

laugh together over the ugly duckling, as she called it, which I had judged by its looks.

It took us some time to get ready for the start, but at length we were off, passing on our left the hill of Evil Counsel so-called, and the traditional site of the country-house of Caiaphas, and entered the valley of Rephaim, mentioned in the Book of Joshua as the boundary-line between Judah and Benjamin, and the scene of one of David's victories over the Philistines. In half an hour or a little more we rode close by the Tomb of Rachel, where some Jews were wailing as we passed. A small modern building with a dome now marks the spot, where, in giving birth to Benjamin, the beloved wife of the old patriarch passed away. "And there was but a little way to come to Ephrath, . . . and it came to pass as her soul was in departing, for she died, that she called his name Benoni, but his father called him Benjamin. And Rachel died and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem, and Jacob set a pillar upon her grave, that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day." Seven years he had toiled for her in his wooing, and they seemed to Jacob but a few days for the love he bore her. Long, long years after her death when, far away in the land of Egypt, he too was dying, the tender memory of his bereavement is still fresh in his mind. "And as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died by me in the land of Canaan in the way. . . . And I buried her there in the way of Ephrath, the same is Bethlehem."

An hour from the tomb, over a rough road, brought us to the Pools of Solomon. There is little doubt that these are the pools mentioned in the Book of Ecclesiastes: "I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees." They are three enormous cisterns of marble masonry: the lower, 582 feet long, breadth at the east end 207 feet, at the west 148 feet, depth at the east end 50 feet. Dr. Thompson says: "When full it would float the largest man-of-war that ever ploughed the ocean." The middle pool is 248 feet above the lower one, its length 423 feet, its breadth at east end 250 feet, at west end 160 feet, its depth at east end 39 feet. The upper pool is 160 feet above the middle pool, its length is 380 feet, its breadth at the east end 236 feet, at the west end 229 feet, its depth at the west end, 25 feet. These enormous cisterns are in splendid preservation, and the course of the aqueduct can still be traced by which they supplied water to the temple, a distance of some twelve or fourteen miles. To-day it is conveyed as far as Bethlehem, and