

disciples, and of an older Phœnician idol shrine, are a number of ancient synagogues and temples. Some of these synagogues are in a state of remarkably good preservation, and exhibit much architectural beauty. Of one the doorway alone remains, of which we give a cut. It is ten feet high and five feet broad. On either side of the rosette on the lintel were figures possibly intended for the paschal lamb. On the lintel is the Hebrew inscription, "Peace be unto this dwelling-place." It recalls vividly the words of Christ to the disciples, "Into whatsoever house ye enter say, Peace be to this house."

After lunch we rode on from Kahn Jubb Yusef through a picturesque region, but one of utter desolation. Beneath the eye lay broad green meadows, through which winds the sinuous Jordan. Of this region Dr. Porter writes:

"On reaching the brow of the long ascent, where the lake lies far below us, with the green valleys radiating from it, and the rich plateaux spreading out from the top of its high banks, we cannot refrain from sitting down to gaze upon that vast panorama. A mournful and solitary silence reigns over it. Nature has lavished on it some of her choicest gifts; but man has deserted it. In the whole valley of the Jordan, from the Lake Huleh to the Sea of Galilee, there is not a single settled inhabitant. Along the whole eastern bank of the river and the lakes, from the base of Hermon to the ravine of Hieromax—a region of great fertility, thirty miles long by seven or eight wide—there are only some *three inhabited villages!* The western bank is almost as desolate. Ruins are numerous enough. Every mile or two is an old site of town or village, now well-nigh hid beneath a dense jungle of thorns and thistles. The words of Scripture here recur to us with peculiar force—'I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation. . . . And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it. And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste. Then shall the land enjoy her Sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her Sabbaths.'"

We now approach Lake Huleh, or the "Waters of Merom" of Scripture. We cross the ancient three-arched bridge, named "the Bridge of Jacob's Daughters," probably from an erroneous tradition that here the patriarch crossed the river and met his brother Esau.

"Century after century," says Dr. Manning, "invading armies, or caravans of peaceful traders, have passed to and fro along this route; but none of them have left results so deep and lasting as when, eighteen hundred years ago, Saul of Tarsus, 'breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord . . . journeyed to Damascus,' little thinking, as he crossed this bridge, that he should return to preach the faith he now sought to destroy."