

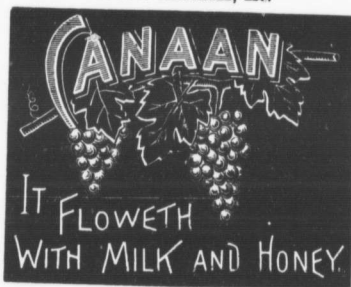
These of Esheol were probably dried in the "cluster." There is abundant testimony to the enormous size of the "clusters" of Palestine grapes in some localities. There is nothing new about this, for Strabo speaks of it. Monks told Doubdan of clusters weighing twelve pounds; Reland was assured by a merchant of Ramah that ten-pound clusters were not unusual. We can take with "salt" the assertion of a monk to Foster, that he saw at Hebron clusters as big as two men could carry, but Van Lennep vouches for clusters weighing twenty pounds, and says he has seen single grapes of the size of the largest Damask plum, and clusters measuring eighteen inches in length, and had counted over seven hundred grapes.

Ussher is quoted by Van Lennep as speaking of grape kernels in Armenia one and a half' and two inches long. Districts vary as to the adaptability to different species of grape culture, and become famous for the kind they raise or cure the best. Smyrna is famed for seedless grapes, and Chalcedon, near Constantinople, produces the finest edible grape known in the East. Thus the vale of Esheol was famed for its "clusters" as to size, and probably for the method of curing after removal from the vine. The spies carried these carefully on a pole suspended from two men's shoulders, not probably because of the weight of any separate clusters, but to preserve them from being knocked off, or the bloom from being destroyed, or the whole otherwise marred, so that they might present them at their best after the dust and heat of travel. No method of packing of clusters was then, or has been since, known that could have served the end better.

Verse 33. The expression, "The giants which were sons of giants," has been variously interpreted. All the Orient has traditions of heroes of vast stature. Some of these traditions are recognized as myths, but others are attributed to the custom of selecting large persons as chiefs, as the North American Indians did, who had little respect for a person of small stature. But in these times, when one has to wait for his morning newspaper to learn the latest "find," we know not what hour some tribe of giants may be unearthed. At this moment we get the report of Professor Petrie's unearthing, some thirty miles from Thebes, in the ruins of ancient Nubt, a whole city of pre-Egyptian foreigners of lofty stature, some of them six feet, wholly unlike the Egyptians known to history. Professor Petrie suggests that they may have come from Malta or Italy, or have been of Amorite descent and have lived three thousand years before our era, and "were probably the people who overthrew Egyptian civilization at the close of the old kingdom, and produced the dark age of the seventh and eighth dynasties."

Blackboard.

BY J. T. HARTNAGEL, ESQ.



BY GEORGE W. PEASE, ESQ.

THE EARTHY CANAAN.

FERTILE, AND RUITFUL, | PROMISE OF LENTY.

LOST

BY

DOUBTING, | FEARING,
INSTEAD OF
DOING. | FOLLOWING.

THE HEAVENLY CANAAN.

PEACE.
LENTY.

SHALL IT BE

GAINED OR LOST

BY

FEARLESS FAITH, | DOUBTS, DIFFICULTIES.

"The Lord is with us: fear not."

By Way of Illustration.

BY JENNIE M. BINGHAM.

Verses 17-20, 23-29, 31-33. We are hearing a great deal about the masses, public opinion, the popular vote, the will of the majority, and kindred phrases, which indicate what may be called the prevailing tendency of the age to worship the god