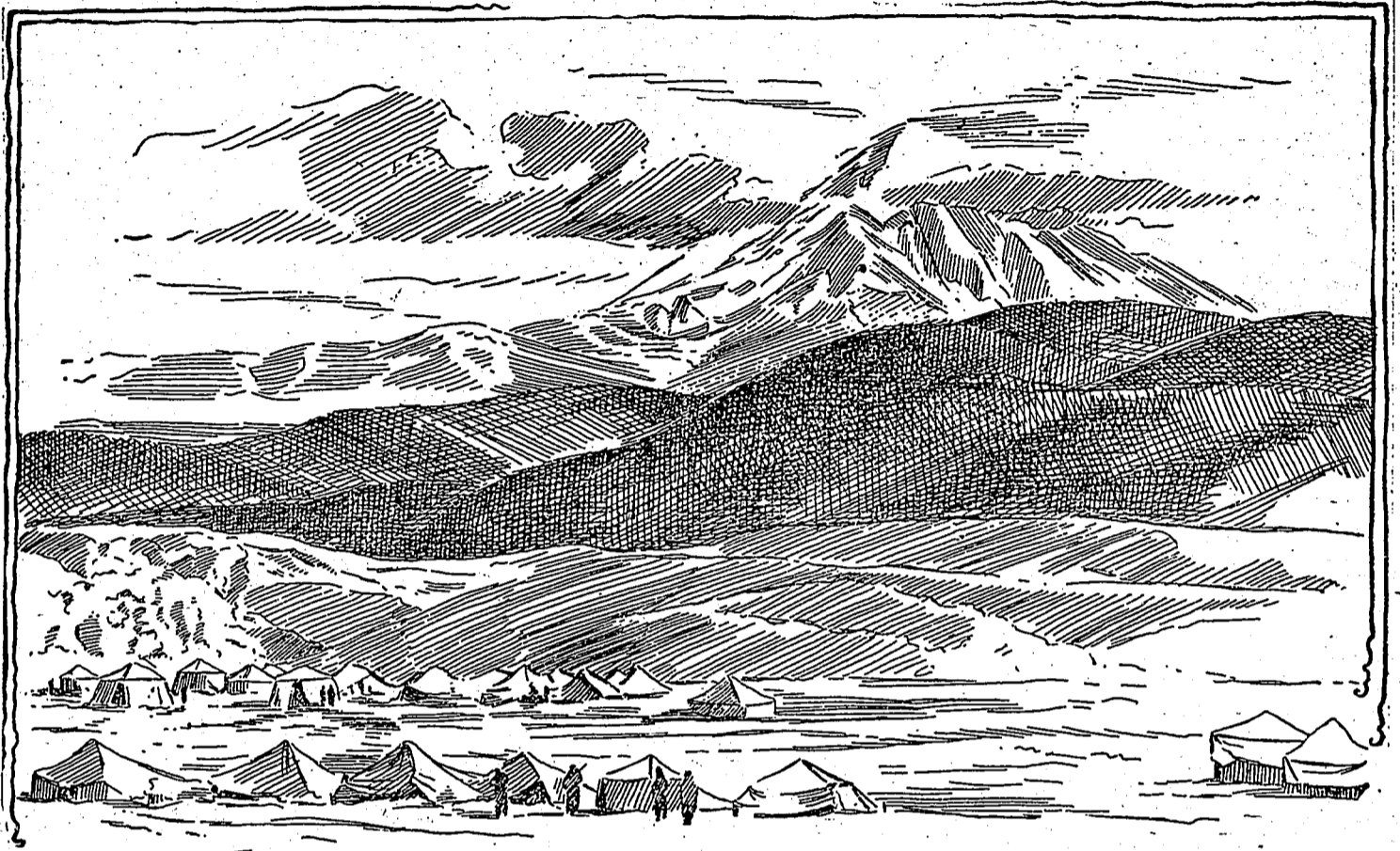


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MOUNT ARARAT.

## Mount Ararat.

('Morning Star.')

Word came from St. Petersburg lately that a member of the Geographical Society, named Poggenpohl, accompanied by two officers and a number of soldiers, ascended the Great Ararat on Sept. 2.

This majestic mountain is situated in Armenia, about half-way between the Black and Caspian Seas. It is the mountain on which, tradition says, the ark rested after the subsidence of the great flood, as narrated in the book of Genesis, chapter viii., verse 4. 'And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.'

This does not determine any particular summit, and we are told that the word Ararat originally designated a large tract of country rather than a mountain range. In the old Assyrian inscriptions Ararat is a name for Armenia. But in later times the name was given to the mountains themselves, and especially to their highest summit, which rises over sixteen thousand feet above the level of the sea, and has long been known as the Greater Ararat. Another peak, close by, four thousand feet lower, is called the Lesser Ararat. Dr. Smith says that we are not called upon to decide a point which the Bible leaves undecided, namely, the particular mountain on which the ark rested. But nothing is more natural than that the scene of the event should in course of time be located on the loftiest of the mountains of Armenia. Accordingly, all the associations connected with the ark now centre on the magnificent mountain which the native Armenians name Masis, and the Turks Aghri-Tagh.

It is a very steep mountain and the summit is covered with eternal snow. Until this century it was believed to be inaccessible, but the summit was gained by Parrot in 1829. It has since been ascended by others. Before those mentioned in the first paragraph above, the latest famous man to reach its summit was Professor Bryce, of Oxford, England, who says Dr. Geikie, found the upper parts often difficult to climb, from the softness of the ashy rock. There is no crater. The mountain is said to have considerably altered in shape since

1840, an earthquake having loosened part of it and hurled it down.

It is not necessary to suppose that the ark rested on any but a comparatively low point of the range of which it forms a part. The Syrian tradition places the spot in Kurdistan, somewhat to the south-west, but this seems opposed to passages of Scripture. In Isaiah xxxvii., 38, the Hebrew words, 'the land of Ararat,' are translated, 'land of Armenia.' So also in II. Kings xix., 37. In Old Armenia, Ararat is said to mean 'the plains of the Aryans.'

