

about 4,000 inhabitants. Its chief object of interest is an ancient tower, twenty-five feet square at its base, diminishing by graceful offsets until it attains the height of about 100 feet. It was evidently originally the campanile of a Christian church.

As we entered the mountains of Judea we frequently saw shepherds watching and leading their sheep. How different this scene to those we had witnessed on the great "sheep runs" of New Zealand and Australia! There the enormous flocks were driven from place to place by their caretakers and with the aid of trained sheep dogs, but in Palestine the shepherd tends his small flock of sheep and goats with tender care, as in ages past. He leads them into the "green pastures" and they follow him, and know him as he calls them on, the foremost of them scarcely a foot from his heels. "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." (John. x, 27.)

Crossing the valley of Ajalon we climbed over the "hills of Judea" and, darkness coming on, spent the night in their midst, at one of the small *khans* by the roadside. It was a glorious, clear, moonlight night, and a weird experience. The sights we looked upon—the old and barren mountains, so beautifully outlined against the sky, casting their black shadows into the deep valleys, were dreamy subjects. To think, too, of the scenes they had looked upon!

On our way we had passed by several tiny and picturesque villages, some of which were of historic interest, but I must not stop to mention these things. The stony and barren mountains of Judea have no interest in themselves—it is only their historic association, for they are desolate indeed, and even near Jerusalem, where once they were so beautiful, desolation reigns supreme, as it was prophesied.

In the immediate vicinity of Jerusalem, however, of late years there has been a great change—the hillsides are again being cultivated and are approaching their former glory. Their peculiar formation—a layer of rock, then one of arable soil and another of rock—in steps, as it were, makes them extremely pretty when in a high state of cultivation, and the natural terraces covered with olive trees or grape vines. The fruit of the country is most excellent. I have already alluded to the splendid oranges and lemons. The grapes are something extraordinary, the bunches grow to an enormous size and attain the highest perfection. Fig trees abound. If this system of cultivating continues and becomes more extensive, as it is steadily doing, Palestine will ere long again become a "land flowing with milk and honey." Great credit is due to the well-conducted German Colonies for their efforts in this line.

If one obtains his first view of Jerusalem from the Jaffa road he is destined to great disappointment. As he nears the city he passes through a long series of new and modern buildings—residences, hotels, cafes, church properties, etc. On the right is the large Russian Quadrangle, containing none too elegant but substantial buildings—a large church and an extensive "hospice," where pilgrims are given free lodging during their stay in Jerusalem. Each of the sects has one or more such "hospices" in or near Jerusalem, for the shelter of its pilgrims. Being anxious to get a peep at the old walled city we seemed a long time riding past these numerous new structures and at last, when we came to the Jaffa Gate, the view of the city was so cut off it hardly seemed possible we had arrived at Jerusalem. But, after getting located and seeing the view from the roof of the hotel just inside the gate, we began to realize it.

These long lines of new buildings through which we came, nearly all of which have been erected within the last six or seven years, seem to be fulfilling prophecy in a wonderful way, the city being extended and laid out exactly in the manner mentioned in Jer. xxxi, 38-40.

The walks in and about the sacred city are more than full of interest to the diligent observer, and the three weeks that I spent in its neighborhood are amongst the pleasantest and most profitable I have ever been privileged to enjoy. Having already written a lengthy letter from Jerusalem to the Massey Memorial Hall Sabbath School, I will only make brief mention now of some of the more important excursions we made in its vicinity.*

To the Bible student there is infinite pleasure in rambling about the hills and valleys near the Holy City, where nearly every foot of ground has its historic association and where there are no end of beautiful walks, all so deeply interesting. A stroll around the outside of the city, following the walls, only takes about an hour and gives one an excellent idea of the commanding situation of the city, and in the higher parts affording some excellent views of the surrounding hills and valleys. Of this, however, I must not stop to write now.

On one of our rambles we visited Subterranean Jerusalem, or the subterranean quarries, which extend under a greater part of the city. Close to the Damascus Gate, in the face of the natural rock, which at that point forms the greater part of the city wall, there being but a few layers of stone above it, there is a small doorway or entrance low down, where visitors crawl into the wonderful quarries—a great labyrinth of cavernous aisles, one following upon another, formed by the cutting away of the rock for building purposes in ancient times.

* Mr. W. E. H. Massey's letter on Jerusalem will be begun in the May No. of the ILLUSTRATED.

Great natural columns or piers have been left to support the solid rock above, and, candle in hand, with an experienced guide to avoid danger—for it is dangerous—one may wander about for hours in this vast succession of caves, so dark and silent, though only a little way beneath the busy streets of the city above. The full extent of these great quarries is as yet unknown, for portions of them are filled with rubbish from the fallen cities above. They were only discovered in 1852, having been closed to the outer world for ages. Their origin is unknown, though in all probability the stones used in the construction of the Temple and the great buildings of ancient Jerusalem were taken from these very quarries.

As one wanders about over the uneven surface, and glances into the deep stone pits, he will see chisel marks, niches for the lamps, blocks of stone partly cut out or left unfinished—just as they were left by the workmen centuries ago. There, too, may be seen the little spring which still flows where the ancient quarrymen were accustomed to slake their thirst. It was one of the most interesting places I have ever visited.

(To be continued.)

Birds Transporting Birds.

"Do large birds transport smaller ones through the air?" is a question often asked. Facts prove that large birds transport smaller ones in their yearly migrations. In the East the opinion is common that cranes transport on their backs small birds across the Mediterranean and over mountains. Several ornithologists have confirmed this popular opinion by their own observations. One of them says that in the autumn flocks of cranes are seen coming from the North; as they circle over the cultivated plains of Palestine, little birds fly up to them, and the twittering of those already settled upon their backs may be distinctly heard.



THE TOWER OF RAMLEH.