

Proceeding over this plain the caravan encamped at NAZARETH for the night. The first house Dr. Talmage entered in the village was a carpenter's shop. The Church of the Annunciation, which is claimed to enshrine the house of Mary and Joseph, was carefully investigated. This village was intensely interesting to Dr. Talmage. The location of Nazareth is romantic. The town is situated on the declivity of a projecting hill, to the brow of which the people led our Saviour "that they might thrust him down headlong." This elevation is surrounded by fifteen other hills, which rise like the edge of a shell, giving this delightful hamlet the appearance of a rose inclosed by its leaves. An adjacent plain, about a mile in length and from two to four hundred yards in breadth, extending into a declining ravine which terminates in an immense chasm with steep rocks on either side, and commanding a view of the noble plain of Megiddo, conveys the impression that such surroundings were well adapted to the meditations of our Saviour's early life. Amid the hills and dells of Nazareth nature seems to sit enthroned in its most impressive solitude and grandeur.

Onward fifteen miles from this village in a north-easterly direction CAPERNAUM is reached in time for Talmage to preach on the following Sabbath after discoursing at Jerusalem. Here, Dr. Talmage states to his audience, "It has been the wish of my life to stand on the banks of Galilee. What a solemnity and what a rapture to be here! I can now understand the feelings of the Scotchman, Robert Murray M'Cheyne, when, sitting on the banks of this lake, he wrote:

'It is not that the wild gazelle comes down to drink thy tide,  
But He that was pierced to save from hell oft wandered by thy side.  
It is not that the fig-tree grows, and palms in thy soft air,  
But that Sharon's fair and bleeding Rose once spread its fragrance there.  
Graceful around thee the mountains meet, thou calm reposing sea,  
But ah! for more than beautiful feet of Jesus walked o'er thee.'

The day previous to the delivery of this discourse Talmage had a sail on the Lake of Gennesaret, and says: "I wanted to realize how the Apostles felt in the storm. To give you an idea of how quickly storms arise on this inland sea I will say that within five minutes after we had glided out on the surface as smooth as glass a tempest arose and swept down so fiercely, and the waves ran so high that we could only escape by landing at Capernaum."

Around this Sea of Galilee Dr. Talmage seems to have felt more at home than in any other part of the Holy Land.