

coal in a copper dish, placed in the centre of the room, is the extent of an attempt at a social fire. At Bishop Giob's and one other house, stores were noticed. At Dr. Spaulding's missionary-room at Damascus, a regular Boston store displaced a comfort that could no where else be found in the town.

Old as Palestine is as the residence of civilized man, there is not one decent road, five rods long, in the whole territory. Paths are struck out where there are the fewest stones or the least mud, upon any one's field, and through any premises the rider chooses to go. If Herod the Great, whose passion for building magnificent cities was equal to Ahab's, had built in Egypt for creature comforts, had made for miles of good roads from Jerusalem toward Jaffa, he would have conferred a blessing on his abused and degraded country. I have roamed over the stupendous ruins which mark the mission of that energetic but wicked wretch, with feelings that were never called into activity in stepping from one fallen column to another in any pleasure. With all his determined ambition to leave enduring monuments in granite that should withstand the assaults of the elements or the destructive agencies of concrete in after years, the besom of destruction has swept them all, away, and Caesarea, the magnificent capital of Judaea, has not one human being within its boundaries.

The only living thing in sight, where there were the finest specimens of architecture—palaces beyond palaces, and marble, and an exhibition of wealth and refinement, while he was in the zenith of his glory—was one solitary horse, feeding among crushed fragments of sculptured stone, as I passed over the lonely site of a once grand and beautiful treacher of splendid court.

From the days of the Jebusites, whose capital was the present rock on which Jerusalem stands, every successive people who have had possession of Palestine have had their habitations on the very summits of the mountains. Every town and village, therefore, is up there. No one resides in a valley. From some hill tops the spectator has an admirable view of many distant places that appear quite near; but to reach any of them, he must descend a mile or so, and cross a horrible ravine or yawning gorge, and subsequently wind up and onward like the graticles of a cork screw, for ten or twenty hours to get at the proposed place of meeting. Miles are untravelled, and the longest journeys are made in weeks of hours who degas a movement. It is seven hours to one place, for example, two to somewhere else, and forty to another.

The making of a journey through the Holy Land to Syria, is an expensive affair indeed. There must be pack-mules for carrying beds, food, and all that may be required from day to day. Three persons could not do well without a cook, and a cook, a horse, a mule, a baggage-man, who does all the talking, and answers all your questions, for the Arabic is difficult to acquire, and without an interpreter, it is impossible to know where you are, or what you see. Finally, each rider is mounted on a horse, who is followed by a groom, and he must have a mule to carry the provisions. All this makes a kind of caravan, a long string of animals, slowly winding up and down the steep trails of the land, single file, at the rate of two or three miles only an hour.

In the course of the day, many places of peculiar interest, mentioned in the Old Testament, are distinctly seen which are not approached.—When I stood at Bethel, Ramah was in full sight, and the mosque over the tomb of Simeon the prophet; both Horns the Upper, and Gibbon also, where Joshua took a position when he said, "Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon, and thou Moon in the valley of Ajalon," and other localities of immense interest to the biblical scholar and sacred geographer. At night it is necessary to seek a stopping place in a village for security.—Beyond a town or hamlet, there is not a single habitation.

All lodge in the same apartment on the ground, on your own beds, surrounded by armies of insects every for your blood. Poor things! if it were not for strangers, fleas would soon be extinct, for they seem to despise an Arab, who sleeps soundly in defiance of their nippers. Horses, cows, camels, goats, dogs, and the family, are not unfrequently congregated in one room. The night before reaching Damascus, we suffered exceedingly on account of the multitude of lodgers in one room, for the landlord had, in addition to all the beasts and creeping things of Noah's ark, three wires with their restless children.

The reason for taking hill-tops for towns has reference, in the first place, to security; they can discover the approach of visitors, and if they don't like them, keep them at bay with the balls always at hand, (great stones) which, when once put in motion, would sweep through all opposition. Secondly, when the winter rains come, the mountains are deluged with angry torrents that gorge out of the side-hills, so that not a resting place for a house could be found. An air of desolation reigns every where, and every person you meet is armed to the teeth with pistols, blunderbusses, long guns, dirks, spears, down to a simple club.

Although an advocate for peace, and almost a non-resistance in sentiment, I have been lunging a stone horse-pistol all over the country, knowing not what might come. Had an attack been made upon our train, I am quite sure I should have run, for I have a mortal antipathy to powder.

JERUSALEM

The following extracts of two letters from Jerusalem (very lately received) are from John Mesullam and appeal to the heart of every Christian who loves Zion. As a converted Jew, he has gone to Palestine to establish a manual labor farm. They are addressed to the author of the "Tidings from Jerusalem," who has returned to Palestine.

JERUSALEM, 1851.

I had, in my last letter, informed you of the sale of our hotel, furniture, &c., and of our entire settlement in Artes (Bethlehem). Here I soon found my presence necessary, to reinstate the order and tranquility that had been destroyed by my personal absence; my directions had been intruded to the charge of usually Arab men, who began to stirre against one another, and would have been productive of the worst results, had I not taken them by surprise, and made them retreat their proceedings. My first object, after settling the quarrels of my labourers, was to build some enclosures round my lands, and continue raising the various American articles. I received; and my agents labourers in thankfulness to those friends who gratuitously presented them to me.

My farm is wonderfully progressing, and maintaining its verdure notwithstanding the sultry dryness of the surrounding country. I have added to my establishments two new rooms, conveniently situated on the eastern part of the valley, so that in all I am proprietor of three new rooms for lodging, one for keeping my sheep, and another for provender. Adjoining these I have a small enclosure for poultry, and the fine down of the valley a small lot; the cows, horses, &c. I have recently also added a camel to my domestic animals, as the most convenient beast to carry my vegetables to the city. In being the first year of the entire establishment at Jerusalem, and of my brethren: the latter are, beyond all doubt, persuaded that my object will one day be effected in leading the Jews to follow me, not for the sake of my money, but for the sake of the Israelites of whom those that are inclined to labour, fear greatly, particularly of forsaking by their allowance. As it is, my farm would already be crowded with poor Jewish labourers. All I could promise them at present would be a moral share of my productions, but could not afford to allow them means for the private wants of their families.

Respecting the purchase of land, I beg to suggest that the Arabs are ever willing to dispose of as much soil as they have means of clearing; but my circumstances at present being very limited, I cannot raise more than my limits. You could easily buy up a fine large tract of land for the sum of £20, (\$100), being the amount of 8,000 piastres in Turkish money, which would render the purchase a permanent possession, granted by government; but you are aware that land must be here purchased through the medium of a raph, or (Turkish subject) as for some always to be allowed to buy land on their own account. This amount, however, would be far from affording the annual subsistence of a family, as the work required before land would be great to clear it of stones, &c., and make it ready to undergo a rough good ploughing. To purchase land unimproved, and ready worked for sowing, requires higher price, and this would vary according to the circumstances of the seller. As for some always to be allowed to buy land, he is to be sold, to buy cheap—he must be worked with ready money. This year, had I only £20 (\$100) in hand, I could not only have purchased a tract of land, but also hired several pieces in addition.

I will also venture to add, that if I were now stocked with sufficient means, I could do much more than I have hitherto done in improving the Jews, and my family. I have repeatedly applied with anxious pursuit to my farm; but farther than this I have no prospect yet to go for them. A poor woman, with a large family, recently applied to me, and I gave her twelve measures of wheat for their support, for which she was very thankful; and my poor brethren generally are united in prayers for my prosperity; and I trust that God will be pleased with our poor, weak efforts in encouraging, in the best degree, the starting condition of the sons of Israel.

But what is of the first and greatest importance, beloved friends, is, that well-splendid co-workers should be near: to hold up my feeble hand in this great labor. I shall be happy to hear from you by this opportunity that offers, and especially to know how long you will have to carry in America will be my great wish. I have repeatedly applied with anxious pursuit without assistance, (excepting Arab helps) and I even fear that the extensive tract of land that I leased in view of your speedy coming, will leave me without means to carry it on, without only aid of American men and means. I, therefore, am anxiously awaiting your arrival in Palestine, and beg to know how far I may proceed. I remain,

Your, and the servant of Jesus Christ,

JOHN MESULLAM.

Seven practical agriculturists have gone to Palestine, (about the time this letter was written, last autumn), with farming tools, seeds, &c., and about \$1,000 in money, to defray their expenses on the journey. And we would here appeal to Christ's Gentile people, to sustain the hands of this tract, Israelite, and of our Christian brethren who have gone forth to manual labor for the temporal and spiritual benefit of the perishing brethren of our Lord Jesus Christ. Can any heart who are of Jesus' mercy, these laborers in the vineyard of the desolate land of Israel fail in responding to this call? Shall they faint and die for want of sustenance? We trust not. We confidently hope and believe that this labor of love may be one of the means by which some of the cast-off branches may be brought in again to "their own olive tree."

ARTOS, BETHLEHEM VALLEY, PALESTINE, Dec. 29, 1851.

DEAR CHRISTIAN FRIENDS:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter, and am glad to hear that you are in the midst of your journey. I have just had an address you. Under the circumstances in which it has pleased our heavenly Father to place me, there are many and various incidents occurring, well calculated both to excite the curiosity of the no vice and to inspire with sympathy the faithful dependent upon Pro-