Dip in Jordan's Stream

(Special Correspondence.)

Jerusalem itself has so much of interest for the traveler that we had spent a week there before we felt an inclination to look beyond its immediate vicinity and go down to Jericho. Probably no trip of the length of all the excursions about Jerusalem surpasses in interest this short one to the shores of the Dead Sea, for in it are combined the most diverse attractions. One sees the Jericho road, famous since the story of the Good Samaritan; the sites of the Jerichos of Joshua and of Jesus, where Zaccheus, the chief publican, climbed into the branches of the sycamore tree to see the Lord pass by; the ford of Jordan, where the Israelites passed over against Jericho, and where tradition places the baptism of Jesus by John; and the Dead Sea, unique among bodies of water in its combination of the sterile saltness of its waters and their extraordinary depression below the level of the sea. There is another feature of the excursion, the Wady Kelt, the "Brook Cherith" of the Old Testament, where the prophet Elijah hid in a cave and was fed by ravens when fleeing for his life from Jezebel.

The immediate occasion of our going down to Jericho, however, was the news that a great number of Russian pilgrims would, the following day, celebrate the Greek Epiphany by baptizing themselves, to the number of 2,000, in the Jordan river, while the Patriarch of the Jordan blessed the waters, thus commemorating the baptism of Jesus, which a more than doubtful tradition places at this ford of the Jordan instead of farther north. A great deal of interest in this sight was felt in Jerusalem, and when we made up our party and began to inquire for a carriage we found that every comfortable conveyance in the city was already spoken for, and that we would be lucky to get any vehicle at all.

Along the Jericho Road.

It was therefore a rather stiff and rusty old fourposter into which we bundled, early the next morning, for our twenty-mile drive down the Jericho road. The morning was cool and the day, which looked undecided when we left the Jaffa gate and turned the northwest angle of the city wall, soon cleared finely. We turned again at the northeast angle, "the Stork's Tower," descended into the Kedron valley, passed the Mount of Olives, and began to wind in among the brown hills toward Bethany. The road was good, one of the few roads in Palestine, where paths are the usual and almost the only thoroughfares.

We passed Bethany, and found our first halting place at Khan-Hadrur, a little solitary khan by the wayside, where Jerusalem drivers stop to feed their horses. It was 9 o'clock, and while the horses were being fed we inspected the cave which does duty as the Inn of the Good Samaritan, who seems to have emerged from the parable into real life. Half an hour farther on we passed close to the Wady Kelt, sometimes identified with Elijah's Brook Cherith, and we left the carriage to scramble over the rocks into the barren gorge. Far below us, on the other side, we could see the white walls of a strangely Italian monastery, hanging over the abyss in what seemed a very precarious fashion. It was the Monastery of St. George, the only building in the gorge, but not the only dwelling, for the steep, rocky walls of the Wady were honeycombed with the caves of hermits of the past and present, and their ladders could in some places be seen hanging straight down the face of the cliff, before the mouths of their rocky dens. Except for the little garden of the convent, and a slender thread of verdure along the little brook at the bottom of the gorge, all that one could see was waste and barren, the sides of the valley descending, treeless and arid,

Bridge Over the Jordan.

steeply to the slender stream that murmured along, far below us.

In the Jordan Valley.

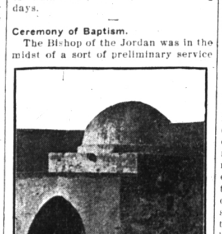
Rejoining the carriage we proceeded and soon rolled out into the broad plain into which the Jordan valley widens at the head of the Dead sea. The so-called Fountain of Elijah, a copious spring near Jericho, together with the waters of Jordan, are amply sufficient to water and develop this whole plain, as, indeed, they were made to do in ancient times. But Turkish authority so persistently discourages enterprise of every sort that nothing of this kind is dreamed of now, and the river and the spring send their waters idly into the Dead sea, almost unvexed by any irrigating appliances.

From every point of view the Dead sea is interesting. Hereabouts lay the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, whose overthrow makes so striking a picture in Old Testament annals. The Arabs still call the sea "Bahr Lut," the Sea of Lot, after the patriarch, who, tempted by the rich pasturage of this then smiling valley, "pitched his tent toward Sodom." Here, also as far as ancient records can vouch for, is the tomb of Rachel.

We hastened away to the Jordan fords, where the ceremony of blessing the waters and the self-immersion of the Russian pilgrims were to take place. In perhaps an hour we reached the spot, a low, muddy space beside the river, with some groves of small trees near by. The pilgrims were already assembled, to the number of some two thousand, and were engaged in putting on coarse slips or shifts of white cloth. For this purpose some, but not all of them, withdrew to the bushes; some neglected the use of the slips, and altogether it was an extraordinary scene. A certain dignity, however, attached to the scene, disgusting as some of the features of it undoubtedly were, for these rude peasants, in their coarse boots and rough clothing, were sturdy men and women, with the marks of toil and hardship written plainly on their faces; and they were deeply, quietly in earnest about this Jordan baptism, to undergo which they had come thousands of miles, and endured not a little hardship and privation. They had all walked from Jerusalem, a distance of over twenty miles, and they were all to walk back thither, the following days.

Ceremony of Baptism.

The Bishop of the Jordan was in the midst of a sort of preliminary service



Tomb of Rachel.

in a little open air chapel near the river bank, and a great crowd surrounded it. But the most of the pilgrims were gathered along the bank of the river, which here makes one of its numerous bends.

The waters were a muddy brown, and as they ran swiftly along between their mud banks they were anything but inviting. The pilgrims never gave the matter a thought, however, in sober silence they helped each other in with their white slips, and then awaited the appearance of the Bishop. He appeared at length and two boats received him, in his ecclesiastical robes, with the striking headdress characteristic of the clergy of the Greek church, and the Greek and Russian consuls, with their ladies. These last, in their European gowns, struck the only note of fashion in that strange assembly. No other boats were about; a swimmer now and then braved the strong current of the turbid river, and crossed and recrossed the narrow stream.

The two boats were now in midstream; the bishop rose and blessed the waters, flinging into them a golden cross, and all the waiting peasants rushed in. Three times they plunged their heads beneath the muddy waters, then fell to filling the flasks and bottles they had brought with them, to take back to their distant homes. The slips worn on these occasions are carefully preserved by their wearers to serve as grave clothes when their possessors die, and some extra suits we saw dipped in the water, evidently for friends at home who had been unable to make the pilgrimage.

The river bank was not a pleasant place when, ten minutes later, these 2,000 dripping pilgrims were crowding their way up it, and changing their clothes, and we were glad to make the best of our way out of it and drive to the little town of Eriha, and our hotel.

Cost of Colonization.

According to a statement made in the German Reichstag by Dr. Stuebel, director of the colonial department, nearly 12,000 troops have been employed in suppressing the native uprising in German Southwest Africa and up to the end of December the cost was over $4,000,000. The war has cost about $2,500 for every white settler, or $5,000 a head of the purely German population.

American in Siberia.

John Rosene, an American citizen, is the man who has practical charge of the development of northeastern Siberia, a country whose mineral wealth may rival the riches of Alaska. Rosene is managing director of a company chartered to do business in a territory about 200,000 square miles in extent.

SAYS ANIMALS SPREAD ILLS.

Physician Declares There Is Peril in Playing With Pets.

"The utmost care should be exercised in mingling with animals of all species. Under no circumstances should one allow a dog to lick his hand, as the tongue of the animal is infested with innumerable parasites and hydrophobia and other diseases may be transmitted in this manner." Dr. John M. Dodson of Rush Medical college gave this warning in the course of a lecture on "Animal Parasites" before the Chicago Medical Society.

The lecturer has made an exhaustive study of his subject. He made the statement that trichina was found in 2 per cent of the hogs. It is due to the carelessness with which they were raised, he said, and even cooking does not always kill the parasite. It was declared that a ham that was infected and boiled for ten or twelve hours would still be unfit to eat, as the heat at the bone would not be greater than 180 Fahrenheit, which was not sufficient to destroy the germ.

"The mosquito must be guarded against," continued the lecturer, "as it has been shown that they spread the germ of malaria and yellow fever." In conclusion, the lecturer advised cleanliness in all things as a preventive of disease from animal parasites.

RAINY FOURTH OF MARCH.

Damp Weather a Traditional Feature of Presidential Inaugurations.

A feature that seems to be so much a part of our presidential inaugurations that it has passed into tradition is the weather. Ever since inaugurations have been held out of doors the elements have seemed to conspire to rob the ceremonies of a part of their impressiveness. The early part of March is inevitably a rainy season in Washington, and the majority of the presidents have looked out over a waving sea of umbrellas as they delivered their inaugural address. There have been many movements to change the date of this ceremony to a more clement season, as an appalling list of deaths is invariably consequent upon the enforced or voluntary exposure, but it is doubtful if the time-honored arrangement will ever be altered.—"The Fourth of March," Everybody's Magazine.

Wily Butcher.

Miss Marion Winchester, the American girl who is known in Paris as the "Sugar Queen," on account of her successful sugar speculations, has a reputation for practical humor.

"Miss Winchester," said a New York woman, "was recently called on for a toast at the annual dinner of a woman's club.

"She spoke very brightly. She made many keen, swift thrusts at the faults of her sex, but I remember how she attacked women's vanity.

"There was a butcher, she said, who in a season of depression went to a great expense. He put up behind his counter a tremendous mirror. Confiding this innovation some one said:

"'Why has the butcher put up that large and costly mirror behind his counter?'

"The answer was:

"'To prevent the servant girls from watching his scales.'"

Laugh-Away Land.

Do you know, little lad, when the west is red,
And the swamps are misty gray,
The sandman comes to your trundle bed
To carry you far away
To carry you off in his tinkling cart
That is filled with silver sand;
He fills your eyes and then you start
For a trip to Laugh-Away Land!
Rollicking, care-free Laugh-Away Land!

It's a wonderful road, grandma will tell,
The route of the sand man's cart,
Through orchards a-sweet where fairies dwell
And rabbits timidly dart.
There are gay playgrounds where the sand man stops,
And even a circus band,
That plays in front of the candy shops
On the road to Laugh-Away Land!
Juvenile, jolly Laugh-Away Land!

So heed, little boy, to the chiming gong,
For the sand man's never late
And you must be asleep when he comes along,
For he hasn't the time to wait.
Don't miss the trip when he comes again
In his tinkling cart of sand;
For in after years you'll wish in vain
For a trip to Laugh-Away Land!
Mirthful, merry Laugh-Away Land!

—Victor A. Hermann.

Admiration Disgusted Gorky.

Maxim Gorky went to the theater at Moscow one evening to see a play by a popular writer. Instead of paying attention to the stage the entire audience rose and greeted Gorky with prodigious acclamation. Then he delivered this address: "What on earth are you staring at me for? I am not a dancing girl nor the Venus of Milo nor a drunkard just picked out of the river. I write stories; they have the luck to please you, and I am glad of it. But that is no reason that you should keep on staring. We have come here to see a charming play. Be good enough to attend to that and leave me alone." More delighted than ever, the audience shouted with joy. Gorky jumped out of his seat and left the theater in disgust.

Toothsome Bits.

A New York dentist gives the following bits out of his experience:

"A Greek woman came into my office one day with her face all tied up. The young lady in attendance asked her if she wished to have a tooth extracted.

"'Naw, but I want it pulled.'

"A lady with very bad wisdom teeth was advised to have them taken out.

"'Oh, no! Those are my understanding teeth. I can't lose them,' she said.

"'Little Egypt' came to me once to have a gold crown put on one of her back teeth. The gold had to be pressed tight against the gum, and while I was doing this she cried:

"'You hurts my meat!'"

Sword of Little Real Use.

Military critics claim that the sword as a part of the field equipment of officers of the infantry is doomed. Its uselessness in this connection has been realized for many years and a proposition that it be done away with is understood to have the approval of the authorities of the United States War department.

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We believe this offering to be unusual enough to attract the attention that such a waist and price deserves. All sizes, and color assortments complete.

$7.50 Skirts at $5.00

We offer this week fifty very handsome Mohair, Cheviot and Panama Cloth Skirts at $5.00 each—regular value $7.50. The colors are Blue, Brown and Black.

These skirts are in the most approved spring styles. Round length, very full with forty gores, each gore terminating in a graceful pleat. In colors and variety of fine materials this offering should meet the requirements of nearly every woman.

The price, $5.00, is for the next few days to stimulate business in Spring Goods.

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Elizabeth and Her German Garden
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Hardy Norseman, A.....Lyall
Heart of Midlothian.....Scott
Her Mother's Sin.....Clay
Her Only Sin.....Clay
Her Shattered Idol.....Logan
Hiawatha.....Longfellow
Hidden Hand.....Southworth
His Guardian Angel.....Gaevice
Holmes' Poems.....
House on the Hillside..Holmes
House of the Seven Gables Hawthorne
House of the Wolf, The.....Stevenson
Hypatia.....Kingsley
Idle Thoughts of Idle Fellow, Jerome
Ivan.....Evans
In the Golden Days.....Lyall
In the Rockies.....Kingston
Inglemar.....Southworth
Ivanhoe.....Scott
Jackanapes.....Ewing
Jane Eyre.....Brontë
Jess.....Haggard
Jessica's First Prayer.....Stretton
John Halifax.....Mulock
Kenilworth.....Scott
Kidnapped.....Stevenson
King Solomon's Mines.....Haggard
Knight Errant.....Lyall
Lady Frankmere..."The Duchess"
Lady of the Lake.....Scott
Lalla Rookh.....Moore
Lamplighter, The.....Cummins
Last Days of Pompeii, The....Bulwer
Last of the Mohicans, The....Cooper
Lena Rivers.....Holmes
Light of Asia.....Arnold
Lightthat Failed.....Kipling
Lime Kiln Club.....M. Quad
Little Minister.....Barrie
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Lorna Doone.....Blackmore
Lost Eyrie.....Southworth
Lowell's Poems.....
Lucile.....Meredith
Macaria.....Evans
Maggie Miller.....Holmes
Maid, Wife or Widow.....Alexander
Maiwa's Revenge.....Haggard
Man in Black.....Wayman
Marble Faun.....Hawthorne
Mayor of Casterbridge.....Hardy
Meadow Brook.....Holmes
Mental Struggle....."The Duchess"
Minah Clarke.....Doyle
Mildred.....Holmes
Miles Standish.....Longfellow
Millbank.....Holmes
Mine Own People.....Kipling
Minister's Wooing.....Stowe
Moonstone, The.....Collins
Mosses from an old Manse..Hawthorne
Mother Goose.....Harland
Mr. Witt's Widow.....Hope
My Lady's Money.....Collins
My Lady's Ransom Cab.....Hume
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Not Like Other Girls.....Carey
Octoroon.....Braddon
Old Man's wife's Secret.....Marlitt
Old Mortality.....Scott
Old Middleton's Money.....Hay
Oliver Twist.....Dickens
Only the Governess.....Carey
Orioles' Daughter.....Fothergill
Paradise Lost.....Milton
Pathfinder.....Cooper
Paul and Virginia.....Saint-Pierre
Scalp Hunters.....Reid
Scarlet Letter.....Hawthorne
Self-Help.....Smiles
Self-Raised.....Southworth
Sense and Sensibility.....Austen
Sentimental Journey.....Sterne
Sesame and Lilies.....Ruskin
Shadow of a Sin.....Clay
She.....Haggard
She's All the World to Me.....Caine
She Loved Him.....Garrison
Ships that Pass in Night..Harraden
Sign of the Cross.....Wallace
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Sir to Kissme.....Ewing
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Westward Ho.....Kingsley
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What Would You Do, Love?..Holmes
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White Company, The.....Doyle
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Wicked Girl, A.....Hay
Wide, Wide World.....Warner
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UNITED PRESBYTERIAN—M. S. Maxwell, Pastor. Sabbath school at 2 p. m. Public worship and sermon at 3 p. m. O. T. P. C. U. each Thursday evening at 7:30. All invited.

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M. N. G. Annual Inspection.

Maj. Vernou, United States inspecting officer of the Michigan National Guard, has started on his annual tour of inspection of the various companies of the guard. It is expected the work will take until about March 10.

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