DEVOTED TO TEMPERANCE, SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND AGRICULTURE. SEMI-MONTHLY, 30 CTS. per An., Post-Paid. MONTREAL & NEW YORK, APRIL 1, 1882 surface has a depression of no less than 1,308 to the solution of the great historical question | although full of "slime (bitumen) pits." THE DEAD SEA. feet below the level of the ocean, and is shut about the destruction of the cities of the When the cities were destroyed, "the Lord out on the east and west by parallel ranges plain in the following manner :- "Setting Nearly four thousand years ago, rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone of mountains which rise steeply, and in some aside all preconceived notions, and taking looking down from the heights of Bethel and fire from the Lord out of heaven;" and places in precipices of naked rock, from the the simple record of Genesis xix., as we find beheld all the plain of the Jordan that it Abraham, from the mountain ridges "looked water. Its whole eastern slopes are bare, it, let us see whether the existing condition toward Sodom, and toward all the land of was well watered everywhere, before the rugged and desolate, forming that wilderness of the country throws any light on the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even the plain, and lo the smoke of the country in which David found an asylum, in which Biblical narrative. Certainly we do observe as the Garden of the Lord. Then Lot chose went up as the smoke of a furnace." The the Baptist preached, and in which our Lord by the lake sulphur and bitumen in abundhim all the plain of Jordan." And in after sacred writer further asserts regarding the

days it came to pass that the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, and the king of Bela were joined together in the vale of Siddim, which is the salt sea, and they served Chedorlaomer. "Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer and in the thirteenth year they rebelled." "And there went out the king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admah, and the king of Zeboim, and the king of Bela, (the same is Zoar,) and they joined battle with them in the vale of Siddim; with of Shinar, and Arioch king of Elam, and with kings with five, and the vale of Siddim was full of slime pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there; and they that remained fled to the mountain." From these quotations from Genesis it will be seen that at the time the earliest records were made of the neighborhood of the Dead Sea it was fruitful and pleasant to dwell in,

vale of Siddim that it became the Salt Sea, or was submerged, and consequently it now forms a part of the bed of the lake. great catastrophe changed all the appearance of the country, and gave a death blow to its prosperity.

Much recent research has been devoted to the Dead Sea. Canon Tristram in his "Land of Israel," describes a valley at the northern end of the salt range of Sodom in which there are large masses of bitumen mingled with gravel. "These overlie a thick stratum of sulphur, which again overlies a thicker with sulphur that it yiers be impressed on being sprinkled over a hot coal. The bitumen, unlike that which we pick up on the shore, is strongly impregnated with sulphur. Above all, it is calcined, and bears the marks of having been subjected to ex-

ance. Sulphur springs stud the shores, sulphur is strewn, whether in layers or in fragments, over the desolate plains, and bitumen is ejected in great floating masses from the bottom of the sea, oozes through fissures of the rocks, is deposited with gravel on the beach, or appears with sulphur to have been precipitated during some convulsion. We know that at the time of earthquakes bitumen seems to be detached in the bottom of the lake. Everything leads to the conclusion that the agency of fire was at work, The kindling of such a mass of embustible material, either by lightning combined with an earthquake ejecting office bitumen or sulphur on the lake, would soon spread devastation over the plain, so that the smoke of the country would go up as a smoke of a furnace."

Nothing more dismal can be conceived Tristram applies the above observed facts than the appearance of the Dead Sea. Its their lives in the attempt.

was tempted. The average height of the cliffs along the shore is about 2,000 feet; but they are deeply fissured by torrent beds, which are all dry in summer. At the Northwest corner of the sea are extensive salt marshes, and at the south-west is a range of hills of rock salt seven miles long and 300 feet high, called Khsohm Usdom, "the ridge of Sodom." On the south of the sea lies a low marshy plain partially covered with jungles of reeds, tamarack and broom. mountain range along the eastern side is 4,000 feet above the lake and is intersected by deep and wild ravines. The water is intensely salt and bitter, and its density so

It is not astonishing that the Dead Sea has not been navigated to any extent, and recents attempts to explore it have been made with a very great deal of risk and difficulty and in the search of the difficulty and in every case a majority of those who engage in the work sacrificed

