and press.

The annual meeting of the Syrian mission, comprising the stations of Beirut, Sidon and Hasbeiya, 'Abeih, Tripoli, and Aleppo, was to be held at Beirut, beginning on Thursday, the 18th of

March. At this meeting I desired to be present. In the regular course of the steamer, I ought to have arrived, and was expected, on the morning of the preceding Saturday. To fill up the time before the meeting, it had been arranged that Dr Smith would go with me on Tuesday to Sidon; whence I would then accompany Mr Thomson to Hasbeïya, where he was to pass the next Sabbath. The following week we proposed to spend in visiting the region of Bâniâs, the plain of the Hâlech, the chasm of the Lîtânî, and other objects of interest in the neighbourhood; and then return to Beîrût. But this plan was frustrated, partly by the three days' delay in my arrival, and partly by other more important hindrances.

The Turkish government had been for some time endeavouring to extend their system of military conscription, so as to include the warlike tribes inhabiting Mount Lebanon and the country east of the Jordan. In this they had not yet been fully successful; and the Druzes especially threatened a most determined resistance. A crisis had arisen; and just at this moment intelligence reached Beîrût, that the Druzes were passing over by thousands from Lebanon to Haurân; where, in the fastnesses of the Lejah and with the aid of the Druzes of that region, they would be able to defy the Turkish power. The route of these wanderers was by Hasbeïya and down Wady et-Teim. At one time more than two thousand of them were in Hasbeïya. They often travelled in straggling parties; and deeds of lawlessness and violence, committed by them or in their name, were not unfrequently reported. The region was regarded as unsafe for travellers; and even Mr Thomson, whose business was important, did not venture to set out, until he had obtained more exact information. I gave up unwillingly the idea of accompanying him, and had no reason to regret it afterwards; although the excursion, had it been practicable, would have spared me a week or ten days of precious time at a later and more favourable season.

During the first week after my arrival, the weather was delightful. The thermometer ranged from 60° to 80° Fahr. The skies were cloudless; the atmosphere mild and balmy; and the oriental sun poured his genial beams over a prospect by sea and land of surpassing beauty. The house of Dr Smith commands a view of the roadstead and its vessels, and of Lebanon and the Syrian coast almost to Tripoly. The house itself has two stories, with the usual flat roof of the country, which requires frequent repairs. The middle portion of the upper story forms a terrace, open toward the north, with rooms upon each side. The windows have only been glazed since the house was first occupied by Dr Smith, some twenty years ago. At that time
glazed windows were rare in Beirut; and close shutters afforded the only protection against storm and wind.—From this terrace the eye took in the whole extent of the prospect; and, in my own case, was “never satisfied with seeing,” nor with gazing upon the scenery of the glorious mountain. Near at hand was Jebel Sannin, one of the loftiest summits, decked for some distance down his sides with light snows; while below and around could be traced the deep gorges of the mountain traversed by rushing streams; and numerous villages were seen scattered upon the heights.

The next week there was a change; not in the scenery, but in the weather. For five days, from Monday until Friday inclusive, there was rain; on some days heavy and with little interruption, and accompanied by high wind; on other days alternating with pleasant intervals of sunshine and clear sky. The storm was so violent, that some of the vessels dragged anchor; and all left the roadstead and retired to the inner corner of the bay. Snow fell extensively upon the mountains; and also in the region of Hasbeiya. The weather on Saturday and for several following days was again splendid; but afterwards became variable with occasional heavy rain, for nearly three weeks longer, until the close of the first week in April. These were the “latter rains” of Scripture; which thus continued this season for nearly a month later than usual. One result of these late rains we afterwards saw on our journey, in the very abundant crops of winter grain. They served also to reconcile me at last to my unanticipated sojourn for so long a time in Beirut.

The city of Beirut had lost nothing of its prosperity since my former visit; but had gained immensely. True, it had been subjected to bombardment by the British and Austrian fleet on the 10th and 11th of September, 1840; by which many houses were laid in ruins, and many lives destroyed. But the injuries were speedily repaired; and the chief traces of the bombardment now remaining were the marks of balls on the old castle in the harbour. The streets have been repaired in a better style; and the deep channels in the middle have disappeared. The population was reckoned in 1838 at about 15,000 souls; it is now estimated at more than double that number. A new suburb of streets has spread itself out on the southeast corner of the walled city; and the gardens and mulberry orchards on the hills in the south and southeast, are now full of dwellings. From the roof of the house occupied by the mission press, a wide and pleasing view is enjoyed of the city and its environs, with Lebanon beyond.

The commerce of Beirut has increased greatly. The various lines of French, Austrian, and English steamers which visit the
port, and the many sailing vessels, occasion a bustling activity; and a spirit of business and enterprise has been awakened, especially among the Christian population of the city and the mountains. This is also fostered by several European establishments in the mountains for the reeling of silk; some of them by the aid of steam.\footnote{For a statement of the amount of imports and exports at Beirūt during the year 1853, see vessels of various nations, see Note I, end of the volume.}

The antiquities in and around Beirūt are not numerous; though there are more than have been usually reported. The many columns lying as a foundation beneath the quay which forms the usual landing place, and the way cut through the rock outside of the southwestern wall, I had seen on my former visit. Besides these, there are within the city, near the southern wall and just east of the second gate from the American cemetery, three large granite columns still standing, and the base of a fourth; the remains probably of an ancient temple. Outside of the same wall a little further east, and on the south side of the open area, are strewed ten or twelve other columns, some of granite and some of limestone; but whether they ever had any connection with those inside of the wall, it is difficult to say. Along the shore on the west of the city, on the way leading to the Locanda Belvidere, are likewise traces of ancient walls and foundations, on and among the rocks at the edge of the water. Here, at some distance from the city gates, is a little Mina or port, in which boats and very small vessels lie in comparative safety. The rocks around it appear in some parts to have been hewn away.—In digging over a garden near Dr Smith's house not long before, there were found several sarcophagi or coffins of pottery; in which were also lachrymatories and other articles of glass. Some of these, and likewise fragments of the coffins, have been preserved by Dr De Forest.

In the open place before the southwestern gate of the city, is a deep fountain with a flight of steps, covered over with solid masonry of recent erection. This is said to be fed by an ancient subterranean aqueduct, which was discovered accidentally a few years ago. The arches and other remains of another large aqueduct, by which the city was anciently supplied with water from Lebanon, are still to be seen; and will be again mentioned further on.

The low hills which surround Beirūt are mostly of reddish sand, interspersed with rocks, and covered with a light soil. They rise to an elevation varying from two hundred to three hundred feet in different parts. Roads radiate from the city in various directions upon and across the hills. These roads, like all others in Syria, are merely bridle-paths; not a wheel or car-