

we have yet seen in Palestine. It is woodland or forest; but very different indeed from the forests of Ontario. The timber is mostly oak and *karobah*. Instead of growing closely and thickly, as with us, these trees stand widely apart, leaving here and there green glades, which open occasionally into such wide clearings as are called "*rides*" in old English forests. The appearance of the country resembles the woodland scenery of Manitoba, as I have read of it and heard it described. To travel through such a country was truly delightful. The verdure was refreshing to the eye; and the shade of the wide-spreading oaks was grateful to the head, as the Syrian sun, from a cloudless sky, poured down on us his fierce beams at noon. Here and there we see sheep and goats grazing, and cattle resting under the wide-spreading trees. The ground in many places is thick with the fruit of the *karobah* tree, (the husks which the swine did eat—Luke xv.) but there are no swine to be seen, though one of these ragged shepherds might well pass for the prodigal son. Linnets, finches, and larks were among the branches, but they had ceased their morning song before we had ceased climbing our steep ascent. Mr. Finn, late English consul at Jerusalem, says in his book, "*Bye-ways in Palestine*:" "We were entering the gay woodland, and reached the top of a hill when the sun rose at our left hand, and the glory of that moment surpassed all common power of description. Crowds of linnets and finches burst suddenly into song; the crested larks rose into the merry blue sky, with the sunlight gleaming on their plump and speckled breasts; the wood-pigeons were not silent: but all, in harmonious concert, did their best to praise the blessed Creator." Forests such as this one to the north of Tabor were once to be seen even south of Jerusalem, where the country is now treeless and shrubless. It is popularly said, that "once upon a time a man of Jerusalem went to reside at Hebron, where he sojourned for many years, undergoing many trials, which ended in the loss of his eye-sight. In extreme old age he resolved upon returning to his native city. When he reached the Convent of Mar Elias, half-way between Bethlehem and Jerusalem, the weather being hot, he took off his turban, to rest it on the saddle before him. 'Oh, our father,' said his sons, who were walking by his side, 'why art thou uncovering the bareness of thy head?' 'It is,' replied he, 'that I may enjoy the coolness of the trees that I remember to have seen by the road-side all the way hence to Jerusalem.' They assured him that not a tree was to be seen in any direction, right or left. 'Is it so,' said he, 'then turn back, my sons, and let me die where I have lived so long. Jerusalem is no longer what it was.'" War, bad government, and the wastefulness of ignorant men, have stripped southern Palestine of its timber. Unless there is a change of government, the forests of Galilee, (three of them of great size,) will undergo the same fate. During the excavation of the Suez Canal, ship-loads of charcoal went from the ports of Galilee and the creeks between Acre and Beyroot to Egypt, and whole districts were stripped of their timber.

What strange buildings are these in this solitary spot? The building on the hill with square towers on the corners is a castle, and that building in the vale below was a khan or inn for the accommodation of travellers, fitted up in the usual oriental style with vaults, magazines, and rooms for the protection of merchandize, but no person ventures to stay there for a night for fear of the Arabs, who are prowling about in this valley, whose mouth opens on the Jordan and its