

bishops, they thought, might very conveniently represent the high-priest, the presbyters the priests, while the deacons might occupy the place of the Levites. In the controversies which afterwards arose, the Divine authority, which conferred on the Levites a tenth of fruits, &c., was strenuously urged, in their own cause by their supposed successors.

But if the deacons had succeeded to the Levites, the former ought to have engrossed the tithes; for what right had *priests* and *high-priests*, who were otherwise provided for, to eat up the Levites' portion? Suppose this should be evaded, and we should be told that, by some means, all *ranks* of the Christian ministers had acquired a right to partake of the tithes, "here they would seem convicted, and left without reply. For, in the same text of scripture, where God commands the *tithes* to be given to the Levites, he also commands that they shall *not* possess any land, or real estates, and that they shall content themselves with the *tithes only*. If, therefore, the people be obliged by this command to pay *tithes*, the Levites are under the *same* obligation to take no possessions of * 'inheritance.'"

(To be continued.)

ILLUSTRATIONS OF SACRED HISTORY AND ANTIQUITY.

ATTEMPT TO EXPLORE THE DEAD SEA.—It was nearly dark when we reached the top of the mountain, and I sat down for a moment to take a last look of the Dead Sea. From this distance its aspect fully justified its name. It was calm, motionless, and seemingly dead: there was no wave or ripple on its surface, nor was it hurrying on, like other waters, to pay its tribute to the ocean. The mountains around it were also dead; no trees or shrubs, not a blade of grass, grew on their naked sides; and as in the days of Moses, "Brimstone and salt, it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass growth thereon." One thing had especially attracted my attention, in ascending the mountain: on attaining a particular point, we had a clear view of the whole sea; and at the extreme end, we saw distinctly what Paul and I both at once called an island. Mr. Seetzen, one of the earliest modern travellers who visited this sea, imagined that he had discovered a large island in the same direction; and though no one believed in its reality, I had then seen no satisfactory explanation of the appearance. I could not be deceived in what I saw. There never was any thing that looked more like an island, and afterwards received an explanation, which to me at least was perfectly satisfactory. It comes from one who ought to know, from the only man who ever made the tour of that sea, and lived to tell of it; and, relying upon the interesting nature of the subject, I make no apology for introducing it here. When the unhappy Costigan was found by the Arabs on the shore of the Dead Sea, the spirit of the enterprising Irishman was fast fleeing away. He lived two days after he was carried to the convent at Jerusalem, but he never once referred to his unhappy voyage. He had long been a traveller in the East, and long preparing for this voyage; had read every book that treated of the mysterious waters, and was thoroughly prepared with all the knowledge necessary for exploring it to advantage.

Unfortunately for the interests of science, he had always been in the habit of trusting greatly to his memory; and, after his death, the missionaries in Jerusalem found no regular diary or journal, but merely brief notes written on the margins of books, so irregular and confused, that they could make nothing of them; and either from indifference or because they had no confidence in him, they allowed Costigan's servant to go without asking him any questions. I took some pains to trace out this man; and afterwards while lying at Beyroot, suffering from a malady which abruptly put an end to my travels in the East, Paul hunted him out and brought him to me. He was a little, dried-up Maltese sailor; had rowed round that sea without knowing why, except that he was paid for it. And what he told me bore the stamp of truth; for he did not seem to think that he had done any thing extraordinary. He knew as little about it as any man could know, who had been over the same water; and yet, after all, perhaps he knew as much as any one else could learn. He seemed, however, to have observed the coast and the soundings with the eye of a sailor; and I got him to make me a map, which has been engraved for this work, and on which I marked down the particulars, as I received them from his lips. The reader will see by it, that they had completed the whole tour of the lake. They were eight days in accomplishing the task, sleeping every night on shore, except once, when, afraid of some suspicious Arabs, whom they saw on the mountains, they slept on board, beyond the reach of gunshot from the land. He told me that they had moved in a zigzag direction, crossing and re-crossing the lake several times; that every day they sounded, frequently with a line of one hundred and seventy five brachia, (about six feet each;) that they found the bottom rocky, and of very unequal depth, sometimes ranging thirty, forty, eighty, twenty brachia, all within a few boats' length; that sometimes the lead brought up sand, like that of the mountains on each side; that they failed in finding bottom but once, and in that place there were large bubbles all around for thirty paces, rising probably from a spring; that in one place, they found, on the bank, a hot sulphur spring; that, at the southern extremity, Mr. Costigan looked for the river of Dogs, but did not find it; that in four different places they found ruins, and could clearly distinguish large hewn stones, which seemed to have been used for buildings; and in one place they saw ruins, which Mr. Costigan said were the ruins of Gomorrah. Now, I have no doubt that Mr. Costigan talked with him as they went along, and told him what he told me; and that Mr. Costigan had persuaded himself that he did see the ruins of a guilty city. He may have been deceived, and probably was; but it must have been the most intensely interesting illusion that ever any man had. But of the island, or what Paul and I had imagined to be such:—He said, they too had noticed it particularly; and when they came to the southern extremity of the lake, found that it was an optical deception, caused by a tongue of high land, that put out for a long distance from the middle of the southern extremity, as in the map; and being much higher than the valley beyond it, intercepted the view in the manner we had both noticed. This tongue of land, he said, was composed of solid salt, tending to confirm the assertion of Strabo, to which I referred in my journey through Idumea, that in the great valley south of the Dead Sea, there were formerly large cities built entirely of salt. The reader will take this for what it is worth: it is at least new, and it comes from the only man living who has explored the lake. He told me some other particulars: that the boat, when empty, floated a palm higher out of the water than on the

* Sargi. De Bener. c. xvi.