

only a narrow strip of land, which is covered with houses, gardens and, particularly toward the west, with olive trees, and an occasional stately palm. The town itself has considerably increased and has quite outgrown its old walls. It contains about 7,250 inhabitants, including 700 Europeans, among whom are 400 Germans. Half the natives are Muslims, about 2,200 Roman Catholics, 600 Greeks, the remainder Maronites and Jews. There are two morgues and several Christian churches.

Haifa is the Sycamimum of ancient Greek and Roman authors, and in the Talmud both names occur. In 1100 Haifa was besieged and taken by storm by Tancred, but after the battle of Hattin it fell into the hands of Saladin. In the eighteenth century Haifa extended more towards the promontory of Carmel, but it was destroyed by Zahr-el Omar pasha of Acre, in 1761, after which the new town sprang up further to the east. Since the steamers have been in the habit of touching at Haifa the town has enjoyed increasing commercial prosperity and has attracted to itself a great share of the trade of Acre. Wheat, maize, sesame, and oil are exported in considerable quantities, and soap is manufactured on a large scale. The harbor, however, is not good, and the steamers have to cast anchor at a considerable distance from the shore.

The German colony dates back to 1869, when the German Templars founded a settlement here. Their clean and neat dwellings, built in European style, situated northwest of Haifa proper, present a pleasant contrast to the dirty houses of the Orientals. The townsite is also laid out with taste, and the main street which reaches clear from the base of Carmel to the sea and is perfectly straight, is one of the finest thoroughfares I have seen in the Orient so far. Shade trees have been planted on each side of the street with much regularity, and flower gardens also abound in front of the houses, nearly all of which are two stories high. Northwest of the townsite lies the farming lands of the colony, most of which is well cultivated. Vineyards have been planted by the colonies on the slopes and on the top of Mount Carmel, from which excellent wine is produced. The Templars now number about 240 souls, and possess a meeting house and a school; the numerous Germans in the colony who are not Templars have also established a school.

After resting myself a short time in the house of Brother and Sister Hiltl in the German colony at Haifa, I walked back to the native town, where I saw a carriage starting out with passengers for the town of Acri, situated on the other side of the bay. I immediately secured a seat and rode about twelve miles along the beautiful sandy beach to that most interesting and historic place. Between Haifa and Acri, and not far from the former place, we crossed the brook Kishon, of Bible fame. The beach is strewn with beautiful shells, and among them are still found the murex brandaris and murex trunculus, the prickly shells of the fish which in ancient times yielded the far-famed Tyrian purple. The Phoenicians obtained the precious dye from a vessel in the throat of the fish. The place where these fish were most plentiful was the river Belus, now called Nahr Na'man, which puts into the sea a short distance south of Acri and which we crossed just before we entered the town. The historian Pliny asserts that glass was made from the fine sand of this river, and according to Josephus, a large monument of Memnon once stood on its banks. Beyond the river inland rises the hill on which Napoleon Bonaparte planted his batteries in 1799.

We arrived at Acri at 9 a. m., and after rambling through the town for some time alone, I came across an Arabian youth from Nazareth by the name of Nami Nucho, who for his own pleasure, as he said, accompanied me to every point of interest in the place. He spoke good English, and was anxious to obtain a more thorough English education.

Acre is almost thirty miles south of Tyre and twelve north of Mount Carmel. The town, the key of Syria, is more strongly fortified than any other in the country. The appearance of its defenses is still very formidable, notwithstanding all the vicissitudes of war which it has survived. It stands on an angular promontory jutting into the sea. The walls are in many places double; and those on the land side are protected by strong outworks of mounds with facings of stone. Age after age has flourished, with alternate peace and war. It was the stronghold of the crusaders, and was besieged by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1799. In 1832 it sustained a siege of six months against Harhim Pasha, during which 35,000 shells were thrown into it. Again in 1840, it was bombarded by the united fleets of England, Austria and Turkey, and was reduced by the explosion of the powder magazine by which 2,000 soldiers were hurried into eternity without a moment's warning. [In Biblical history Acre is mentioned in connection with the tribe of Asher (Judges 1: 31), and with the travels of the Apostle Paul, who on one of his journeys to Jerusalem called there (Acts 21:7). The place in the days of Christ was called Ptolemais.] Acre of the present time contains about 10,000 inhabitants, of whom 8,000 are Muslims. The only gate is on the east side, and no buildings are permitted to be erected outside the walls. The ramparts date in part back to the time of the Crusaders. The wall next to the sea is provided with subterranean magazines, many of which, however, have fallen in. The market of Acre is of some importance, the traffic being centered in a well covered bazar. The export trade is considerable, consisting wheat from the Hauran, rice, oil, cotton, etc., but is gradually being absorbed by Haifa; the harbor is now much choked with sand. A strong guard of Turkish soldiers is stationed here. The town having so often been destroyed by war is almost destitute of antiquities; but one does not tire for a long time looking at its walls and fortifications. From a point of the wall near the sea, where my guide took me, I enjoyed an excellent view of the sea and the country surrounding Acre. Towards the south Mount Carmel, with the town of Haifa at its base present a pleasing picture. To the east the mountains of Galilee; to the north, beyond the nearer caps of Ras en-Nakura is seen the Ras el-Abyad, or white promontory, while the lower end of the great plain of Esdraelon stretches from Acre in a south-easterly direction.

Having satisfied myself with my observations in Acre I walked along the beach back to Haifa, where I arrived very tired and fatigued in the middle of the afternoon. The day was unusually hot and oppressive. Just as I entered Haifa I met a large company of Turkish soldiers starting for the seat of war. Nearly all were mounted on good horses, but their uniforms were shabby and old. I spent the remainder of the day with the Saints at the German colony. ANDREW JENSEN.

SCIENTIFIC FARMING.

Most of the farmers of Utah are seriously complaining of poor crops and the bad condition of their fruit because of the worms. Many forget that

a law has been provided compelling the farmer to spray his fruit and thus avoid destruction by any pest whatever; but some are indolent and still anxious to make money, not sensing that hard work is necessary to accomplish such results.

At Five Points, Ogden, can be seen the fruits of scientific farming. The owner, a gentleman who does not wish his name advertised, was the first man in Utah to spray trees, having done so ten years before the act compelling the spraying of trees was drafted into our laws. His fruit has always been clean and almost devoid of any worms whatever. His farm consists of nine and a half acres, nearly all of which is set out in fruit trees. Being a great reader of magazines and papers for the horticulturist, he keeps himself posted on the latest methods of fruit culture, thereby obtaining the best results for his labor. All varieties of fruit are grown on his land. His grapes are of the finest qualities, twenty-seven kinds in all, equal in flavor and size to any we ship from California or other places. He raises the best of everything, his strawberries are the nicest that can be obtained. He told me that last summer he planted three-quarters of an acre in strawberries; his neighbor planted twenty acres in wheat on the same kind of ground and he realized more out of his berries than his neighbor did from his wheat for which he received a good high price. Such a result is due to his knowledge of how to make his plants produce. He has a small patch of carrots which he says will amount to forty tons to the acre; but he could not do this were it not for his proper care and scientific cultivation.

While other farmers are grumbling because their pears are infested with worms, he is gathering from his trees on an average of 20 bushels to the tree of most desirable fruit. His trees are so heavily laden with luscious fruits that many large branches are forced to give away under the weight and fall to the ground.

This grower has accomplished what has been declared by nearly all horticulturists as impossible, the growing of fruits successfully in sod land. Some of his best trees of prunes and pears are grown in such soil; the fruit is just as large and of as good quality as that grown in what is thought to be more favorable ground. And another thing he has been surprisingly successful in is the growth of good trees from seed. He experiments a good deal with what he terms "crossing" the different kinds of fruit to produce better varieties. Every tree in his orchard is ticketed with its name deeply branded in a piece of copper, thus making it possible, as he explained, if at any time he should die, for any one to tell what kinds and varieties of fruits he raised.

All over his farm are evidences of a business-like method of doing work. He claims that it is impossible to make a success of farming unless it is studied as one would study any other branch of business. He advises all farmers to be intelligent students of the cultivation of the soil, for as the lawyer must study his case to win his point, so the farmer must inform himself on the best means to obtain the greatest results. M. M.

AN INTERESTING TOUR.

St. George, Sept. 24, 1897.
On the 14th inst., after the close of the quarterly conference of the St. George Stake, Apostle F. M. Lyman, accompanied by J. G. Kimball of the council of the Seventies and Edward H. Snow, one of the aids to the general superintendency of the Young Men's