

hundred feet. The air is pure and dry and it was admirably adapted for concealment and protection. Here have been found some ancient pottery and glass and copper fibulæ, possibly those of shepherds or wandering Bedouins. As a shepherd lad David doubtless knew well this stronghold in the mountains. In this vast cavern there was ample room for his miscellaneous company of his brethren and those of his father's house, when "everyone that was in distress, and everyone that was in debt, and everyone



ENTRANCE TO CAVE OF ADULLAM.

that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men." A spring has also been found which might to some extent supply their wants, but David, remembering the cool, fresh water of Bethlehem, which had often quenched his thirst in his boyhood shepherd days, expressed a natural yearning for the water that was by the gate of Bethlehem, some two hours distant. Despite the hosts of the Philistines in the Valley of Rephaim, the "three mighty men" of his band broke through the hostile lines