The First and the Last Crusader

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A Peaceful Invasion of the Holy Land Which May Be Productive of Most Important Results.

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FROM the time of the crusaders until Emperor William II of Germany entered Palestine no such imposing pageant ever passed through the Holy Land. With the emperor and empress consisting of ministers of state, court officials, aides, troops, lackeys, grooms, serving men and maids and a score or more of newspaper correspondents, numbering in all more than 1,000 persons, he has made a visit to the most interesting land in all the world and with more grandeur than that displayed by the medieval kings.

Emperor William's visit to the Holy Land, it is stated, had two purposes. One is to restore the country in which the Christian religion first saw the light of day to the Christian people, and the second is to find a place to found a colony for his subjects who leave the home country in search of new fields where they may enjoy the fruits of their labors and still remain true to the flag of land. The Germans who go to America become Americanized rapidly, and this gives William to such an extent that he has determined to keep his people under his rule as far as possible. He also hopes before long to add a part of Asia Minor, including Palestine, to his dominions, and for all this and also to be present at the dedication of the German Lutheran church at Jerusalem did William undertake his crusade into the land where Christianity was born.

With the advent into the Holy Land of the German emperor a new interest has arisen in the most historic country in the world, and all eyes are now turned to the place which is holy not only because Christ was born within its borders, but also because of the relics, which are stained with the blood of hundreds of thousands of brave men and women who went there to take the land out of the hands of unbelievers.

Palestine borders on the Mediterranean sea and is in the southern portion of Asia Minor. It lies between Turkey in Asia proper on the north and Arabia Petrea on the south. The limits of the country cannot be stated with any degree of exactness. Its far as can be ascertained its length is a little more than 150 miles, with a varying width of from 37 to 85 miles. The area of the portion west of the Jordan is 6,000 square miles, while that of the east has been estimated at 4,000 square miles. This is the modern Palestine. The ancient Palestine was much smaller. It included only the southern portion of the coast region. In its geographical make up it is more peculiar than any of the surrounding lands. It is a plain of hills and valleys and a wonderful variety of temperature. Through the center is a table-land with an average elevation of 1,000 feet, upon whose rugged edge stand several of the ancient cities with their old fortifications gradually going to pieces.

Along the coast the land is low and barren. Here the heat is intense, while on the hills, plateaus and mountains alone the temperate zones. It snows quite exceedingly cold, however, and while snow falls about Jerusalem and on the hills it is seldom that enough to freeze the ground. The desert lies the central tableland on the east is very steep. On the west the slope is gradual to the plains of Philistia. The mountain ranges, which run through the country from one end to the other, are rugged and disconnected. The highest peaks are on the central plateau. They are Mount Hebron, 3,106 feet; Jerusalem, 2,806 feet; Mount Gerizim, 2,849 feet; Mount Ebal, 3,077 feet, and Mount Tabor, 1,843 feet.

Almost directly through the center of the country runs that great and historic water course, the river Jordan, of which the prophets wrote. It runs from the Dead sea through the lake of Genesareth, known to the ancients as the sea of Galilee and made immortal by Christ and His disciples. Thence it finds its way into the valley of Cheth-Arva and the great hills in the north. It rolls and turns and covers a great territory. The east revolves through which the Jordan flows is one of the most remarkable features on the surface of the earth. It is from five to 20 miles in width and in places every deep. At the bottom of the Dead sea it reaches a depth of 1,310 feet, and the sea itself is more than a quarter of a mile below the level of the Mediterranean. It is this great stream that supplies the large portion of Palestine with water. The valley of the Jordan is exceedingly fertile and well wooded. In this section the chief occupation of the inhabitants is agricultural pursuits and the main products are barley, wheat, melons and rye.

This, however, is but one section of the wonderfully fertile valley of the Jordan. The plains of Esdraelon and Jezreel are extremely fertile and contain Wheat crops are harvested from them. They raise clearly all the cereals, potatoes, tobacco, cotton, sugar cane and large quantities of rice, which grows in the marshes and usually lasts along the borders of the Jordan and in many other places. The cultivated tracts are gradually growing less, however, and the population has decreased, and at the present time it is better at these times than more than 50,000 people there, and the majority of them are Mohammedans. There are about 2,000 Jews and they hold the high offices, which the others, the common people, have Arab, Greek and Syrian surnames. The Jewish population is very small. The Jews are found mostly at or near Jerusalem, Hebron, Tiberias and Safed. Of late years colonies of German and Polish Jews have been founded in Palestine. Many more would have settled there, especially those who were expelled from Russia, but the sultan of Turkey refused to give his consent. He would not, he said, allow persons of an alien race and religion to settle in great numbers in a distant part of his dominions.

JERUSALEM RAILWAY STATION.

As in most places under the rule of the sultan of Turkey, few or no improvements have been made in any of the cities or in fact any part of the Holy Land. Most of the cities are ruling with filth, and it is a wonder there are not more deadly diseases among the people. The means of communication and travel throughout Palestine are exceedingly bad. Many of the roads are in the same condition as when Christ and his disciples traveled over them from place to place. The best road is from Yafa to Jerusalem, while the only railroad runs from Yafa to Ramleh and thence to Jerusalem.

The filth of Jerusalem is worse than in any city in the world. The streets of the passageways can be called streets in any sense, but what they lack in width they make up in dirt, and it is often found necessary to walk through garbage which has been thrown out by the occupants of the houses. This is also true of many other cities. There is nothing modern in the country to improve the center, yet it stands superior, for besides its ancient ruins it is the birthplace of the Christian religion. It is divided into three principal sections, Jerusalem, Samaria and Galilee—and contains the subprovinces of Acre and Jerusalem.

Palestine, like Egypt, has a marvelous historical record. The earliest goes back to the eighteenth century B. C., and it is as bloody as it is interesting. While it is a land of hills and valleys it is also a land of conflicts that are unequaled. Large armies have been assembled and started to the Holy Land for the purpose of reclaiming it from the unbelievers, and it was in Yafa that said that more blood has been spilled there than in any other known country.

Many of the ruins to be found in Jerusalem are of the type of many centuries ago. There is hardly a hilltop throughout the whole country that is not covered with the ruins of some fortification or ancient city. They stand out in their bold whiteness against the sky or a background of foliage as monuments of the past. Many of these ruins are from the distant age of the Babylonians, Assyrians, Jewish and Egyptian periods, and some of them extend even perhaps to the old Canaanitish days, before the arrival of Joshua.

Wars were carried on long before the Christian era began. They, however, were not of such great magnitude as those that followed the advent of Christ and have with very little intermission kept up ever since. Even as late as 1841, it is claimed, the possession of the Holy Land caused a war between four of the most powerful countries of Europe. Its ownership was often disputed by the Egyptian and Syrian kings, and few years passed that some ruling power did not have men in the field for the purpose of getting control of this land. The country remained subject to Persia and Syria and conquerors more than 600 years after the coming of Christ. The Jews had frequent and bloody fights among themselves and with the people who had conquered the land. Jerusalem was the main point of attack, and it was destroyed and rebuilt oftener than any other city in the world. Titus destroyed the city in 70 A. D. It was rebuilt by the Romans and remained in a semi-peaceful state for a few centuries, when it was again destroyed in 614 by the Persians under Chosroes II. He invested Palestine and with the aid of 26,000 Jews captured and destroyed the Holy City. It was regained again by Heraclius, who was in turn defeated by the Mohammedan Arabs in 637. They held control for a long time, but the wars never ceased. They continued between the Egyptians, Greeks and other nations until 1076, when the land was again conquered by Seljuk Turks. They remained in possession for 20 years, or until 1096, when they were defeated by the Egyptian sultan, who took possession of the territory.

In 1099 the crusaders captured Jerusalem, and it was held by the Christians until 1187, when it was taken by Sultan Saladin. Two years later another crusade was undertaken by Philip of France, Richard I of England and Emperor Frederic Barbarossa of Germany. They failed to take the Holy City, but restored Christian rule along the coast. Frederic II in 1228 recovered Jerusalem and established Christian dominion over a large territory of Palestine. It remained under this rule until 1291, when the Egyptian sultans again got control and retained it until 1517. In that year the Turks were again victorious and they have held it ever since with the exception of the two years 1833 to 1841, when it was occupied by Mehemet Ali, pasha of Egypt.

The discovery of the Holy Sepulchre made Jerusalem a great religious center and also caused untold trouble between the Christians and other religious bodies. Not only that, but it developed a strained relationship between some of the most powerful countries of Europe. It was ostensibly the cause of the war between Russia and Turkey on one side and England and France on the other, which began in 1853 and is known as the Crimean war. The Latin and Greek churches contended for the custody of the Holy Sepulchre, and the dispute between France and Russia was simply the claim of the two churches led to the latter proclaiming a protectorate over all Greek Christians in Turkey. The sultan's refusal to recognize this was followed by a war which brought little satisfaction to the participants and cost the lives of thousands of men.

Jerusalem, the cause of most of the trouble, has a population now of 70,000, about one-half of which is composed of Jews. There is little trade and no manufacturing in the city. The neighboring country is barren, and the place suffers at times from lack of water. A throng of visitors from Europe and Asia visit the place annually, which testifies to the fact that the more than 18 centuries it has been looked upon as a holy city, and, while it is in the center of the land where the Christian religion was born and so many lives have been spent to make a Christian country of it, it still remains in the control of one of the worst despots of all Europe, who is likewise a Mohammedan.

ROBERT W. WILCOX.

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER.

CHURCH OF HOLY SEPULCHRE.

SUBURBS VIEW OF JERUSALEM FROM A NEIGHBORING HILL.

BIG MEN AND LITTLE.

A navy surgeon of great experience while on a furlough recently was talking to a newspaper man regarding the work of the medical departments of the navy in their business of gathering and conserving soldiers on battlefields exposed by disease and wounds.

"I am confident," said he, "that it will be found that the small, light men will have been through the campaign, both by field and fleet, have been the best endurers of hardships. This is a fact that I have often observed. The big, hard muscled, well-developed men go in pleasant weather harder and succumb much quicker to epidemic disease, as well as to the ordinary diseases of life, than do the small, frail looking chaps. Of course nearly full men get into the army and navy, but the service has always been filled with plenty of men under ordinary size, whose appearance with their clothes on causes men not familiar with the subject to wonder how they ever passed the physical examinations required by the army and navy.

"These undersized but perfectly sound men, both in the army and navy, are the best for hard service. They may not be able to do such big things, but for long service full of trouble and worthless and genuine hardships they are incomparably better than the big fellows, who look as if they might be able to outlast any three of the smaller sort. I've often noticed that in practice marches by naval landing parties the little fellows have invariably the best of the argument when it comes to heavy, double time work under hot, tropical suns. I've seen huge sailors and marines drop out of line in sets of fours under such circumstances, while the small, trig bluejackets and soldiers stand in the game through everything and very rarely fall to the rear. Army surgeons tell me, too, that in rough campaigning in the west the smaller men have invariably shown themselves to be better resisters of hardship than the big fellows. They are not usually little along the borders of the Jordan and in many other places. The cultivated tracts are gradually growing less, however, and the population has decreased, and at the present time it is better at these times than more than 50,000 people there, and the majority of them are Mohammedans. There are about 2,000 Jews and they hold the high offices, which the others, the common people, have Arab, Greek and Syrian surnames. The Jewish population is very small. The Jews are found mostly at or near Jerusalem, Hebron, Tiberias and Safed. Of late years colonies of German and Polish Jews have been founded in Palestine. Many more would have settled there, especially those who were expelled from Russia, but the sultan of Turkey refused to give his consent. He would not, he said, allow persons of an alien race and religion to settle in great numbers in a distant part of his dominions.

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ROBERT W. WILCOX.

IN A WARLIKE STRAIN.

The day of the surrender of Santiago, when the Spanish soldiers came out to the American trenches, a certain very chesty looking American volunteer rushed up to a Spanish officer and, pointing the interpreter's machete, he asked, "How much will you take for that?" The Spaniard, who spoke English, looked at your pistols, and, tapping the machete out, said, "I'll be pleased to give it to you, sir, if you'll sell me your sword."

The board to investigate sites for proposed coaling stations along the Atlantic seaboard, of which Admiral Bickham, retired, is president, recommends that the coaling facilities at all the naval stations be increased by building larger sheds and adding necessary machinery. The coaling facilities, which were sufficient on a peace footing, were absolutely weak for war operations. Its recommendation stands for this purpose, and the board was supplied with the year of making the necessary recommendation to congress.

"Hatching gear" is the newest color. The haberdashers have it in ties, scarfs, hosiery and gloves. It is coming in as hosiery for men and women. In the dry goods houses it is found in ribbons and the other fripperies that delight the feminine heart. The ribbons are beginning to turn out fabrics for men and women, and this seriously-hatched hue will be the most popular color for the winter.

A letter tells of the brave conduct of E. H. Kelly, signal corps, during the engagements before the Philippine capital. In the heat of the conflict he carried a wire in miles right into the Spanish intrenchments, while the bullets fell around him like hail. Two comrades fell alongside of him, one fatally wounded. For his bravery he was made first sergeant. Major General Merritt sent his name to President McKinley for "gallant and meritorious conduct during the capture of Manila."

In the Tenth (colored) cavalry is a musical big black sergeant. One day he had some recruits out drilling, when one said, "Look yhar, sargent, what's dis cavvyry saber made heat hit dis guer?" "Why, sos, it'll fit de scabbard, what you suppose? Dese ap ur cavvyry tell dare. You niggers never will know no thickness."

A German officer estimates that in the course of the present century war has killed 30,000,000 men in the civilized countries.

One Way to Get Married.

Archduke Heinrich of Austria, being in nearly Miss Leopoldine Hoffman against the will of the emperor, hit on the expedient of arranging for a "massive assistance" of a crowd, so that not embarrass a marriage against the pain of the emperor's anger. So the archduke gave a concert, to which he invited the priest. After the concert had been served he rose in his place, as which the guests expected a toast. But the archduke, pointing to Miss Leopoldine Hoffmann, pronounced sonorously and distinctly the words, "Priest, present me to my wife." Miss Hoffmann immediately afterward rose to her feet and said, "This is my husband." According to the theory of "massive assistance" in Germany and Austria, there could be no force before a priest resident the marriage of the pair valid and consummately concluded. The priest was not to be extremely astonished, but could do nothing, for the church said, "What God hath joined let no man put asunder."

Generosity.

Two old beggar women well known in Dublin, were discussing their personal affairs. "Good morrow to ye, Mrs. Fogarty," said one. "Good morrow, Kinsly, Judy," replied the other. "I hope I see ye well this morning" "Oh, very well, entirely! So, Mrs. Fogarty, ye married yer daughter Kate. Did she get a good match?" "Good a better, praise be to God! She got titled Barty Driscol on the side, that makes Barty money than any three beggars in Cork." "Ah, then, but ye are glad to hear yer news. And did ye give her anything?" "Faix, I did, indeed. Didn't I give her the best suit of Pat's, rich street, which, it well begod, a worth silver and sixpence week?" "Sure, ye may, but 'tis ye that was generous!" exclaimed the other.