

## EASTERN CUSTOMS AND BIBLE TEXTS.

The Rev. Richmond Shreve, M.A., whose excellent papers on the Literary History of the Bible we had the pleasure of publishing a few months ago, has kindly placed at our disposal a series of papers prepared for the purpose and read before his Bible Class in Yarmouth, and as they are of an extremely interesting nature, and while valuable to all, particularly so to the young, we think they will be very acceptable to our readers. Our only regret is that we cannot publish each paper entire each week, but must break them up to suit our limited space.

## No. I.

Ever since my boyhood I have had a longing desire to travel, because in travelling one can see, and seeing learn.

While there are many parts of the world which have great attractions—as, e. g., the western portions of our own continent with their “magnificent distances”; Italy, with its history of art and its sunny skies; the snow-clad Alps—I would, with comparatively little regret, pass by all these if I could but wander at leisure near to and through the Cathedrals and Abbeys of old England and through the different parts of Palestine! These subjects and places have an interest for me I have no wish to be rid of—an interest which would only be deepened by the gratification of sight.

Of the Cathedrals I must say not one word, or we will not get to Palestine at all to-night. But that land, the *Holy Land*, the Land of Promise, we would like indeed to stand upon its soil. Associations can do much in any case to endear a spot to one's heart, but here it is especially so. To gaze upon that land from a nearer standpoint than that of Moses; to see where Joshua fought, and Samuel prayed, and Solomon dwelt in luxury, and Elijah was called from earth without actual death; to walk where the great Temple stood—all this would be something. It would be yet more to visit that land where the angels of God appeared in visible form to the sons of men; and, above all, it would be with a holy delight that we would tread where Jesus trod; with deeply chastened and subdued feelings we would visit Gethsemane and Calvary, and spend our Christmas at Bethlehem.

Centuries ago, before Jerusalem had become half foreign, as it is now; before it had fallen under the rule of stagnant Mahomedanism; yet further back, before Roman armies had laid low its walls, the devout Jew, when making his periodical pilgrimage to the Holy City, would fall upon his knees in a transport of joy as he first came in view of its dazzling beauties. We know that the deep feelings of one great, full heart found vent in tears when, knowing the future, He came in sight of the city; so that we can easily pardon the rapture of the Psalmist, and would most probably have echoed his words, could we have seen it as he saw it—“The hill of Zion is a fair place, the joy of the whole earth.” Anything, therefore, however trivial, which throws light upon the Scripture references to that land and its people ought, I think, to prove interesting. So much by way of preface.

We haven't seen Palestine and are not likely to see it, for our relatives, who, by the way, have the misfortune to be *unlike* us in many respects, have also the further unhappiness to be *like* us in their poverty. The traditional “rich uncle” will not, therefore, bequeath us a fortune, and without it we can not travel. Thank goodness, Cowper's words are fairly true as he speaks of one who has seen the world: “He travels and expatiates, as the bee from flower to flower, so he from the manners customs, policy of all, land to land. Pay contribution to the store he gleans. He sucks intelligence in every clime, and spreads the honey of his deep research. At his return—a rich repast for me.”

We will gather of his repast, and spread it before you as our own, only further promising this—that I have thrown my remarks into the form of a personal narrative, with the hope that I would thus tax your kindness the less; but I have not imagined scenes to suit the Scriptural references. So far as

the bare facts of my paper are concerned they can be verified from the experience of actual travellers. Such a traveller was *Morier*, and he says:—“The manners of the East, amidst all the changes of government and religion, are still the same. They are living impressive from an original mould, and at every step some object, some idiom, some dress, or some custom of common life, reminds the traveller of ancient times; and confirms above all, the beauty, the accuracy and propriety of the language and the history of the Bible.”

You have read the “Arabian Nights?” Imagine, then, that we have Aladdin's lamp, we touch it, the Geni appears,—“Palestine”—and in a moment we are there! We are a pleasant little party, in fact *we* always are, numbering half a dozen; agreed upon these points at least, we are enthusiastic about the country, and determined to observe all we can.

We engage *guides* (Numbers x. 31) who hire themselves and their animals by the week. When our Commissariat arrangements are made, we are prepared to start on our little pilgrimage on the morning of the second day after our arrival in the country.

(To be continued)

## News from the Home Field.

## DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

THE BISHOP will hold Confirmation at Rawdon and Douglas on Sunday, the 27th inst.

His Lordship will commence his western tour with services on Sunday, September 10th, at Kentville and Wolfville, and has made the following appointments:—

- September 12—New Ross.
- “ 13 (p.m.)—Aylesford.
- “ 14—Middletown.
- “ 15—Lawrencetown.
- “ 17 (a.m.)—Bridgetown.
- “ 17 (p.m.)—Belleisle.
- “ 17 (7 p.m.)—Middle Granville.
- “ 18—Granville Ferry.
- “ 19—Annapolis.
- “ 19 (p.m.)—Rosette.
- “ 20—Dalhousie and Perott.
- “ 22—Moose River.
- “ 22 (p.m.)—Bear River.

WILL Rectors of parishes, who have not already done so, please respond at once to the recent postal card communication of the Clerical Secretary, on behalf of King's College, Windsor, as action must be taken without delay.

AMHERST.—The Metropolitan of Canada has been spending a week with Canon Townshend at Amherst. His Lordship preached in Christ Church at the Wednesday evening service, and is in excellent health.

ANTIGONISH.—On his return from meeting of Synod (9th July) the Rev. J. W. Arnold, Missionary at Halfway Cove, Guysboro, took the Sunday duties here with much acceptance. His appeal for aid in Church building was responded to, the congregation contributing through the offertory, (nearly all monies for Church purposes are raised thus) the sum of eleven dollars. Mr. Arnold deserves and is receiving the sympathy and support of Churchmen in the more favoured parishes of our Diocese in the furtherance of his work.

BAYFIELD.—At the solicitation of friends at St. Peter's, C.B. (this place is about twenty miles distant from and is nominally an outstation of the Mission of Arichat) our Rector was induced to spend a few days amongst them. On the eighth Sunday after Trinity morning and evening prayers was said and sermons preached in the Town Hall, (the only place of worship of any description in St. Peter's) this being the first services held in three years, and the second time in its history in which the clergyman officiated in vestments. The place is represented by the “orthodox number of denominations,” the Presbyterians leading. Since

the completion of the canal some decrease of population has ensued, and the number of Church members have decreased to about ten. Are not these few scattered sheep in the wilderness, (the latter figure is not intended to apply literally to St. Peter's, which is a place of great scenic beauty, of commendable enterprise and withal most healthful) worth looking after? It was something interesting to find here, among the congregation of worshippers, former members of St. Luke's and the Garrison, Halifax, of St. John's, Arichat, and one originally of St. James', Mahone Bay, who became successively a member of St. George's, Montreal, St. Stephen's, Chester, and St. Mary's Bayfield. In the services the responses were good, better in proportion to number than in some of your large city Churches. Better than all, a devout, and so far as that could be accomplished in a private house, a decent celebration of the Holy Communion was participated in on Wednesday morning following the Sunday, by six confirmed members of the Church Catholic. The highly esteemed doctor of the place was one of the communicants. May the good lady who placed a room in her house at the disposal of the Church for Sanctuary and Altar have the Divine presence of the Blessed Son of God ever abiding upon her and hers. May her husband be led to the higher and clearer light of the *Whole Truth*. It may be mentioned that as far as could be ascertained this was the *first* celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the place. The offertory at the Sunday services was supplemented, and a sum handed the Rector which paid his travelling expenses. He was accompanied by a portion of his family.

SYDNEY, C. B.—On Wednesday, the 9th inst., a very successful tea meeting was held at the North-West Arm in aid of St. John's Church. The weather was rather threatening, but notwithstanding this, a large number of people assembled, many arriving by road and others by the steamer “Morrimac,” which ran from Sydney and North Sydney. The amount realized was a little over ninety dollars.

SACKVILLE.—Will you allow me, a constant subscriber to your valuable and widely circulated journal, to plead with the Churchmen of the Dominion at large and with my personal friends in particular on behalf of our Parsonage Fund. By the kind liberality of Churchmen in England and in our own Province we have been enabled to complete the parsonage sufficiently to allow of the Rector's residing in it. But much yet remains to be done, and, owing to the numerous other claims which press upon us at the present moment, we are unable to accomplish it without external assistance. We have adopted the suggestion of one of your recent correspondents and have built a parish room in connection with the house. Unhappily, however, we are unable to finish it, and cannot therefore avail ourselves of it or of the cellar over which it is erected. It is not water tight, and requires to be floored, lathed and plastered before it can receive the usual fittings of a public room. Other requisites are absolutely needed to render the house moderately comfortable and in order to obtain them and to complete the parish room we shall require a sum of *not less than two hundred dollars*. We have done what we could to help ourselves, and we earnestly hope that those who have the interest of the Church at heart, and have also the means of helping us in our extremity, will do so for Christ's sake. We shall be grateful for the smallest contributions, which may be forwarded by P. O. Order or otherwise to the Editor of the GUARDIAN or to Yours, etc.,

WILLIAM ELLIS,  
Sackville Rectory,  
Bedford, Halifax, N.S.

HALIFAX.—North-West Arm Mission Anniversary Service.—Notwithstanding the threatening state of the weather on Thursday evening last, a large congregation assembled at the North-West Arm Mission Chapel on the occasion of the Anniversary Service. The service began with the hymn “We love the place, O God, wherein Thine honor dwells.” The service was divided between Rev. Dr. Leakin, of Baltimore, and Rev. F. R. Murray,