

party, they did not attempt. Information was given at Kaifa to the British Consul of the robbery; and the company of horsemen we saw leaving the town in the evening, in the direction of the great plain southwards, at the time our party was climbing the steep path to the Convent, was a company of horsemen sent out in search of the goods and the delinquents. Of course, neither the goods nor the robbers were found. One of the gentlemen robbed, Dr. H——, now of Halifax, Nova Scotia, who travelled with us a few days afterwards from Beyroot to Damascus, told us, that up to that date nothing had been recovered or discovered, nor at a subsequent period, when we left Damascus. It is this insecurity of life and property, under the miserable government of the Turks, and the impossibility of bringing criminals to justice, that causes the land to mourn.

THE MONKS AND THEIR CONVENT.

Carmel is the natural home of the bareheaded, barefooted order of friars, that are known as the Carmelites. They fixed their home here, in the time of the Crusades, in these caves in the face of the rock, that command such a magnificent view of the Mediterranean Sea. A crusading king built a convent for them. It fell into disrepair. One of the monks collected a large sum of money in Europe, for the erection of the present house, which was six years in building, and is now one of the finest buildings of the kind in the Holy Land, two stories high, with large, airy rooms, well furnished, well kept, not unlike a large American hotel, and commanding views of the great plains, of the great bay, and of the great sea, which one can never forget. So delightful was the situation, so kind were the brethren, so comfortable were the lodgings, that we lingered there a day and two nights. The stay was a time of rest and enjoyment. We saw

through and through the convent, visiting the church and the cells of the monks; we explored the caves in the face of the hill; walked over the great coast-road, (for which there is barely room between Carmel and the sea,) over which the mighty kings of Egypt and Assyria passed their armies, "with thundering tread," as they came and went on their warlike expeditions for and against each other; and over which passed several times a greater conqueror than these—Paul, who once travelled this road from Ptolemais to Cesarea, and more than once on his way to Antioch from Jerusalem, bearing to us Gentiles the message of salvation.

We had a good chance, during this brief sojourn, of talking to the brethren of the convent. As a general rule, the superiors of these eastern convents are men of education and polished manners, and the Superior of the Carmelites was pre-eminently a gentleman, and well informed. But the rule is just as general that the rest of the monks in these convents are a very ignorant and uninteresting class of beings, who are very kind to travellers, and very attentive to their prayers, but who seem not to live, but to vegetate in these aimless retreats.

It was very instructive and amusing to sit down for an hour to examine the Convent Register for travellers. In this book every traveller is expected to enter his name, and to make remarks on things in general, and on the monks in particular, if he chooses. The names of many distinguished men of Europe and America were there; and their remarks, made in varied mood and in various tongues, would form an interesting chapter of varieties. But we must conclude our "Fortnight in Galilee" with this chapter. When we leave Carmel, we leave Palestine. Henceforward our travels will be through the territory of Syria and the coast of Asia Minor.