

They are putting the screw on resident foreigners tighter and tighter. They have forbidden the further building of schools and churches, and have done all in their power to stop mission work now in progress, resorting to every means they dare. Once or twice recently they have had the insolence to send in a notice to Miss Arnott to close her cele-

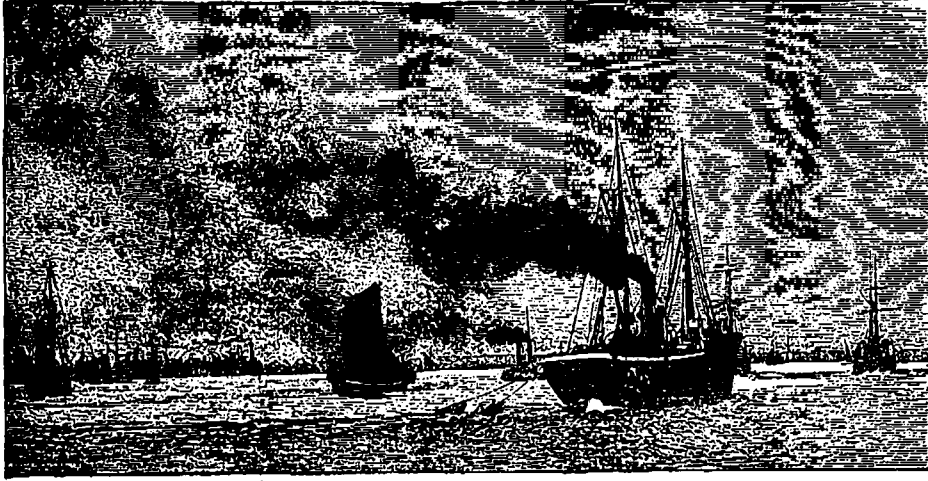
just ripening, in others the wheat was only half-grown and beautifully green, while yet other fertile fields were being ploughed.

Here, too, we saw primitive farming operations going on—and things were quite as primitive as the methods in Egypt. I went into one field and tried my hand with a Syrian plow, which had an ox

While their definite locality may not be known now it can be approximately. If one looks carefully about him, he will see scores of sights that will bring passages of Scripture to mind, and further that will help to elucidate illustrations otherwise difficult to understand. One writer draws attention to several such points. The simple plow, for instance, which merely scratches the ground, is guided by one handle, and so "No man having put his hand to the plough and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of heaven" (Luke, ix. 62). The ploughman in his other hand carries the goad spoken of—a long spear with a sharpened point for touching up the cattle. "It is no use for refractory oxen to raise their heels when the goad touches them—the driver is safely behind the plow and out of reach. One thinks of the voice saying to Saul of Tarsus, 'It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks,' that is, the goads (Acts, ix. 5); and of 'Shamgar, the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox-goad; and he also delivered Israel' (Judges, iii. 31)." I had noticed at intervals a few stones—three or four—carelessly piled one above another, and upon enquiry found they marked the boundary of the fields, for there are no fences or hedges of any kind. It would be a small matter to scatter them all, but "it is written," "Cursed be he that removeth his neighbor's landmark" (Deut. xxvii. 17). "Ruth went gleaning in the field after the reapers, she had no ditches to scramble over, she only passed the boundary stones of a large field, similar to those in the Plain of Sharon, 'and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging to Boaz' (Ruth, ii. 3)." The author quoted has also well said that "time would fail to tell of a tithe of such scriptural associations as a day's journey in Palestine would call to mind."

The Arabs one meets on the road are almost invariably armed with either gun, pistol, sword, or dagger, and generally a combination of these, and if no other weapon, a heavy club with a round bulb at one end, which has been used through all time, probably from the days of Cain. Naturally one does not experience much pleasure at first in meeting Arabs thus armed, but these weapons are carried for defensive purposes; the miserable government providing no police protection, the heavily-taxed farmers have to guard themselves against the roving and mischievous Bedaweens.

We lunched at Ramleh, a pleasant village of



LEAVING PORT SAID FOR JAFFA.

brated school in Jaffa within a given time! I heard, too, of other similar instances. If Mahomedans think thus to stop the progress of Christianity they have a rather hopeless task before them. Though they profess so much piety and boast in a belief in the One true God, they would do well to heed the counsel of the wise Gamaliel to the Jewish Council of old, lest haply they, too, "be found to fight against God" and bring upon themselves a like condemnation (Acts, v. 34).

Jaffa, as seen from the sea, is pretty and picturesque and, like most Syrian villages, "distance lends enchantment." The houses appear as though built one above another in terraces, the whole forming one great pile of oriental dwellings and buildings at the very water's edge—the site being a commanding hill.

As one wends his way up through the very narrow streets from the landing he sees sights and bazaars not unlike those of Egyptian towns, though the buildings are more substantial, being mostly of stone, and further he sees native Syrians who differ in appearance (being somewhat fairer) and in dress from the Egyptian Arabs.

The Jaffa market place is always busy and is the rendezvous of the townspeople for business, gossiping, and social concerns, and hence is, of course, a curious and interesting place. We passed camel after camel laden with boxes of oranges to be shipped away, the district around Jaffa producing excellent fruit and very abundantly.

But a short distance from the landing-place is the reputed house of Simon the Tanner, where Peter lodged and saw the vision (Acts, x). This famous old port has seen many a hard fight and undergone many destructions and rebuildings. We drove on at once to Jerusalem, leaving a more thorough look through Jaffa till our return.

For a long distance after leaving the port the road runs through a series of orange groves and is bordered with cactus hedges. The perfume of the oranges filled the air and the heavily-laden trees were beautiful to look upon. Oranges bring from thirty to eighty cents per 100 in Jaffa according to the season. Leaving the groves we sped on over the lovely and fertile Plain of Sharon. It was a charming drive, the air so fresh and bracing after the heat of Egypt, and on either side were beautiful, well-cultivated fields. In some fields the grain was

and a donkey yoked to it. The plow was easy to manage certainly, but the beasts I could not without the use of the "goad," which was too cruel a means of inciting activity to suit me. Ere long some of the crude tools—the old reaping-hooks—used on the Plain of Sharon, are to be laid aside, and in their stead Massey Harvesters will harvest its golden products, while Arabs look on in gross astonishment at the unwonted intruders; for while at Jerusalem I had the pleasure of appointing an agency and selling the first Massey Harvester in Palestine, which was to be used on one of the beautiful farms on the Plain of Sharon. This will probably be the first modern reaping machine used in the vicinity of Jerusalem.

As one passes over this great highway between the Holy City and its seaport—a way which was so oft trodden by Bible characters—the kings, the prophets, and the saints of old; over which Roman armies, crusaders, and pilgrims by thousands have marched—his thoughts can but carry him back to historic scenes. Here and there were places and villages mentioned in Scripture—the sites where events recorded in the Holy Bible were enacted.



THE MASSEY HARVESTER AT WORK ON THE PLAINS OF SHARON, PALESTINE.