

rise gradually from the plain and are well wooded to their summits, and high above is the snow-clad peak of Hermon. In one of the ravines which break the regularity of these hills can be discovered a little village nestling in a grove of trees. It is Baniyas, the ancient Cæsarea Philippi. The general road to Damascus leads past this village, but the country around was in a state of insurrection, perhaps the premonitions of the storm which broke-out with such fury the next year, and we were compelled to cross the plain further to the north, and follow the course of the Wady-el-Teim to where the ravine of Hasbeiyeh falls into it.

The path from Hunin to Hasbeiyeh leads though some wild but picturesque scenery. On our right, as we descend into the valley, Hermon rises majestically, its summit glistening in the morning sun, while on our left and before us are the southern spurs of Lebanon, and conspicuous in the distance is the lofty peak of Sunnin. The valley is covered with a rank vegetation, and the stream of Hasbany is sometimes hid by the tangled shrubbery which grows along its banks. We follow for some time the Wady el-Teim and the ravine through which the stream of Hasbeiyeh flows to join the Hasbany. It is a beautiful gorge, through which this mountain torrent rushes and tumbles with great impetuosity, and in a lonely glade on its bank and enclosed on all sides by lofty hills we pitched our tents. About a mile and a half from our camping-ground, and much higher up the side of Hermon, is situated the town of Hasbeiyeh, a town of some importance and having a population of 5000, the greater majority of whom are Christians, and the remainder principally Druses. There is an important Protestant Church here, composed of families who have left the Greek and Armenian Churches for a purer faith.

We had a very interesting interview with the missionary, Mr. Worterbeit, whose brother visited Canada some years ago; he had himself come over from the Armenian Church, in which his father had been a bishop. He spoke very favourably of the success which had attended the Mission, and accompanied us to the church, which was in course of erection, and in the basement of which the congregation now meet.\*

It is a small but handsome gothic building and is built on land that had been given by the liberal Sheik or Emir of Hasbeiyeh. This Sheik, a descendant of the princely house of Shehad, and once exercising an extended authority, has now lost nearly all his influence, but is still distinguished for his politeness to foreigners, and received our visit with true Eastern urbanity.

From Hasbeiyeh the road leads through deep but picturesque glens or up steep ascents, and round the north-western slope of Hermon to the town of Rasheiyeh. Hermon, which must be so familiar to every reader of the Bible, is the loftiest mountain of the whole range of Lebanon, and rises to the height of some 10,000 feet. Its summit, covered with perpetual snow, can be seen from almost every part of northern Palestine, and even from the lower valley of the Jordan near the Dead Sea. Its loftiness attracts the light clouds which float in the upper regions of the atmosphere, and the presence of snow has the effect of condensing the vapours, which then fall as dew on the lower slopes of the mountain and impart to them a fertility and verdure which contrast with the arid and parched appearance of other parts of the country. As the dew of Hermon that descended upon the mountains of Zion, such was the precious ointment upon the head of the high priest, and such the refreshing influence of brotherly love.\*

Though we only climbed the northern slope and were far from the summit of the mountain, we found much snow still lodged in many of the more secluded spots.

Beyond Rasheiyeh, a town of some importance, we passed through fine vineyards, orchards and groves of olive and mulberry, and the road, after crossing some small upland plains covered with a rich vegetation, at length enters a desolate tract till we arrive at Rukleh, a village situated in a wild secluded nook. It is inhabited by Druses, who indeed form a large part of the population of the villages on the northern slopes of Hermon, around Damascus, and in the neighbourhood of Baalbec and Beyrout; they look a wild and reckless set of men.

But Rukleh, though secluded, possesses attractions, for here are the remains of 2 very fine ancient temples erected to Baal,

population put to death. M. Worterbeit was fortunately on a visit to England at the time of the outbreak.

\* Psalm 133.

\* This church has since been destroyed by the Druses and a large part of the Christian