

destitute of all animal and piscine life. The beach is strewn with branches and trunks of trees brought down by the streams into the sea, and then, after tossing on the bitter waters, driven by the violence of the waves on the shore; but not a tree, or flower, or blade of grass, or shell can be found along this northern shore. A strange gloom seems to hang over this land of saltness



CLIFFS OF DEAD SEA.

and sea of death. How awful the associations connected with it! We cannot keep out of mind that fearful catastrophe, when the clouds of Divine indignation gathered, and "the Lord rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire."

We rode another hour over the hot, bare plain, with its white sulphurous crust, before we reached the Fords of the Jordan. The heat was intense; our body was smarting from the bath as