

what was "a land flowing with milk and honey:" he diligently believes all that the mendacious guides are pleased to tell him, and, with his eyes full of the glamour of olden days, overlooks the real condition of the land--its boundless natural fertility, "the excellency of Carmel and Sharon," and the many-coloured views of human life and enterprise existing on that sacred soil to-day.

Our author has had the advantage of living among the people from day to day, apparently on the best terms; and of leisurely wandering from his permanent home at Haifa, or summer-house on the top of Carmel, through all the region round about; seeing with his own eyes and gathering information of the past or present from the carved stones of ancient ruins, or from personal and friendly contact with powerful sheiks and down-trodden *fellahin*.

Under the influence of several large landowners, or by the exertions of certain colonies of Jews and foreigners, the cultivation of the arable lands is extending from many centres. Nearly the whole plain of Esdraelon, for instance, is now divided between the Sultan, who has recently secured a good slice of its eastern portion, and a wealthy firm of Syrian bankers, who have, little by little, purchased almost all the villages and lands extending from the Nazareth hills to the sea; drawing an income therefrom of two hundred thousand dollars a-year, but, alas! exercising a despotic power over the five thousand *fellahin*, out of whose toil they wring their immense profits. In Haifa and its neighbourhood the value of the land has increased threefold within the last five years; and the population has doubled, with a corresponding growth of import and export trade. The restless and predatory Bedouins are being steadily pushed east of the Jordan; the few still remaining on the southern margin of the plain are all reduced to subjection by inexorable landlords, who charge exorbitant rents for the ground upon which their black tents are pitched, and force them to pay in hard cash or go thence. Greater, indeed almost absolute, security has consequently come to the villagers; and to-day the plain of Esdraelon is "like a green lake of waving wheat, with its village-crowned mounds rising from it like islands; and it presents one of the most striking pictures of luxuriant fertility which it is possible to conceive."

Among the foreign elements which affect the welfare of the country is a religious body called *The Temple Society*, which has a thousand of its members established as colonists at Haifa