

candor; there is no attempt to belittle the obstacles or to conceal the necessities that will confront those who accept the invitation offered and proceed to that section to make homes. No one need go therefore under a misapprehension of the conditions to be met, and as a consequence, the element of disappointment or discouragement should be reduced to a minimum.

It would be infinitely better if other valleys of the mountains desiring help in building up the country, would follow the example of frankness given by this correspondent. Indeed, it ought to be insisted upon by the leading men in the sections referred to. That there are disadvantages connected with every location must be known to each home-seeker; they why not tell him in the beginning just what circumstances he will encounter and must expect to cope with, rather than leave him to find them out for himself, with probably many added obstacles that he had not dreamed of, after he has gone too far to retrace his steps or seek another location without great loss?

Referring again to the Marsh Valley country, it can truthfully be claimed for any present unoccupied section in these mountains that it is highly favored, and desirable if the only requirement necessary to make it attractive and prosperous is hard work. The settlers and the sons of the settlers who have made so many waste places to blossom will not be terrified at that prospect. They have the muscle and the industry; given the right quality of land and climate, with reasonable opportunities for water, fuel and building material, they will be able to make—as they have already many times made—a lovely spot out of a place that does not seem to be half so inviting as the Idaho valley spoken of. We anticipate that the latter within a few years will be one of the most fertile and admirable parts of the "Gem of the Mountains."

DAVID AS A GENERAL.

In the popular discussion of the merits of great military men, ancient and modern, it is refreshing to note a prominent Frenchman coming out with the evidence that King David was an officer whose military genius on the field of battle was equal to that of Napoleon or Frederick II, if, indeed, it was not superior, since they lived in a strategic era, while the Israelitish monarch was without any such advantage of discipline and example. From the evidence adduced it would appear that King David is entitled to rank as the head of civilized military science, as Moses is the chief of jurisprudence; it being also worthy of note that both of these great leaders attributed their superior knowledge to the inspiration of Jehovah.

The Frenchman who has thus expressed himself is M. Dieulafoy, the well known explorer in Persia, who read, at a late meeting of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, in Paris, a very interesting account of his

visit to the scene of the encounter between King David and the Philistines in the valley of Rephaim, when the Israelitish general smote the Philistines from Geba to Gazer, as stated in 2 Samuel v. The London *Public Opinion*, summarizing the paper, says:

M. Dieulafoy described how, after the capture of Jerusalem by David and the establishment of the Israelitish monarchy, the Philistines resolved to crush the nascent kingdom, and how, after alternations of success and failure, they occupied the valley of Rephaim, situated at the foot of the slopes which led from the west to Jerusalem. It was then, according to M. Dieulafoy, that David, constantly attacked by his enemies, executed one of the finest military maneuvers recorded in history. M. Dieulafoy, while indicating the various advances made by military art, and having shown that before the wars of the Medes no nation had any acquaintance with the rules of higher tactics and strategy, dwelt upon the fact that David was the first of the Israelitish leaders to form drilled and disciplined troops, and pointed out what good use the king made of this army in the valley of Rephaim.

The plan of the battle, clearly described in the Bible, comprised a flank march, a rapid change of front, the rapid encompassing of the left wing of the Philistines, and an attack from behind on this wing. This was a complicated and bold turning movement, very difficult to execute and something quite out of the common for the age in which it was carried out.

The explorer, while at the theater of operations, made use of the general topography of the region in order to reconstitute the principal phases of the battle, and in his address before the academy pointed out that this movement presented a striking analogy with those executed by Frederick II at the battles of Mollwitz and Rossbach, and by Napoleon at Austerlitz. In the conduct of this operation King David gave evidence of the highest capacities, taking advantage of all the inequalities of the ground, forming his troops afresh in the wood, and charging impetuously, and M. Dieulafoy insisted very strongly upon the similarity of his military genius to that of Napoleon. After all, it would appear that in the control of militant bodies, as well as in the government of a people in times of peace, the Israelitish nation furnishes an illustration which has not been surpassed even by the greatest men of modern countries.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES.

Of great interest to archaeologists are the recent discoveries of De Morgan in Egypt. A year ago this judicious explorer of the burial places of the ancient pharaohs found in the galleries of one of the smaller pyramids, southwest of Cairo, the tomb and buried treasures of Amenemhat III of the twelfth dynasty of Egypt, together with the tombs of several royal princesses and also the resting places of two other Egyptian kings. Convinced that Amenemhat would not be sleeping in death without having near him the remains of those dear to him, De Morgan surmised that the pyramid

would probably be surrounded by tombs covered by the desert sand. Acting on this supposition he set to work to discover, if possible, the entrance to these chambers. Sounding after sounding was made without success until last February, when a huge rock was struck. After this had been removed, a gallery was disclosed and what is believed to be Amenemhat III's royal house of death was opened after being closed for thousands of years. In it were seen the mummified bodies of Princess Ita and Queen Khnoum, loaded with jewels and surrounded by scent-boxes and all kinds of dainty ornaments such as must have been dear to female hearts at a time anterior to that of reliable secular history.

The mummified remains of the princess were covered with ornaments and her golden death mask shone in the dim light of the pit. A jeweled dagger with a blade of bronze rested on her breast and among the various decorations were gold leaves so thin and fragile that they moved with the slightest breeze. The queen was also buried with a wealth of precious ornaments. There were numerous bracelets, strings of pearl and costly stones, and also crowns, scepters and adornments for the hair and bits of rich stuffs and fine linen, giving a slight hint of the magnificence of the period in which they were worn.

As the most valuable find is mentioned a crown formed of interlacing threads of gold and enriched with precious stones, gems by the score, each of which is worth almost a king's ransom. Exquisite and beautiful in the extreme is the design of this crown. Its threads of gold are worked into the shape of a great circle of myrtle, the delicately formed blossom of each having in its center a jewel. Six crosses, resembling greatly that design known as the Greek cross, occur at regular intervals, the center of each being a huge blazing gem, and the cross itself being four golden lotus flowers joined at their stems and incrustated with varicolored jewels of wonderful lights and sheen.

Amenemhat III, the fifth king of the twelfth dynasty, during the reign of which some suppose the immigration of Jacob and his sons took place, stands out from the dark background of the past ages as a famous engineer, ruling the country during a time of perhaps unparalleled prosperity. He regulated the foundations of the Nile and constructed the immense reservoir known as Lake Moeris, where water for irrigation purposes was stored up. Near the lake he built the famous labyrinth consisting of 6,000 rooms, the remains of which were found by Dr. Lepsius.

Undoubtedly, the discoveries now made by De Morgan will lead to further researches in places where hitherto nothing but the burning desert sand has met the eye of the traveler. It is not impossible that many of the puzzling questions of ancient chronology, and with them the history of the early civilization of the human race, may yet be answered through further discoveries in the city of the dead, if incursions or records now hidden but destined to come to light in due time.