

guide remarking that they would fare hard if they should fall into the hands of a company of Bedaweens.

By the way the arrangements which we made for our own personal safety during this trip deserve a passing notice. They were similar to those generally adopted by travellers in Palestine. A chief (sheikh) is employed to accompany the party, and they have been perhaps some time on their way before they understand that it is from his own comrades that he is to protect them. In short, it is only through the personal influence of the sheikh who goes with them, that travellers can feel themselves safe in almost any of the Arab villages. The chief, when once employed, is responsible to the local authorities; whereas, if the same individual were to fall in with the travellers in a wilderness, he might be as unsafe a person as they could meet.

After crossing the range of mountains which bounds the plain of Jordan on the west, we came upon an elevated plain of considerable extent, but entirely without water; indeed from the Dead Sea we traversed a distance of sixteen or seventeen miles without being able to come to a drop of water. The heat of the sun was likewise oppressive. We became extremely thirsty, and one of my companions, who, while bathing in the sea, had incautiously filled his mouth, eyes, and nostrils, with its bitter waters, suffered very much before he got an opportunity of quenching his thirst. He became a good deal excited, and I feared that that alone might throw him into a fever. He told me that no day in the desert which he had recently crossed had been so trying to him as this. About three o'clock, however, we arrived at a cistern cut in the solid rock, in the side of a mountain, in order to afford water for the flocks which pasture in these desolate regions. Here we quenched our thirst, drinking eagerly from the same trough at which some shepherds were watering a flock of goats. We then proceeded for about two hours longer through a mountainous region, equally barren with the more level one which we had left, and arrived half an hour before sunset at the Greek convent of St. Saba, where we lodged for the night. It was the only dwelling of man which we had seen since leaving our encampment at Jericho. The monks received us hospitably, offering us such refreshments as the place afforded, and satisfying our curiosity by giving us such information as they themselves possessed respecting the history of their singular abode.

2. In the morning we were led through the different parts of the monastery, the church, the tomb of St. Saba, his cave (where according to tradition he dwelt with a young lion in peace and unharmed,) the library which contains many old manuscripts, etc. The whole has rather the appearance of a fortification,

than of a religious house. It is indeed very strong, being built on a steep declivity, descending into the bed of the Kedron, and having a strong wall and two high forts above, where it would be most liable to an attack. It claims an antiquity of fourteen centuries, and at some periods has been inhabited by several thousands of recluses. At present only thirty two reside there.

#### *Return to Jerusalem—Monthly Concert for Prayer—Return to Smyrna.*

We left the convent at eight A. M., and at half past eleven found ourselves again within the walls of the Holy City. Here we were called immediately to the house of mourning. Our friends Mr. and Mrs. Nicolayson, had been suddenly plunged into deep affliction by the death last evening of their youngest child, a daughter of nearly eight years. This was truly a solemn admonition to us all. On Monday last little Jane was well and cheerful, and rode with us to Bethlehem; now we are called to lay her mortal remains in the grave, and to remember our own mortality. May the dispensation be sanctified to us all. It was no small comfort providentially afforded to our friends on this occasion, that the burying ground, concerning which some difficulties had been raised by the local authorities was now at length prepared. The burial took place with all quietness, and this in a country where precedent is law, is almost a certain pledge to our friends here that no interruption will occur on any future occasion.

3. Sabbath. An interesting day. In the morning we united with our English friends in the celebration of the Lord's supper. Mr. L. preached again and made an affecting allusion to the fact that we were celebrating the ordinance on the spot where it was at first instituted. Indeed this fact, together with the smallness of our numbers, was calculated in a very forcible and tender manner to remind us of the circumstances of our Lord and his disciples on that solemn night. The afternoon services were similar to those of last sabbath.

4. Monthly concert for prayer. We went out in the morning to the Mount of Olives.—After crossing the Kedron we stopped for a few moments at Gethsemane, where we united in singing,

Behold where Cedron's waters flow

Behold the suffering Saviour go

To sad Gethsemane, etc.

As this place was too public for our exercises, we retired farther up the hill to the shade of a large tree, where we continued engaged in reading the Scriptures, singing, and prayer until nearly noon. We read of our Saviour's weeping over Jerusalem, and knew that we were very near the spot where he wept, and we prayed to him on behalf of the present in-