

read that Joshua "burnt Hai, and made it a *heap* for ever, a desolation unto this day."¹

Here, then, in this spot to the east of Bethel, called to this day "the heap," and answering to the requirements of the narrative of the assault by Israel, given in Joshua viii., in all probability we may recognize the ancient Hai, or at all events its immediate neighbourhood. No traveller has yet remarked, what struck me most forcibly, as with difficulty I pushed my horse over the large, broken, deeply-worn stones which cover the ground, in some places to a great depth, that those stones have every appearance of having been placed there by pious Jews in succeeding ages to keep up the perpetual desolation decreed by Joshua. In his report of this region, made during its survey, Major Conder shows at length how exactly *Et Tell* agrees with the graphic description of the storming and capture of Hai.² But in his *Tent Work in Palestine* he now rejects the identification of *Et Tell*, and considers that the remains of a large ancient town at *Haiyan*, "which approaches closely to *Aina*," the form under which Hai appears in the writings of Josephus, "are on the true site."³ *Haiyan*, close to the modern village of *Deir Diwan*, is only a mile S.S.W. of *Et Tell*, so that practically for our present purpose it is a matter of no importance which of these two identifications we adopt.

Somewhere, then, on the lofty ridge which joins *Beitin* and *Et Tell*, or at all events, in its immediate neighbourhood, the Father of the Faithful and his too worldly-minded kinsmen stood to view the surrounding country. None who have gazed on the Jordan Valley from various points in this same neighbourhood can doubt where Sodom and Gomorrah and their rich garden lands were situated.

They could not have stood where now lie the waters of the Dead Sea. This was formerly taught, but science has convincingly shown that this salt sea has from the earliest

¹ Josh. viii. 28.

² *Quarterly Statement of the Palestine Exploration Fund*, April, 1874.

³ *Tent Work in Palestine*. Vol. ii. pp. 108, 109. Richard Bentley & Son. 1878.