

AROUND THE WORLD

A Trip Through Palestine—Visit to the Traditional Tomb of Dorcas and to House of Simon the Tanner.

JERUSALEM, PALESTINE, March 10, '03.

After an intensely interesting sojourn in the upper Nile country among the typical Egyptians, forsaken bedouins and sable Nubians. I hastened northward many a weary, dusty, superheated mile to the more civilized but not less interesting region of the sphinx and the pyramids. Devoting another day to fixing in my mind the scenes in and about Cairo, I retraced my steps via Ismaia to Port Said, where passage was taken for Beirut, Syria, on the steamship Equateur of the French mail line, known as the Messageries Maritimes Steam Navigation Co. My destination was Jerusalem via Jaffa, but the designing sultan of Turkey issued an order that all passengers for Palestine should proceed to Beirut for examination before entering the promised land. Hence we were not permitted to land at Jaffa, though the waters of that dangerous harbor were smooth as a floor. Hoisting anchor the good ship sped away up the coast past Mount Carmel and at five o'clock next morning we awakened to find her tugging at her anchor in the harbor at Beirut. The officials of his long-nosed, many-wived majesty came aboard to give us the searching examination for which we had traveled all night and had paid for the round trip two pounds sterling each, but no examination was in evidence and the only demand made was that each passenger pay one franc (twenty cents). We were then permitted to land. On reaching shore our passports were examined, a charge of one franc being made for permitting the sacred eyes of a Turk to fall upon our state papers. A visaged passport is not sufficient here. One must have a tezkereh or local passport in order to travel inland. Knowing this was required, I secured mine at Cairo through the recommendation of our consul general. At the consulate I was requested to have Thomas Cook & Son or some other tourist agency secure the paper for me as I could not handle such a gobble language. But having made the tour thus far without the aid or co-operation of any foreign power, I decided to face the Turkish legation alone and not run or surrender till my last cannon was spiked. I informed the hotel clerks what I proposed to do single-handed and they desired to send their interpreter along whose charge was four shillings. I stated that I did not want help even if it were free, as I was out for experience. Then only two shillings were asked, whereupon I set out alone, found the headquarters of the Turkish government, and entered one office of more than fifty in the building and began to make known my mission. After a pantomime covering several minutes I was conducted from office to office, up stairs and down, in and out of strange places, until I had gone thrice about the building, and secured the necessary tezkereh at an expense of only sixty-five cents whereas tourist agents had asked me \$1 besides their messenger fees for securing the same article, and besides they would deprive me of the enviable experience of rubbing up against those women-dressed men myself.

After spending two days in Beirut the steamer was ready to return to Jaffa per schedule. In order to embark at Beirut for Jaffa I had to take this tezkereh to the city officials, have an endorsement made of the fact that I was leaving for Jaffa and pay an extra franc. Such is the diplomacy of the indomitable Turk.

I understand that the sultan demands an annual tribute from the governor of Beirut as well as from all the governors, and they must raise this money in any way they can by using fair or foul means. Being taught by his sultanic majesty they prove to be veritable chips from the old block in inordinate extortion.

For years the terminus of the Damascus railroad has been at a point a considerable distance from the Beirut harbor. The company secured a permit to extend the road to the harbor. When the work was completed the company was ordered not to run any trains on the new track until a bonus of five hundred pounds sterling should be paid to the sultan. This the company refused to do and the road remained unused until the sultan, or satan of the east, gave up the struggle and telegraphed his consent to the use of the road. I am informed that the governor held this message for a week after its receipt thinking the company might back down from its position and the backsheesh demanded. The company, knowing that the message had arrived, held out faithfully till the rep-

representative of the sultan was undone. The road was opened the first day I spent in Beirut. All the people who could do so left their homes and shops to witness the festivities attending this noteworthy event. The streets about the harbor were thronged with a motley crowd dressed in all the colors of the rainbow. Banners were flying, horses were prancing, bands were playing, fezes, sashes, loose, baggy pantalons and the serpentine margilehs lent Turkish and Arabian dignity to the event while the snow-capped Lebanons reminded me of the land I love best.

But let us hasten to the south. All night long the engine's thud and the sound of the twirling screws drove sleep into hiding. The engineer, obeying orders, gave the engine a few extra revolutions per minute so that we might arrive in Jaffa and land before the train should depart for Jerusalem.

In due time Jaffa was sighted. The ship soon dropped anchor in front of the historic city and here we are. What memories crowd upon one as recorded history swings into line and paints the past in living letters. This is the Jaffa to which Hiram, king of Tyre, sent the cedar wood to be used in the building of Solomon's temple. Where the ship lies a flotilla of cedar once lay waiting to be transported to Jerusalem for the building of the most magnificent edifice ever constructed by man, its plan being a product of the eternal God. From this very port Jonah sailed away on that tempestuous voyage the details of which are set forth in Jonah, chapters 1 to 14. When the great temple was rebuilt by Zerubbabel the timbers were brought "from Lebanon to the sea of Jappa." Ezra 3:7. Herod the Great once took Jaffa and Josephus states that 80,000 people were slain here by Cestius in the Jewish war. Pirates rebuilt the city and Vespasian destroyed it. Napoleon took Jaffa, slew 4,000 Albanians and when forced to evacuate the city, had 500 of his sick soldiers poisoned so they would not fall into the hands of his enemy and be tortured.

Of all events connected with Jaffa none surpass that recorded in acts 9: 36-43. Here it was that Dorcas lived who "was full of good works and almsdeeds which he did."

When visiting the traditional tomb of Dorcas, I could picture the scene that once was the topic of the city. Dorcas, or Tobitha as she was sometimes called, had died. Doubtless everyone knew her because of the good she had done. "And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Jappa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he should not delay to come to them." He came, "kneeling down and prayed; and turning to the body said, 'Tabitha, arise?' And she opened her eyes; and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive. And it was known throughout all Jappa; and many believed on the Lord. And it came to pass that he tarried many days with one Simon a tanner."

I visited the traditional house of Simon the tanner and climbed upon its roof. I longed to linger about it, for here Peter had the heavenly vision recorded in acts 10: 9-13. Speaking of this site, Dean Stanley said: "The rude staircase to the roof of the modern house, flat now as of old, leads us to the view which gives all that is needed for the accompaniments of the hour. There is the wide noonday heaven above; in front is the long, bright sweep of the Mediterranean sea, its near waves broken by the reefs famous in ancient Gentile legends as the rocks of Andromeda. Fishermen are standing and wading amongst them—such as might have been there of old—recalling to the apostle his long-forgotten nets by the lake of Gennesareth, the first promise of his future call to be a fisher of men."

Jaffa is a city of about 30,000, is built mostly of stone with tiled roofs. The city walls were taken down by order of the sultan. But the unexpected should always be expected when dealing with Constantinople. For instance, when an English company proposed to spend a few million dollars in giving to Jaffa safe harbor an order preventing it was issued, whereas any progressive government would have strained every muscle in an attempt to assist the undertaking by granting a subsidy of cold cash.

It is now unofficially announced that England regrets having interfered when Russia was about to carve

Turkey and swallow her feathers and all.

Jaffa is known the world over for its large oranges. They are not only large but cheap also. A basket containing more than half a peck can be purchased for a sixpence.

Besides visiting the tomb of Dorcas and the house of Simon, nearly every visitor interested in education visits the school of Miss Arnott, who is building for herself an imperishable monument and doing untold good.

The hotel at Jaffa bears the inscription on its front, "Hotel Jerusalem" and is operated by Mr. Hardegg, who also acts as American vice consul.

The train leaves Jaffa at 1.20 p. m. for Jerusalem, the holy city, revered by Moslem, French, Greek, Russian, Roman, German, and the English, in short it is the holy city of all the great powers of earth.

The distance from Jaffa to Jerusalem as the crow flies is about 35, by road 40, and by rail 53 miles. Leaving Jaffa one is impressed that he is really in a land flowing with milk and honey. Fruit gardens greet the eye as one looks in either direction from the train. Lemons and oranges clinging to the limbs in almost endless profusion indicate that this old land still produces abundantly. Passing from the gardens the plain of Sharon welcomes the pilgrim to its carpet of flowers. Here the flowering narcissus flourishes to the delight of every beholder. At each station the passengers utilize every spare moment in gathering flowers of a variety of colors, returning quickly to the cars when the whistle from an American locomotive signals the time for starting. How do I know it was an American locomotive? I walked to the front of the train to see the brand and am quite sure that "Baldwin Locomotive Works, Philadelphia, U. S. A." is a sufficient guarantee of American construction. I was agreeably surprised to see the same stamp on the front of our iron horse when 700 miles and more up the Nile.

Eleven miles from Jaffa is Lydda, one of the ancient cities of Palestine. The Benjaminites occupied it after the captivity. In acts 9: 32-35 it is recorded that "it came to pass, as Peert passed throughout all quarters, he came down to the saints which dwelt at Lydda. And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy. And Peter said unto him, 'Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole; arise, and make thy bed.' And he arose immediately. And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him and turned to the Lord." What mighty events these! Greater than the building of a pyramid, a Taj Mahal or a sphinx. Historic sites! Immortal spot! A fine church dedicated to St. George, but now in possession of the Greeks, can be seen a considerable distance. A church was erected on the same spot by Justinian, but it was destroyed by the Saracens.

Three miles from Lydda is Ramleh, a flourishing little city of 6,500 people, having, as most other Palestine cities, its quota of Bible associations. Passing Ramleh a good view of the Valley of Ajalon is obtained. Here Joshua routed the five kings of the Amorites by calling to his aid the Grand Master Workman of the universe who at Joshua's request held the sun and moon, prolonged the day thereby, until victory was complete. "Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon, and thou, moon, in the Valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies." Joshua 10: 12-13.

The dragoman points out Gezer or rather what is left of its ruins. In 1 Kings 9: 16, we are told that "Pharaoh, king of Egypt, had gone up and taken Gezer, and burnt it with fire, and slain the Canaanites that dwelt in the city, and given it for a present unto his daughter, Solomon's wife." What use Solomon's wife would make of a ruined city I cannot conjecture. However, my inability to decipher the use of the gift does not destroy the fact of the gift having been made. In India I was presented a cane for which I thought I would have no use, but it has proven to be priceless in driving away backsheesh pests.

Among the more important points pointed out is the brook from which David secured the pebbles used in his sling; the birthplace and tomb of Samson and the place where Noah received the angel.

At a point five miles from Jerusalem is Bittir station, where the Jews made their last hard fight against the Romans. The Talmud asserts that the blood of the Jews slain here flowed to the sea. I am of the opinion that the brook which then coursed through the valley was only crimsoned from many wounded horses and soldiers bathing in it. At Chicamanga the government has caused an iron plate to be set up bearing the words, "Bloody Pond." Because the water was made crimson one is not justified in asserting that a horse led into it was breast-deep in blood.

E. C. HORN.
(Continued next week.)

NEBRASKA NEWS ITEMS.

The Sidney Telegraph learns from Lincoln sources that a case of much importance to be tried at the present term of the supreme court is the Scotts Bluff county irrigation controversy in which three irrigation concerns are involved. The case involves the legality of priority in water rights, a point which it has long been desired the supreme court might rule upon. The decision of the court in this matter will serve as a precedent from which the secretary of the state board of irrigation will render future decisions and rulings in water controversies and will save much other litigation that might come up were it not for the case. The irrigation sections of Nebraska are watching the progress of the legal battle closely and with the deepest interest.

G. H. Tuttle of Broken Bow some months ago, while eating corn bread, swallowed a piece of a belt pin nearly an inch in length. The pin stuck in his throat and ever since that time it has caused him great pain. Some weeks ago it worked through his neck and the point protruded, but it was so close to the jugular vein that the doctors thought it dangerous to attempt an operation. It recently worked down lower in the vicinity of his shoulder and was then extracted with little difficulty.

Is there a meat trust in Columbus inquires the Telegram? A restaurant keeper of that place believes he has found one. He has been in the habit of buying large quantities of meat from the Omaha and Lincoln packers, but now he has been informed that they will not sell him a pound or a car load of meat unless he orders it through one of the Columbus butchers. And now the wrathful caterer has begun legal proceedings against the meat octopus.

The local writer of the Gordon (Neb.) Journal breaks forth with the poetical effusion: "Sing a song of dollars, sacks full of spuds; sheep in the hollers, cows a chewin' cuds. The wheat's in the bin, and fodder's in the shocks, and the way that things are comin' we ought to get the rocks. And when our debts are paid, and the coal is in the shed, we'll be feelin' mighty happy as we lay us down in bed."

Many of the irrigation ditches of the state are reported dry just now, when water is most needed for fall irrigation. The Platte river was gauged at Ashland on August 31, showing 40,000 cubic feet of flow per second. Now the river is practically dry at Grand Island, the flow being but a few hundred feet per second. At Big Springs, Deuel county, the South Platte has been little more than a rivulet all summer.

A dispatch from Neligh states that Elmer Holmes, Luke Alexander, Oscar Price and Clem Milligan, four Oakdale boys, have been arrested and placed in the Neligh jail on a charge of attempted train wrecking. Obstructions are said to have been placed on the Northwestern track, and when discovered by Foreman Davis, the lads are said to have stood him off with a gun and made their escape.

Within a few feet of the public road, but screened from general view by the foliage, the dead body of William Sietmyer, a farmer 50 years of age, was found swung by a small cord from the limb of a tree on the farm of C. M. Wittstrick twelve miles south of Lincoln. Sietmyer had evidently climbed to the forks of the tree and then jumped off.

The Sidney Telegraph is requested to ask why the people of Sidney are compelled to pay \$7.75 per ton for Rock Springs soft coal while the same necessary article is advertised and sold for \$6.65 in Omaha. Sidney is 414 miles closer to the mines yet Sidney people have to pay \$1.10 per ton more than the residents of Omaha.

A horse and buggy belonging to a Mr. Frey, who resides at Virginia, Gage county, was stolen at Beatrice Saturday night, while hitched near the circus grounds. The horse and rig was valued at \$200.

The edict has gone forth at Norfolk that all slot machines must go. Tuesday is the day set for the time-limit and those found operating them after that day are liable to arrest.

Anton Skoda of Sheridan county has made a success of raising a fine quality of winter apples and crab apples this year, thus proving Sheridan adaptness for fruit growing.

Nineteen "high grade" buck Indians were shipped from Rushville last week to Madison Square gardens, New York, where they will join Col. Cummins' Indian Congress.

The Northwestern has completed its new coal chutes at Norfolk. The road is expending \$200,000 more in various improvements there this year.

The creamery company at York is increasing the size of its plant and installing considerable modern machinery.

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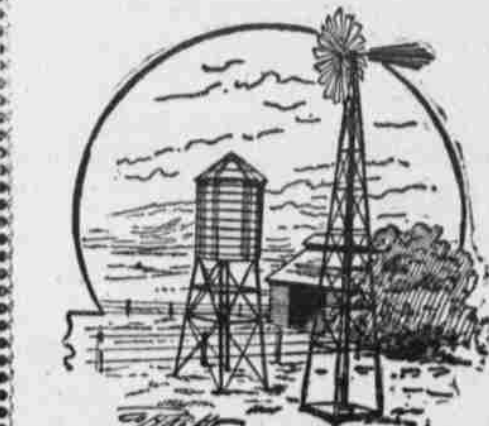


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