

on, and it was from the shores of Galilee that the glass-shops of Tyre, Sidon, and Alexandria were furnished with sand, vessels taking it as cargo to these different ports.

Galilee is deserving of special notice on account of its commerce and inland traffic. Besides the products sent out of the country, goods from Europe and Africa were landed at Ptolemais, and carried thence across Galilee to Damascus and to places further east.

A peculiar feature of this province was its great public roads or routes of commerce, on which were seen every day long caravans, carrying merchandise between the East and West. This carrying trade was largely in the hands of the Galileans. The sea of Galilee was likewise covered with boats engaged in pleasure and traffic with the thirteen cities and towns that surrounded it on or near its shores. All these facts contributed to the activity, enterprise, and business of the province, and affected in no small degree, while at the same time they serve to illustrate to us the character of the Galileans.

It will hardly be doing justice to the wonderful natural scenery and climate of Galilee to dismiss them with a single sentence. Yet more cannot be done. Both were charming beyond what we find in almost any other country. Sea, sky, and landscape combined in the most marvellous manner to render Galilee one of the loveliest regions on earth. The view from the hill at Nazareth, or from the summit of Mount Tabor, six miles eastward, presented more features of interest and beauty than could possibly be found grouped at once before the eye at any other point on the globe.

All this wealth of natural scenery, and all this loveliness of climate, were familiar to Christ; for, amid this great beauty of His Father's world, he grew up to manhood.

Hints have already been given as to the character of the Galileans. They were an industrious and enterprising people, and because of these facts this province had attained, under an efficient ruler, to an unusual degree of prosperity.

Much may be said also of their intelligence and bravery, and likewise of their religious character. The number of famous leaders which Galilee furnished in the time of the Jewish war with Rome, in evidence that, among the Galileans, men of marked ability were by no means the exception.

They did not enter blindly into that terrible struggle, but only after many heated discussions and many councils for deliberation had been held, did they decide to take up arms against the Roman power. They were not devoid of reason, and they must have foreseen that the engines and legions of their enemy would finally triumph. They knew that they could not achieve their independence: but they felt it to be better to die with honour than to submit disgracefully to a foreign yoke. Seldom has a people thrown itself more completely and unreservedly against an enemy than did the Galileans against the power that had come to crush out their national life. The readiness with which they sacrificed their lives and property was not dictated by prudence, but by desperation.

The Romans massed their troops at Ptolemais,—a force of sixty thousand men. Many of these had come in ships from Italy and Egypt, and from Nazareth the multitude of vessels that had brought them could be seen lying at anchor on the quiet sea. There also were the white tents of the enemy stretched along the beach. The Galileans, had they been veteran soldiers instead of intelligent yeomanry, might from their hills have looked down upon this