

Young People's Department.



ON THE SEA OF GALILEE.

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THIS beautiful lake, so dear to the hearts of all Christians, is now visited by many tourists, most of whom, it may be feared, spend their time in eating and talking, rather than in the prayer and meditation that occupied the real "pilgrims" who used to reach the Holy Land after years of painful travelling on foot, through countries where they were ill-treated and often robbed.

In those days, before the first Crusades—those wars in which Christians fought to take Jerusalem from the Turks, of which I suppose you have read—little bands of pilgrims would leave England, France, or Germany, and travel, oh, so slowly, over terrible roads and mountain passes, to reach Jerusalem. They would go through Austria, Hungary, and

Turkey, passing across to Turkey-in-Asia at Constantinople, and then down towards Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee.

Think what must have been their joy, on arriving at a hill overlooking the lake, to see its peaceful beauty, and to feel that their beloved Saviour had gazed upon it a thousand years before! Indeed, some of these pilgrims were there before the thousand years had passed, and had bathed in Galilee before six hundred years had gone.

After their distressing journeys through Europe they sometimes arrived in Palestine without money, and almost without clothing, and although the object of their pilgrimage was the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, many miles away, they sometimes stayed at Tiberias for months, ill, and obliged to beg, but happy in the sight of the lake and the thoughts of its precious history.