

indeed, may it have been, common and constant as it is, the flower which the Saviour pointed to when He said, "Consider the lilies of the field how they grow, they toil not neither do they spin; and yet I say unto you that Solomon, in all his glory, was not arrayed like one of these."

Ramleh is not quite half-way between Joppa and Jerusalem. It is a small town of about four thousand inhabitants, and is not mentioned in the Bible. A tradition, with very little authority for it, however, declares it to be the Arimathea where dwelt the disciple who gave our Lord His grave. The only interesting thing in the neighbourhood is the great white tower, a short distance from the town, from the top of which is a splendid view over the plain. Three miles from Ramleh is the town of Ludd, or Lydda, one of the ancient cities of Palestine, and the scene of the raising of palsied Æneas by the apostle Peter. After lunching at Ramleh, we drove out to Lydda and visited the fine church of St. George, whom tradition affirms to have been born and buried here. It is noteworthy that it was while encamped at Ramleh that the Crusaders took St. George as their patron saint. We spent the night at Ramleh, in a small but comfortable hotel, and in good time next morning recommenced our journey to Jerusalem. In an hour we reach a hill-top overlooking the valley of Ajalon, the scene of Joshua's victory over the five Amorite kings. "Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon and thou moon upon the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still and the moon stayed."

Then crossing the valley we passed Latrûn, so called as the traditional birth-place of the penitent thief; and yet farther on a hillside, the village of Amwas or Emmaus which cannot possibly, however, be the Emmaus of St. Luke. Another hour or so brings us to the foot of the mountains, and we halt for lunch at Bab-el-wady—the "door of the valley." The climb up the hills now begins in a drear defile with bare, gray rocks on either hand. In two hours or less, Abou Gosch is reached, a large village so-called from a robber-chief who once dwelt theré; and interesting because it has been identified as Kirjath-Jearim, one of the four cities of the Gibeonites, the birth-place of Urijah the prophet, where the Ark of the Lord was kept in David's day for twenty years. Yet farther along we wind down past the village of Kolonieh, another of the claimants for the site of Emmaus, and crossing a bridge over a stream, begin the steepest part of the climb to Jerusalem.