

scene with dismay. But they were ready to face it all. Heroes in any age could not have acted with more courage and determination. They were alone in this struggle, in that they had no help from Samaria or Judea. The war was confined strictly to Galilee during the first year of its progress. The energies of the Romans under Vespasian and Titus were taxed to their utmost, and at the close of the Galilean campaign this great and proud army, although it had conquered, had to be allowed a period in which it might rest and recruit its strength because of the rough, bloody, and exhausting work through which it had passed.

But where were the men of Galilee, the countrymen of our Lord? Alas! one hundred and fifty thousand of her sons had been slaughtered upon her hitherto quiet hillsides. If their conduct extorted praise from the Romans who had fought with every kind of enemy in every land, we may regard such words of praise as having more weight and significance than any commendation of ours.

Certain traits in the religious character of the Galileans deserve notice in forming our estimate of the people from among whom Christ came. In this respect there was a marked difference between them and the people of Jerusalem. Between an industrious and intelligent agricultural people on the one hand, and those who are brought up in the refinements, luxuries, and conceit of city life on the other, there would naturally be a wide difference in their manners, customs, and ideas of conduct and life. The Galileans had their synagogues, schools, and learned doctors of the law, the same as the people of Jerusalem; but the latter were devoted to tradition, placing it first in their religious teaching, while the Galileans adhered more strictly to the law of Moses. In Jerusalem

there was a great deal of bigotry; in Galilee, there was much freedom of thought. In a word, there seems to have existed in Galilee a freer and healthier religious life than there was in Jerusalem under the shadow of the temple. In Galilee, a new teacher who brought health to the body, freedom to the mind, comfort and hope to the soul, was listened to with attention; in Jerusalem, a new teacher who taught contrary to the "tradition of the elders" was put to death.

Our space has been too limited to develop these interesting points at length. Galilee, we have seen, was the most fertile province of Palestine, full of towns and villages, and crowded with a dense population. Its climate and scenery were delightful. Its inhabitants were industrious, intelligent, and brave, engaged in agriculture, commerce, and many other peaceful employments, prosperous to an unusual degree, and characterized in their religious life by a certain degree of spiritual freedom, and a desire to receive and follow the truth.

This province was unlike Judea in almost every respect. It was unlike any other province or country on the globe. There in the north was the great white dome of Hermon,—in the west the infinite blue of the Mediterranean,—in the east the sea of Galilee and the charming hills about it, the river Jordan and its wonderful valley,—in the south the great Esdraelon plain; there were Carmel, Gilboa, Tabor, and the highlands of upper Galilee; there were the fields carpeted with flowers and the hills clothed with verdure; there was a centre of activity, business, commerce, and news; there were found men from all parts of the world; and there,—if men of many races and in every department of life were to be reached, was the most fitting place for the "messenger of glad tidings"