

the Emperor. According to Biblical history, Joppa was assigned to Dan when the land was distributed among the Twelve Tribes of Israel. In the palmy days of Solomon, Joppa was the seaport to which Hiram King of Tyre sent the cedar and the pine for the building of the far-famed Temple in Jerusalem. We read also in Ezra that the materials for the rebuilding of the second temple after the return from the Babylonian Captivity were brought from Lebanon to Joppa, and thence overland to Jerusalem. It was to this same Joppa that the renegade prophet Jonah went down and found a ship going to Tarshish in which he hoped to flee from the presence of the Lord. It was here also that Peter raised to life Dorcas of the swift-going needle, and here that the same apostle had his marvellous *Vision of Tolerance*, by which he was taught that under the New Testament dispensation the old distinction between Jew and Gentile is for ever abolished.

6 The modern name of this old historic city is Jaffa, or, if you wish it in distinct Arabic form, Yafa. The name in the Semitic language literally means "beauty," and certainly the city, especially as you see it from the harbour, is beautifully situated. As it now appears to the traveller, it is built on a beautiful rounded sandstone hillock that rises up gradually to the height in exact figures of one hundred and fifty-three feet above the shore. I regret however to say, that a closer inspection of the city modified my first favourable impression of it to a considerable extent. The streets and lanes are narrow, and crooked, and uneven, and without the slightest indication of a sidewalk. Worse still, all kinds of garbage and filth are allowed to accumulate on them with the unqualified approbation of the citizens. Yet this same modern Jaffa is a thriving, prosperous city of its kind, with a busy increasing population which is at present in the neighbourhood of 25,000. Its narrow crooked streets and lanes are thronged with a motley crowd of natives and foreigners, and with great numbers of camels and donkeys, and horses and mules heavily laden with boxes and bales of all kinds of saleable commodities. The extensive Orange Groves in the neighbourhood are as fine as I have ever seen in any part of the world. They were heavily laden with the golden fruit at

the time of my visit. They must be useful as well as ornamental—a great source of wealth to the inhabitants. I also saw the pomegranate, the lemon, the apple, the apricot, the quince, the plum, all flourishing in the beautiful gardens of Jaffa. I was greatly interested, as you will readily believe, gentle reader, with my visit to the House of Simon the Tanner. The building now so called is a small, comparatively modern structure, at present used as a Latin convent. But, with Dean Stanley, I feel satisfied that it occupies the *site* of the house on the roof of which Peter had his remarkable vision. I climbed up the rude staircase to the roof of the modern building, and imagined the whole scene as it appeared to the wondering gaze of the enraptured apostle. Our dragoman also pointed out to us the site of the house of Dorcas, who was restored to life by the apostle Peter.

I would like, if space permitted, to say a word about the three convents, Greek, Latin, and American, and the three mosques of Jaffa, and also a word about Miss Arnott's School, and the German colonists who are tilling the soil in the neighbourhood of the city. But I am well aware that there is no room in the *Record* for details of this kind, however interesting they might be to the writer or the reader.

Just one paragraph in conclusion in reference to my good friend Rev. A. Ben-Oliel, who is well known to the readers of the *Record*. My brother and I spent a most enjoyable evening at the residence of this veteran Missionary to the Jews at Jaffa, in company with himself, his excellent wife, and amiable daughters. He is a Sephardi, a Spanish Hebrew, and, as was Paul in his day, is enthusiastically interested in the welfare of his fellow-countrymen. From a life-long study of the prophecies, and from a close observation of the signs of the times, he firmly believes that the time is hastening on apace when the Jews will be converted to the faith of Jesus of Nazareth. His work among the Jews of Jaffa seemed to me to be very hopeful and encouraging. Numbers of them listened attentively to his instructions, and readily received from him books and tracts in favour of Christianity. In fine weather, as many as seventy of them come to his house for instruction in one day. Mr. Ben-Oliel has now removed with his inter-