

tinuous rows of uncemented stones were laid upon the top of the walls, so that they might be rolled down and crush the besiegers. The inhabitants of Tiberias have often had disputes with the Pashas of Damascus, who have come and planted their cannon against the city and have sometimes beaten down part of the walls, but have never been able to take it. The town has two gates, and one of them is closed up; and though the town had formerly been protected by a ditch, it has been filled up with cultivable soil.

The Jews would seem to be somewhat numerous here in proportion to the size of the place, for we found two of their synagogues in about the middle of the town, similar in design though inferior in execution, to that of Jerusalem. There are a good though small bazaar, and two or three coffee-houses, but the houses in general are small and mean, some few, indeed, being of stone, but most of them of dried mud.

The latest estimate of the population of Tiberias makes the number of its inhabitants fewer than two thousand, about eight hundred of whom are Jews. There are only a few families of Christians.

Tiberias, with all the neighboring region of Galilee, suffered severely from an earthquake on the 1st of January, 1837. The walls of the city, and most of its buildings, were overthrown, and many hundred of the inhabitants were buried in the ruins. The effects of this awful visitation are everywhere plainly visible. The walls are in many places rent, broken, and breached; even the governor's palace is little better than a ruin. The whole place has a mean appearance from a distance, and the aspect is not improved upon closer approach.

But if the modern Tubaria is thus paltry, not so was the ancient Tiberias. Both to the south and the north of the existing town there are numerous and extensive ruins. The old city extended to some distance to the north of the modern town, and also stretched along the lake as far as the baths of Emmaus, which are a full mile to the south of the modern town; and at the northern extremity of the ruins are the remains of the ancient