

The figures intimate the depth of the water, the greatest depth being 160 feet.

But how different from the desolation which at present reigns around this lake were its busy scenes in the life of our Lord! Then a dense population covered the Plain of Gennesaret. Many cities dotted its shores, whose half-buried ruins attest their ancient splendour and prosperity. Hundreds of keels stirred its surface and conveyed its busy commerce from town to town. Now you may wander for miles along its shore and see no sign of habitation, save some crumbling ruins, or a few lawless Arabs. Where now lies the wretched city at our feet were a marble palace, theatre and hippodrome, built by Herod Antipas; and stately villas studded like gems the mountain slopes. Aqueducts, long since shattered, carried water to numerous fountains, and to distant field and garden. The olive and vine, the palm and fig, and scarlet-hued pomegranate beautified the shore.



ON THE SHORES OF GALILEE.

Merchants from Antioch, Damascus, Palmyra and Decapolis, caravans from Egypt and Persia, Jewish rabbins, Greek philosophers, Roman officers, tax-gatherers and swaggering soldiers filled the bazaars. Josephus describes his collecting 250 ships at short notice for an attack on Tiberias. It is recorded that the Romans,