

## ARTICLE VII.

## MAPS OF PALESTINE.

By Rev. Samuel Wolcott, former Missionary in Syria.

*New Map of PALESTINE, from the latest Authorities; chiefly from the Maps and Drawings of Robinson and Smith, with Corrections and Additions furnished by the Rev. Dr. Robinson, 1846.* New York: J. H. Colton.

*PALESTINE AND MOUNT LEBANON; enlarged from Kiepert's Map, in Robinson and Smith's Biblical Researches; with Additions and Corrections, principally from the same Authorities; by Joseph Tracy.* Boston: Crocker and Brewster.

A NEW interest in Biblical Geography has been awakened in our country by the recent publications of Professor Robinson, of which the Maps above named are at once the evidence and the fruit. The importance of this science needs no vindication to the readers of this Journal. It is a department which has furnished some of the clearest explanations and most striking confirmations of the declarations of Scripture; and without some acquaintance with the geography of Palestine, no one can be an intelligent reader of the sacred volume. An authentic Map of Palestine, in the form in which these are prepared, has long been regarded as a desideratum by the careful student of the Bible. The simultaneous appearance of the two maps before us is a proof of the general demand.

These maps are mainly, as they profess to be, an enlargement of the one which was published in the *Biblical Researches*. The map thus used as a basis was a great advance on any previous publication of the kind. Very few points in Palestine had been accurately ascertained, either by astronomical observation or geometrical survey. The designations of most travellers had been indefinite and loose, and often fabulous and legendary. Robinson and Smith were deficient in instruments, most of their bearings having been taken with a plain pocket compass; an imperfection which was in a measure supplied by the rigid and minute correctness of their specifications. They furnished invaluable materials; but there are few readers, we apprehend, who fully appreciate the difficult and perplexing task performed by the individual, who

had this and all other accessible and available information to reduce to the consistency and completeness of a Map. The patient industry and fidelity with which he labored in his art, are apparent both from his maps and from the interesting Memoir which accompanied them.<sup>1</sup> All things considered, his Map of Palestine must be pronounced one of the finest achievements of modern cartography; and those of our readers who have learned to value the splendid results gathered by our countrymen and embodied in the Biblical Researches, will acknowledge with much satisfaction their obligations to Heinrich Kiepert of Berlin.

The maps before us, so far as they claim to be an improvement on Kiepert's, refer to Professor Robinson as their principal authority; by which we do not understand him to be responsible for the plan or the execution of either, but simply that he has furnished materials which the respective editors and publishers have used according to their own judgment and taste.

The map of Mr. Colton, published in New York, is an engraved one, 3 ft. 2 in. by 2 ft. 2 in. Accompanying it are sketches, on a larger scale, of the Plan, and the Environs of Jerusalem. It is prepared with excellent taste, and well executed, and is certainly the most elegant Map of Palestine which we have ever seen. The names of the leading divisions of the territory, as Judea, Samaria, Phœnicia, etc.; of the minor divisions, as the Twelve Tribes, and the neighboring provinces and tribes; of distinct regions, as plains, deserts, mountains, etc.; together with those of the prominent towns and villages, are engraved on it in full, in type so clear and judiciously varied, that the whole can be read at a glance without the least confusion. The water-courses are so carefully delineated, and the hills and mountains so nicely shaded, as to convey a very striking and just impression of the physical features of Palestine. In this respect of course it equally illustrates the ancient and modern country; in almost every other it is exclusively a map of Ancient Palestine, modern sites and the modern names of ancient sites having been introduced very sparingly.

It is announced on the map that 'Modern Names are engraved in Italics.' It is important that they should be distinguished, and the method proposed is a very suitable one; but it has not been applied by the publisher with entire accuracy. For instance, the name of the small town and bay north of Beirût, Jûneh, is modern, and Khashm Usdum is the modern Arabic name of the Salt Mountain near the southern end of the Dead Sea, though

<sup>1</sup> Robinson's Biblical Researches, Vol. III. App. B. pp. 29—55.

not so represented here. On the other hand, the following names which are *Italicised*, are all of them ancient; viz. the promont. Album; the rivers Lycus, Tamyras, Bostrenus, Leontes (once in Roman and once in Italic letters), Hieromax, and Kishon (modern!—"that ancient river, the river Kishon"); the lakes Phiala, and Samachonitis; and the town Chabarzaba. Other names, of the same class and date, are given correctly in Roman letters; and there is no reason for the distinction.

The places are mostly set down on the map by their most ancient names. In some instances the Roman name is given in connection with the Hebrew, as Bethshean, Scythopolis; in others the Hebrew stands alone, as Shechem. The more modern name is sometimes printed first, as Legio, Megiddo; and sometimes last, as Rabbath Moab, Areopolis. The modern Arabic name is occasionally given with an ancient one, as Bozrah, Busaireh; but is usually omitted, as Ajalon, Kirjath Jearim, Coreae, etc. Places whose position is doubtful, not having yet been identified, are printed properly with an interrogation mark, as Mt. Nebo, Ramoth Gilead, Mahanaim, Bethabara, etc.; other sites, which are equally conjectural, are given as if ascertained, as Machaerus, Phasaëlis, Edumia, Akrahi, etc. In the correction of Kiepert's map, and the introduction of new matter (of which there is very little), there has evidently been, on the part of the publisher of this map, no new construction of bearings or distances. Hence, in removing Masada to the North, as he had occasion to do, he has transported it fairly over the Wady Seyâl.

The map before us is in no sense original, and as a "New Map" has no valid pretensions; it cannot lay claim to a shadow of science or geographical knowledge. What we praise in it, is its felicitous arrangement and tasteful mechanical execution. At the same time, its general groundwork is so correct, that for all ordinary references it will be a very serviceable map of Ancient Palestine; and we have no doubt it will prove a popular and saleable one.

The map of Mr. Tracy, published in Boston, is a lithographic one, 4 ft. 8 in. by 2 ft. 8 in.; there is also accompanying it a small Plan of Jerusalem. It is prepared in a somewhat similar style with his well known "Monthly Concert Maps." The mission-stations are indicated in the same manner; which has conveyed the impression that it belongs to that series. The compiler probably contemplated the use of it at the concert; but his map of Western Asia answers, for this end, the general purpose of a map of Syria, and he has evidently prepared this for closer inspection and more con-

stant reference. It would, we think, have been better, if the design had been palpably distinct; for, as the "Monthly Concert Maps" are known to embrace only the leading outlines and most prominent points, those who regard this as belonging to the same class (which will be the general impression) will be liable to overlook the labor which has been bestowed on its details.

The editor of this map has made an independent and faithful use of his materials, and many sites appear on it which are not to be found on any other. In attempting to harmonize his new results with those which had been previously adopted, he has doubtless discovered a great degree of indefiniteness in many of the calculations on which the cartographer is as yet obliged to depend; and we take it for granted that his unquestioned love of accuracy has been severely tried. No map of the country can, from existing data, be anything more than an approximation to the truth. To the compiler of this must be awarded the merit of having, on the basis of Kiepert, constructed not only the largest, but the most complete and correct map of Palestine which has yet been issued in the English language.

It is deficient in some of the minor characteristics of a good map, designed for general use, for which the other will be preferred. Without the engraver's art, it lacks the finish and beauty which we have commended in that. It fails in that kind of bold and distinct delineation and shading, which conveys to the eye a faithful and vivid impression of Palestine as 'a land of hills and valleys.' The names of the principal divisions, as Judea, Peraea, etc., are printed in letters so small as not to be obvious at a little distance. The names of the Twelve Tribes are not printed at all on the body of the map; but the divisions are simply numbered, referring to a list in the margin. The names of places are printed in uniform type; and in the case of double or triple names, the author has proceeded on the plan (with perhaps half a dozen exceptions) of giving but one, and that (with two or three exceptions) the oldest. It is hence impossible on this map to distinguish between ancient and modern sites, or to learn from it the present names of the former. Its list of modern names is uncommonly copious, especially in the Lebanon district; and had they been uniformly given, it would have been a very full map of the modern country. Almost every important place ascertained is given under some appellation; the most noticeable omission, which we observe, is that of Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal. Lake Phiala is designated as a town.

A few positions are given without question, as in the other map, which remain to be established, or are yet to be discovered, as Machaerus, Archelais, Phasaëlis, etc. The first-named is so minutely described by Josephus, that it could hardly fail to be identified;<sup>1</sup> and possesses unusual interest as being, according to him, the castle in which John the Baptist was beheaded.<sup>2</sup> But no modern observer has seen it; and there is no authority for the place assigned it on these maps.

The boundaries of the Twelve Tribes, as given in the two maps, are not coincident; one of them, for instance, including in Benjamin the north-western coast of the Dead Sea for several miles, and the other running its southern boundary quite to the north of the Sea. These boundaries are of necessity, to a considerable extent, conjectural, nor can more than a general correctness ever be attained in respect to them. Kiepert did not attempt to draw them; but they are indispensable to the biblical reader.

We think it important that every prominent place should be given by all the names by which it has been currently known, and that the different ages should in all cases be carefully distinguished; as they might easily be, by giving the Hebrew name in small capitals, that of the Greek or Roman period in Roman letters, and the modern Arabic in Italic, as *ΣΗΡΟΧΗΜ*, Neapolis, *Nábulus*; *ΜΕΓΙΔΔΟ*, Legio, *el-Lejjún*. There are many places to which there is occasion for reference under each of its names, of which the maps before us contain but one. The distinction of age is as important in the case of single names, and would, if uniformly observed, render the map, without confusion, both ancient and modern, which it cannot otherwise be. Names which are merely modern, need not be introduced to such an extent as to crowd and obscure the map. And one on the scale of these could conveniently contain nearly every site which has been definitely ascertained, and which is of any account. Conjectural sites, we think, have no place on the face of a map.

We should like to see a Map of Palestine, prepared in the manner indicated, and embracing the various excellencies which we have enumerated in the two before us. Indeed, if the labor expended on these two had been combined, we should have had very nearly what we wanted—one good editor, one good publisher, and one good map.

The superiority of these maps appears in a striking light, by

<sup>1</sup> Joseph. Bel. Jud. VII. 6. 1, 2 seq.

<sup>2</sup> Jos. Antiq. XVIII. 5. 2.

comparing them with those on a similar plan which preceded them. The latter, without an exception that we have seen, are full of legendary and fictitious sites; professing to define a multitude of such sites as Mount Nebo and the Valley of Achor, Gath and Chorazin; one including all Phoenicia within the tribe of Asher, and another placing Engedi off the southern extremity of the Dead Sea; and nearly all designating, though with great variations, the exact positions of Zeboim, Admah, Gomorrah and Sodom in its very bottom!

From all such apocryphal matter the maps before us are free, and will therefore speedily supersede the use of all others. And while we cannot regard either of them as fully meeting, even with our present knowledge of the country, the requisitions of a Map of Palestine, Ancient and Modern, we welcome them both as a great improvement on all which had preceded them, and as the undoubted harbingers of a further improvement.

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## ARTICLE VIII.

### SELECT NOTICES AND INTELLIGENCE.

*Classical Literature.* The reviving attention in our country to the works of Plato, of which there are many indications, may render a brief reference to the principal helps to the study of these works not unacceptable to our readers. First in importance is the edition of the Platonic Dialogues by Stallbaum of Leipsic. This eminent philologist was born in 1793. He was educated in the Thomas school and in the university at Leipsic, under the direction of Rost, Hermann, Beck and Spohn. From 1817 to 1820, he was a teacher in the Latin school and in the Paedagogium at Halle. While here he studied with great industry the works of Plato, as a fruit of which his edition of Philebus appeared in 1820 with rich prolegomena and notes. At the same time, he undertook the charge of an edition of the text of Plato, which was published at Leipsic, in 1821—25, in twelve volumes, the last four volumes accompanied with critical remarks. This edition retained a special value after the appearance of that of Bekker. Subsequently, Stallbaum edited Eustathius, Rudiman's *Institutiones Grammaticae Latinae*, and Terence. Since 1820, he has been connected with the Thomas school. When Rost left the