

Memories of Palestine.

BY THE EDITOR.

CHAPTER I.

OUR EXCURSION TO WADY URTAS.

[For the sake of such of our friends as begin their travels with us in this number of our magazine, it is necessary to say by way of preface that from the City of Jerusalem, where we now find ourselves, many interesting excursions can be made in different directions. The excursion for to-day (that to the Wady Urtas, the pools of Solomon and Bethlehem) is at any time an interesting one, but in our case it was peculiarly so from the friends that accompanied us and the circumstances in which we entered the city on our return. ED. C. C. M.]

The Lion and the Unicorn of the royal arms are always a welcome and interesting sight to loyal British subjects, from the time when we were wont as children to study the animals and repeat the childish rhymes about them, but we have no idea how a sight of the strange brutes "fighting for the crown" can touch one's heart, and eyes too, till we have wandered in foreign lands and have had our residence for a time under a foreign flag. The *Cross*, superstitious symbol though it be to the Romish Church, is ten times dearer than before, even to the strictest Protestant when he meets it in the land where the *crescent* is on every minaret. And right joyful does the heart feel in walking the streets of an Eastern city, where the language, dress, customs, religion, are all strange, to see the honest face of the British lion and the slender shanks of the non-descript called a Unicorn, as they show themselves in flaming colors from over the door of the British Consulate. But if the dumb picture has in it such language to the heart of a British subject, how very pleasant must it be to sit down in the Consul's office, to hear the old familiar tongue, to glance over the columns of an English newspaper, and to open and read there, long-looked-for letters from the dear ones at home.

The British Consul in Jerusalem du-

ring the time of our sojourn in the city was Mr. Finn, well known as the author of a popular book on the Holy Land. Different from too many of the Consuls one meets abroad, I found Mr. Finn an earnest Christian, interested not only in the ancient sites of Palestine but in the religious and moral condition of its present inhabitants, and especially forward in seeking the conversion and well-being of the Jews. In his efforts in behalf of the Jews Mr. Finn was assisted by his lady, a daughter of the late Dr. McCaul, of London, a friend till his last breath of the dispersed people of God. Mrs. Finn, with whom the conversion of Israel has been from childhood the ruling thought of her life, took a wise and practical way of doing her work with the full sympathy of her husband. Knowing the great temptations and difficulties that the Jew of Jerusalem encounters when, within sight of the holy places he forsakes Moses for Christ, — Mrs. Finn thought that better than charity it would be to get work for her converts to do, and show them how to do it. With the object, therefore, of giving employment and instruction in farming to Christian Jews, Mrs. Finn, aided I believe by our own Lady Dufferin, leased a farm in Wady Urtas, near Bethlehem (in the immediate neighborhood of Solomon's Pools) which she placed under the care of Meshullam, a converted Jew of good education and energy. The reader may imagine that it was therefore with feelings of no small delight we received an invitation from Mr. Finn to visit, in company with himself and lady, their colony in Wady Urtas.

The ride to Bethlehem was beguiled by the talk of the Consul, concerning the past and the present—one of whose ideas with regard to missions now recur to me in connection with the proposed