

JOTTINGS IN THE EAST.

FROM THE DEAD SEA TO GALILEE.

BY THE REV. DONALD G. SUTHERLAND, B.D., LL.B.



ARAB ENCAMPMENT.

IN about an hour after leaving the Dead Sea, we arrived at the fords of the Jordan. For some distance the river is hidden from view by thickets of willows, balsams, and tamarisks. The noon-tide heat was oppressive, and we were glad to cast ourselves under the shade of the trees, near the pilgrims' bathing-place. There were two other small

parties of ladies and gentlemen picnicking close by. The stream is from eighty to a hundred feet in width, and its turbid water flows by in a strong current. Its depth varies at different seasons, but at that time it was about eight feet in the centre. In its course from the Sea of Galilee, sixty miles away, its meandering track measures about two hundred miles; and in that distance it has a descent of seven hundred feet. Through most of its course, it forces its way through a narrow gorge, but, where we were, the bank on the western side is low, while that on the east is rather lofty, and intersected with ravines. Our bathe in the river, in spite of the muddy water, and the sharp stones, and the swift current, was delightful. It soon washed away the uncomfortable incrusting of Dead Sea salt, and seemed to me somewhat like bathing in oil.

Near this spot tradition locates the crossing of the Israelites into the Promised Land. As the priests, bearing the ark of the Lord, came to the river's edge, the conscious waters, obedient to