

6. Golan

THE sixth and last City of Refuge was Golan. It is described as Golan "in Bashan, of the Manassites" (Deut. iv. 43). It afterwards gave the name to a whole province, Gaulanitis, of New Testament times.

Golan was situated in the ancient land of mystery and romance. It was amongst, if not indeed, one of the giant cities of Bashan. And Bashan, to the imagination of the poet-prophets of Israel, was a land of beauty and of wealth, as well as a land of fortresses and of fastnesses of almost impregnable strength. The early inhabitants were of tremendous stature, in whose presence the Jewish spies of the land felt as if they were but grasshoppers. Never, throughout their national history, did the Israelites forget Sihon, king of the Amorites, or Og, the king of Bashan, who were laid low before their conquering army, through the intervention of the Most High. Nor will the name of Goliath of Gath ever be forgotten, while courage is honoured upon earth,