

Another Palestinian piece gives an account of an attempt to recover a debt from a Jew there; the Greeks, so far as the papyrus discloses, came off second best in the dispute, their application for redress being received with contumely and blows. There is also a long text, a sort of bill of lading, for the dispatch of a cargo of flour from Palestine to Egypt, a trade which we know, from other sources, was very flourishing at this era. Number 14 of the letters given by Mr. Edgar is from a certain Herakleitos to Zeno, and came from Syria, probably from Sidon, which is mentioned in its text.

These notes are only intended to indicate of what value this correspondence is likely to prove now that it appears that several of the papyri edited by Signor Vitelli have to be assigned to a Palestinian series, and not to the Fayoum. A reconsideration of them will doubtless produce facts of interest, but quantities of the records have not yet been carefully scrutinised, and fresh facts concerning Syria may come to light at any time.

The value of a literary discovery of this character, reproducing the vocabulary and style of an educated Graeco-Egyptian writer, almost contemporary with the composition of the Septuagint Version, need only be mentioned. It will probably as much augment our knowledge of the verbal basis of that work as the Graeco-Roman papyri have done for the wording of the New Testament.

The number of unpublished papyri is now so great that their study has become a science by itself, and it would be a wise step to secure the co-operation of the scholars who are devoting themselves to it in producing a "Journal of Papyrology" for articles and notes by French, British, Italian, and United States writers. Hitherto the only work of the kind has been a German periodical.

MR. HIORTH'S SCHEME FOR THE RESTORATION OF PALESTINE.

MR. ALBERT HIORTH, C.E., a Carnegie Scholar of the Iron and Steel Institute, has written to us complaining that we did not give sufficiently serious consideration to his pamphlet "Concerning the Colonisation of Palestine" (*Q.S.*, April, 1919, p. 91 *seq.*). He informs us that the late Sir William Crookes wrote (Sept. 27th, 1913)

approving of his idea: "The idea seems to be a thoroughly feasible one and I will not fail to mention it to any of my friends to whom I think it will appeal." He states that his plan was submitted in 1913 to some of the best experts in Europe, and forwards a copy of *Teknisk Ukeblad* (May 9th, 1919), "Norway's greatest technical (engineering) paper," containing his address, with many illustrations, to the Polytechnic Society on the subject. A covering letter states that Mr. Hiorth's plan was sympathetically referred to in the engineering notes of the *Daily Telegraph*, July 30th.

Mr. Hiorth sends us his pamphlet *Palestine Restored* (Hodder and Stoughton, 6d.) which repeats in substance the earlier pamphlet, and we consider under the circumstances we do him full justice if we give a fuller objective account of it with extracts, and leave his proposals to the judgment of our readers.

After describing the soil of Palestine as being "of the very best," Mr. Hiorth points out that what is lacking is water. The total rainfall is not small but it is very unfavourably distributed. "The reason for this has been mainly attributed to the deforestation of Lebanon and other forest districts," see 1 Kings v, 15, 16. The only possibility for a new agriculture lies in an efficient irrigation, and the author's idea "does not claim to be either new or original, as Ezekiel and Zechariah, more than twenty centuries ago, sketched out the complete plan in its main features."

"The present plan proposes a tunnel of about 65 km. (roughly speaking, 40 miles), running east-west from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea, passing under Jerusalem. This tunnel would carry the water from the Mediterranean to the western slopes of the lower end of the Jordan Valley. (See Ezek. xlvii, 1, 2, 8; Zech. xiv, 4.) From this point the water would be directed through pipes down to the level of the Dead Sea, where a power plant with turbo-electric machinery would transmit the water-power into electricity, to be distributed as light and power throughout the country, and drive a pumping plant at the southern end of the Lake of Genezareth. . . .

"Preliminary estimates show that tens of thousands of horse-power may be developed in this way, throughout the year, by a tunnel of, for instance, 15 m. (= 135 square feet), carrying 20 tons of water per second. The rise of the Dead Sea level caused by this would not be more than a fraction of a metre per year. The surface of the Dead Sea, which is now about 11,000 km. (= 4,000 square miles), would be allowed to increase as much as the increased

evaporation (see Ezek. xlvi, 10), viz., up to about 13,000 km. (= 4,800 square miles), an increase corresponding to one-fifth of the recent area. With an efficient head of not more than 200 m. (= 656 feet) the plant would produce more than 40,000 H.P."

Mr. Hiorth points out that this power would be utilized in various different ways which he specifies (plant, works, fish nurseries, etc., etc.), and estimates the cost of the tunnelling at nearly £8,000,000.

"To this amount should be added the cost of the power-plant, the factories, canals, and other works for the irrigation and the salt works. The interest on and the amortisation of a capital of about £12,000,000 must be divided amongst all these concerns. If the technical works (saltpetre, salt, distribution of electric power, etc.) are charged with one half of this amount, and the other half be charged to the forestry, the agriculture, and the horticulture, a rough estimate, founded on the very insufficient data that are as yet available, would show that this plan does not compare at all unfavourably with the irrigation-works constructed in Asia and America during the last decade."

It may be added that the *Aberdeen Free Press* (Aug. 4th) in a review of the pamphlet, states: "It is a fresh and arresting scheme. The capital required is large, but the Jewish community throughout the world could, if it were so minded, put up the sum mentioned with ease. Whether or not this particular project is feasible is a technical question."

We agree with the last sentence. The subject is not one which the *Quarterly Statement* can discuss. The reviewer of the earlier pamphlet sees no reason for modifying his verdict on the scheme, the merits of which can now be estimated by others.

KEDESH-NAPHTALI AND TAANACH:

A THEORY AND SOME COMMENTS.

By STANLEY A. COOK, M.A.

PROF. JULIAN MORGENSTEIN, of the Hebrew Union College, U.S.A., discusses in the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, January and April, 1919, the question of Kedesh-Naphtali and Taanach in Judges