

for the safety of the inhabitants. The uncleanness had everywhere become intolerable, both on account of the great lack of sewerage, and suitable supplies of pure water. Century after century the rubbish had everywhere been accumulating, until at last it was thought by philanthropists that something should immediately be done for the relief of the suffering people. At this juncture, Miss Burdett Coutts, always foremost in good works, manifested a deep interest in the subject, and contributed a liberal sum for the purpose of making the needed examinations to discover the old water-course through which, in ancient times, the fair city of God received those supplies which the rock-hewn cisterns alone could not yield.* The Jerusalem of the Past was, therefore, made the subject of exact archæological inquiry for the benefit of the Jerusalem of the Present, with its narrow quarters, its fever-breeding streets, and its wretched inhabitants, to whom impure water is sold in goat-skin sacks from door to door. And the inquiry thus made for the ancient aqueduct,—in order that the needed supplies might be furnished without money and without price from fountains bubbling up with crystal, pure and sparkling, as the dew distilled on Hermon's Hill,—has led to other discoveries than those originally anticipated. Here, then, we have a noble illustration of the usefulness of antiquarian research; in connection with which, in addition to the partial recovery of Jerusalem, has also been brought to light the monument known as the Moabite Stone, a relic of the highest value.

In discussing this remarkable monument of antiquity, it will be necessary to inform the reader of the circumstances attending its discovery; venturing also a few remarks on the Moabites, and the region where they found their home.

Moab was the son of Lot's elder daughter, and brother of Ammon, the father of the Ammonites. From the "cradle of the race of Lot" in the mountains above Zoar, situated east of the Jordan

* "It may be added, that in this investigation the interesting question of the supposed spring within the walls of Jerusalem and under the Temple Courts, has been for the first time followed to bottom; and the result appears to be, that, while there is no actual spring within the walls, the whole mount is so honey-combed with cisterns as to give ample materials for the conjecture of Tacitus, and for the imagery of Scripture, while, at the same time, it takes away from them the foundation of exact and literal truth." (*Recovery of Jerusalem*, p. xvi).