

More remarkable still is one in the Land of Moab, beyond the Jordan, the Castle of Kerak, shown in a restored condition in the accompanying large engraving. "This is a wonderful pile," says Dr. Ridgaway, "not only for the area which it covers, but for its massiveness and history. It was built

in Palestine was utterly broken. The impregnable castle, no longer defended, passed easily into the hands of the victors, and has ever since remained with their descendants."

Under the domination of the Arabs, however, it has largely gone to decay, although within thirty years the beautiful frescoes in its Gothic chapel were still to be seen.

It is an episode in the long war of the Crusades that we now sketch. We are to tell how, in this mighty movement, there was a wave of child life, to describe the part in that undying love for the Holy Land, and in the weary seeking of its shores, that has been taken by children's hearts and by children's feet.

THE MOVEMENT IN FRANCE.

The first crusade of the children had its origin in France. In the quiet village of Cloyes there lived a poor shepherd lad named Stephen. One May morning, in 1182, while tending his flock, he was visited by a stranger dressed in the garb of a pilgrim returned from Palestine. The pilgrim announced himself to be Jesus Christ, described the persecution of the Christians in Palestine by

the Moslems, and commissioned Stephen to preach a crusade to the children with the promise that they should win the victory, which former crusades of soldiers and nobles had failed to gain. Furthermore, he gave the astonished youth a letter to the king of France commanding that monarch to aid the sacred enterprise.



CRUSADING KNIGHTS.

under King Falco, a predecessor of Raynold of Chatillon, about A.D. 1131, and strengthened under the auspices of Godfrey de Boulogne. In 1183 it baffled the assaults of Saladin. It fell at last in 1187, only after the last bloody conflict between the Crusaders and the Moslems near the Sea of Galilee, in which the rule of the Christians