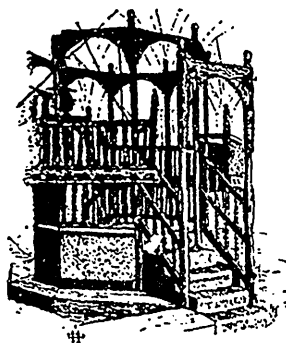


with fire." St. John must often, with the Master, have gazed on such a scene, possibly from this very place, and, doubtless, in his vision of the crystal sea, and jasper wall, and gates of pearl, recalled the beauty of Galilee and the glory of Hermon.

Back of our camp was an old Jewish burying-ground, where a ruined sarcophagus marks the tomb of the great Jewish philosopher Maimonides, who died in 1204. Further up the slope is the tomb of the famous Rabbi Akiba who took part in the revolt of Bar-Cokhba, whom he recognized as the Messiah, A.D. 132.

Next morning we rode back to Tiberias to explore the mouldering town and visit its ancient synagogue. Tiberias is one of the four sacred Jewish cities, the others being Safed, Hebron, and Jerusalem. Here, about A.D. 200, the old traditional law, known as the Mishna, was published, and it was from a Rabbi of Tiberias that St. Jerome learned Hebrew. The town has about 3,000



READING-PLACE IN THE
SYNAGOGUE AT TIBERIAS.

inhabitants, half of them Jews, and very quaint they looked in their red and yellow gaterdines, fur caps and cork-screw curls. Some of the men were engaged knitting and spinning with an old-fashioned distaff. We clattered over the narrow stone-paved streets to the very ancient synagogue by the sea-side. It was a very quaint structure, with groined arches and strange octagonal pulpit or reading-stand, shown in our cut. We were shown an old Hebrew codex in a case, a foot in diameter and two feet long, also the ancient rolls of

the law, in ten silver cases, ten inches in diameter and a yard long, richly decorated with the seven-branched candlestick and other Hebrew designs. An undying lamp was burning before the holy of holies as in Catholic churches.

"We do not read," says Dr. Manning, "that our Lord ever entered Tiberias. The reason is, doubtless, to be found in the fact that it was practically a heathen city, though standing upon Jewish soil. Herod, its founder, had brought together the arts of Greece, the idolatry of Rome, and the gross lewdness of Asia. There was a theatre for the performance of comedies, a forum, a stadium, a palace roofed with gold in imitation of those in Italy, statues of the Roman gods, and busts of the deified Emperors. He who 'was not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel' might well hold Himself aloof from such scenes as these."

Dr. McLeod remarks that on the shores of the lake the tones of the voice were remarkably audible. The words sounded as in a