

attended by the white-robed trumpeters and harpers; the king's body guard, the corps of veterans supplied by the metropolis, followed next in order; the main body of the troops, the men of Judah, brought up the rear. Without delay, as if eager to be home with tidings of the great things Jehovah had wrought; without loss, not so much as a drummer boy being left upon the field; without disorder, each man keeping step with the strains of music that floated on before; without sorrow, every heart bounding with joy—every man of Judah and Jerusalem that had marched to Tekoa returned to the capital. First having proceeded westward till they touched the road from Hebron to Jerusalem, and then having turned northward, they crept slowly on, passing by on the right the long green valley of Urtâs, "unusually green amongst the rocky knolls of Judæa," writes Stanley,¹ near the head of which were the Pools of King Solomon—constructed by that splendid potentate when at the height of his magnificence—passing through the even then venerable city of Bethlehem, on whose plains their never to be forgotten David, the father of king Solomon, and the founder of their empire, had spent his youthful days, and at the gate of which they could still see the well of whose waters the brave outlaw would not drink, because it was "the lives of men;" passing near, perhaps, upon the left the spot then and still known as Rachael's Tomb, where their renowned ancestor Jacob had buried his best beloved wife; passing over the plain of Rephaim, where David had on two several occasions mustered his troops to do battle with the Philistines; till, having reached the Vale of Hinnom on the west of the city, and having swept round between the upper and the lower Pools of Sihon, they entered the metropolis by what is now known as the Jaffa gate. Surely such a home-coming from the wars had never been seen in that grey old city among the hills. Nor did they pause till, having crossed the Tyropœan Valley, they had entered the temple, where once more in a joyous outburst of music, with psalteries and harps and trumpets, they

¹ *Sinai and Palestine*, p. 165.