

years of frequent and bloody conflicts. On its southern border Deborah and Barak triumphed over the hosts of Sisera with his nine hundred chariots of iron. Later, Gideon, with his valiant band, having dismissed all who were "fearful and afraid," and further winnowed his host, by the strange test at the fountain of Gilead, to three hundred heroes, with the war-cry "the sword of

PLAIN OF ESDRAELION AND MOUNTAINS OF GILEAD.



the Lord and of Gideon," signally defeated the Midianites and the Amalekites, who were the Bedouins of that day, driving them to the fords of the Jordan and capturing two of their sheiks, Oreb and Zeeb, the "Raven" and the "Wolf." A neighbouring crag and cave are still known as the Raven's Nest, and the Wolf's Den.

Through Israel's unfaithfulness this victory was followed by