



ON THE WATERS OF MEROM.

The Lake of Huleh is a small and shallow sheet of water, about four and a half miles long and three miles wide, bordered by a dense growth of canes and papyrus reeds, from which the material and name of paper came. These are nowhere found in Egypt, though once so common as to furnish much of the material of which the mummy-cases were made. Here they grow so densely that the Arabs declare it is impossible for even the wild boar to penetrate them. The Judge, with his characteristic energy in securing canes, cut a number of papyrus stalks, but so frail were they that they did but illustrate the Scripture, "thou trustest in the staff of this broken reed . . . whereon if a man lean, it will go into his hand and pierce it." Our standing joke concerning the Judge was, that "the *Canaanite* was still in the land." "

In the late afternoon, Madame, who was an indefatigable climber, and the writer scaled a lofty hill commanding a splendid view of the lake, and watched the long shadows creep over the broad and verdurous plain. On this historic field was waged the last and greatest battle between Joshua and the tribal Canaanitish chiefs. Here Jabon, King of Hazor, rallied the Jebusite chiefs from the forts of Jerusalem, the Hittite and the Amorite, in the far south, to "the Hivite under Hermon," in the north, and in this neighbourhood Hazor, his capital, must have existed.*

*"And they went out, they and all their hosts with them, much people, even as the sand that is upon the seashore in multitude, with horses and chariots very many. And when all these kings were met together, they came and pitched together at the waters of Merom, to fight against Israel." (Josh. xi. 4-5).