

ABRAHAM'S TOMB—THE PILLAR OF ABSALOM.

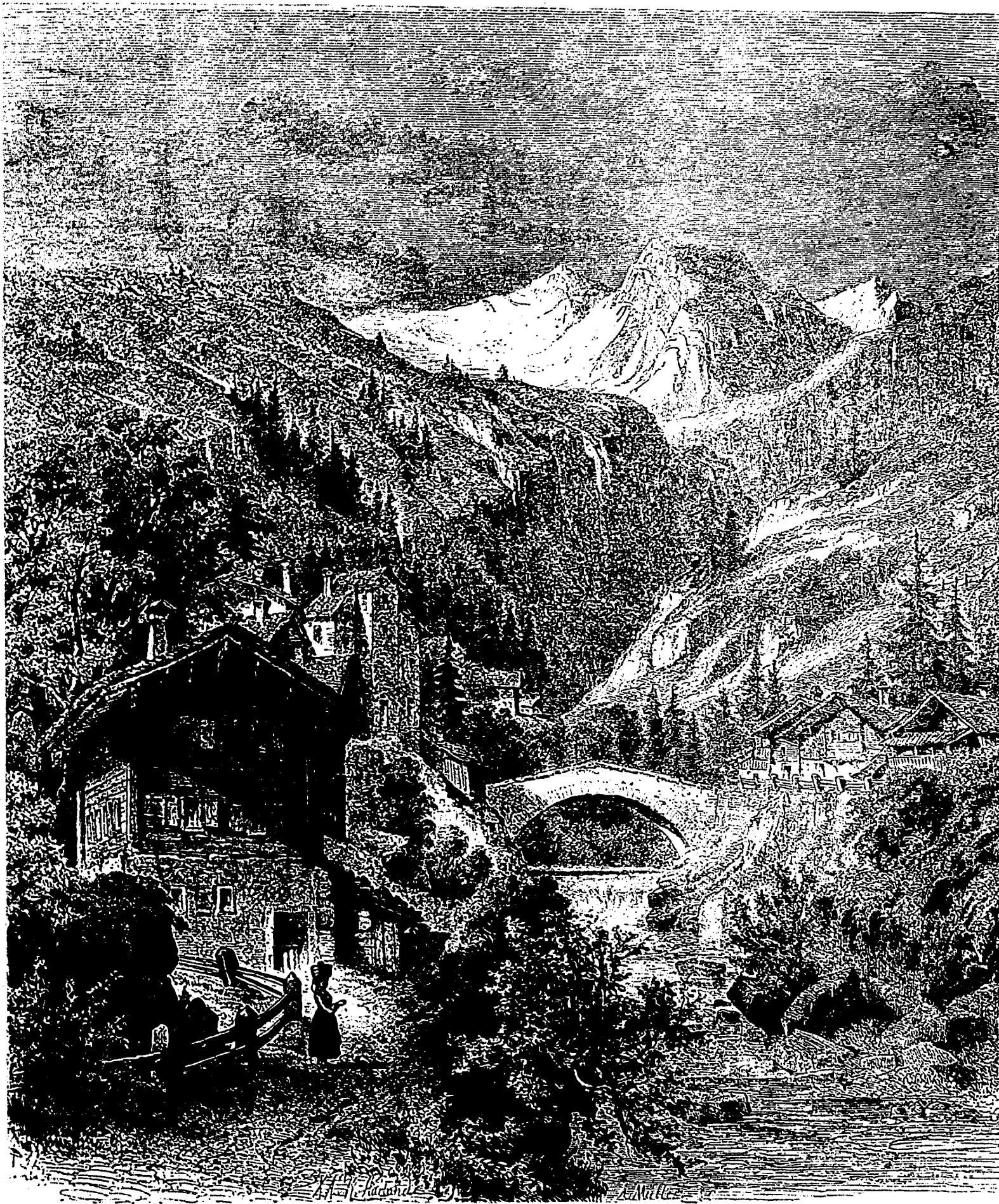
The Rev. Dr. J. P. Newman in "From Dan to Beersheba" says the chief attraction in Hebron, alike to Christian, Jew, and Moslem, is the Cave of Machpelah, now bearing the Arabic name of El-Khulil—"The Friend of God." The field containing the Cave is located on the higher slope of a hill lying on the east of the city, and is now enclosed by a massive wall fifty feet high, the lower portion of which, to the height of forty feet, is of Jewish construction, and the upper part is of Saracenic origin, with a minaret at each angle. The wall has an ancient appearance, being constructed of large levelled stones hewn smooth, and extends north and south 200 feet, and 115 feet east and west. The exterior is ornamented with square pilasters, sixteen on each side, eight at each angle, which, without capitals, support a cornice extending the whole length of the structure. The wall is solid without window or aperture, except at the angles of the northern end, where are the chief entrances, reached by broad flights of steps of gentle ascent, leading to the courts within. Within this mural enclosure stands a mosque, once a Byzantine church, which, like the Church of St Sophia in Constantinople, and the Church of Justinian in Jerusalem, has been essentially altered, and dedicated to Mohammed. Beneath it is the Cave of Machpelah, and within it are the monumental shrines of the patriarchal dead. Within a small chapel on the right is the cenotaph in honour of Abraham, and directly opposite, in a similar recess, is the shrine of Sarah. Each is enclosed by an iron railing, and guarded by a silver gate. That of the father of the faithful consists of a collin-like structure, six feet high, built of plastered marble, draped with three carpets of a green colour, embroidered with gold, while over that of Sarah is spread a pall. On the sides of the mosque, midway the building, and immediately opposite each other, are monumental tombs of Isaac and Rebecca. Like those of their parents, they are placed within chapels, in the walls of which are windows, protected by iron bars. In a separate cloister, opposite the entrance of the mosque, in corresponding recess, are the tombs of Jacob and Leah. Until the year 1862, admittance to the Cave was absolutely denied to Jew or Christian; but thanks to the intelligence, the power and perseverance of the Prince of Wales, the bar of seclusion from this most interesting place has been removed. Beneath the mosque is the cave where rest in peace the remains of the sacred dead.

The Pillar of Absalom lies in the valley of Jehoshaphat, 1000 feet below the bridge which spans the Kedron. It is of limestone, cut of the rock, and detached from the base of Olivet by a path excavated in three of its sides. It consists of a square platform, reached by a flight of steps; a basement of solid rock twenty-four feet square, a square attic seven feet high, and a circular attic, surmounted with an inverted funnel-shaped dome, the point spreading out like an opening flower. Though its apparent altitude is less than fifty feet, yet, owing to the accumulation of stones around its base, its actual height is not ascertainable. The exterior of the basement is ornamented with columns and pilasters, on the Ionic capitals of which rests a Doric architrave. Above the first entablature are two courses of large, well-dressed stones, on which is traced a small cornice, and on the dome above is a cornice resembling rope work. Within are two chambers, reached by the original doorway on the east, and by a breach on the west, which has been made by the inhabitants of the city, who hold the memory of Absalom in profound contempt. Within and around it are heaps of stones, thrown there by Christian, Jew and Moslem, in condemnation of a son's rebellion against his father, and, as a more expressive mark of their disapprobation, they split upon it as they pass. This is probably the pillar

which Absalom in his lifetime reared up for himself in the "King's Dale." Being a mixture of Grecian, Roman, and Egyptian architecture, the style is against the supposition; but as it was customary in the days of Herod to "garnish the sepulchres of the righteous," so the admirers of the rebel may have reconstructed his "Pillar" conformably with the architectural taste of the Herodian age.

"TIGER AND DEER."

This illustration is copied from a work recently issued by Baillere et Fils, of Paris, entitled *Vie d'Animaux Illustrée*. It represents a huge tiger springing upon a doe, which the fierce beast is tearing to pieces before the eyes of its offspring. The poor fawn is too much astonished and terror-stricken at the appearance of the monster to move and escape in time to avoid its mother's fate. The tiger is a good specimen of its kind—a full-grown "Royal," active, agile, and terribly powerful.



SWISS CHALET—CANTON OF NEUCHÂTEL.

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We give an illustration in this issue of a Swiss mountain scene, taken from nature, in the canton of Neuchâtel. In the foreground we have a cluster of fantastically-built chalets on the banks of one of those mountain-streams, formed by the thawing of the snow on the hills, which are so common in Switzerland. The canton of Neuchâtel is in the French portion of Switzerland, and lies near the borders of France. It has a population of some 80,000 inhabitants, by all of whom the French tongue is spoken.

LUMBERMEN'S SHANTY—HAULING LOGS.

In a former issue we gave an illustration of the interior of a lumbermen's shanty. We now give a view of the exterior of these shanties, and a scene in the woods where the lumbermen pursue their avocations. The work of getting out the lumber is carried on entirely in the winter, when the snow is sometimes several feet deep. After the logs are felled they are carried down on sleighs to the river, where they are formed into rafts and floated down to the shipping-ports. The principal field for the operations of the lumbermen is on the Upper Ottawa, whence an immense quantity of lumber is brought down in the spring. At Quebec the timber thus brought down in rafts is "culled" by a supervisor appointed by the Government.

BRIGHT METEOROLOGICAL PHENOMENON.—A very beautiful phenomenon was witnessed at Springfield, Ill., on the 5th inst. At sunrise the air was heavy with quite a fog, but before nine o'clock the sun shone forth with more than usual splendour, and the air was warm, soft and balmy, like spring. At about noon the close observer of weather changes noticed a cool, icy feeling to the air, and a number of fleecy clouds were seen in the sky. About half-past two in the afternoon a bright, luminous band encircled the sun, upon which appeared, in the eastern and western arc, bright and beautiful rainbow-tinted objects, about the size of the full moon, in mid-heavens, commonly known as sundogs. About ten degrees above the north arc of the circle around the sun appeared two beautiful and remarkably brilliant rainbow-tinted crescents, about fifteen degrees from point to point and about two degrees apart. At the same time a white, luminous band, about five degrees in width, appeared around the entire heavens, about forty-five degrees above the line of the horizon, upon which were observed, at the north-west and north-east,

two bright, luminous objects about the size of the sundogs mentioned above. All of these various and beautiful phenomena remained visible for nearly three hours, and only disappeared as the sun sank to rest in the west.

"THE RAIN IS OVER."

This illustration is copied from a painting by a Dutch artist, F. Verheyden. It represents a group of peasant children emerging from under a shock of corn where they had sought shelter from a passing summer shower. The eldest of the three, a girl of some seven years, evidently proud of her charge, is holding out her hand to make sure that the rain is over, before allowing her young brother and sister to leave their hiding-place. The faces of the children immediately tell their nationality; the broad space between the eyes and the plumpness of their faces being marked features in the Dutch physiognomy. The original is a beautifully executed painting, and is at present, we believe, in Paris.

The Prince Imperial addressed for the first time to the Holy Father, who is his godfather, an epistle written by his juvenile hand, wishing his Holiness a happy new year. This document was presented to the Pope, who replied by an autograph letter.

JUPITER ON THE RAMPAGE.—Jupiter has been undergoing some curious changes during the past year, and particularly within the last two months; and astronomers are deeply interested about the matter. The belts of the planet are more than usually numerous, and they display a greater variety of colours than has ever yet been ascribed to them. The equatorial belt, which has been for years the brightest part of the planet, is now not nearly so bright as the light belts to the north and south. Usually it has been free from markings; now it is often covered with markings, which resemble piled-up cumulus clouds. It has generally been colourless, shining with a silvery-gray or pearly lustre; now it is of a rich, deep yellow, greatly resembling the colour of electrotyped gold.