

the Egyptian monuments. This almost leads to the conclusion that the Philistines had not yet taken possession of the land, and that it was still inhabited by its original Canaanite owners.

PROGRESS IN PALESTINE.

IN a letter in the Austrian "Zeitschrift für den Orient," Herr C. Schick, Government Surveyor of Buildings in Jerusalem, gives some interesting facts to show the progress which has been made in Palestine during the last 25 years. This is especially evident in the erection of many new buildings. In the small villages very few new houses are to be seen, while, on the other hand, great extensions have been made in the larger places, especially in towns—a sure sign of centralization. This is especially the case with the Christian population. In Jerusalem, inside the town, neglected or ruined houses have been restored or rebuilt by private persons or companies; outside the old town are entirely new suburbs, the extension being made especially towards the west. The Jews have formed among themselves building societies, which have erected long barrack-like buildings adapted for several families. It may be estimated that the number of dwellings during the last 25 years has been more than doubled, probably trebled. This is especially the case with Bethlehem, which conveys the impression of a newly-built town. In Jaffa the town wall has been demolished, the ditch filled up, and a number of large new houses and magazines, even palatial buildings, been erected. So also in the gardens of Jaffa, many new houses have been erected, and to the south and north of the town complete Arabic suburbs, mostly by settlers from Egypt. In Ramleh, also, new houses are seen, still more in Kaifa, which Herr Schick hardly recognised again on his last visit. In the neighbourhood of this town is the new German colony at the foot of Mount Carmel. Nazareth gives quite the same impression; the place has increased in size, and looks as if it had been rebuilt. Tiberias also has its new houses, in Jenin a new military arsenal has been erected, as also in Nablus, along with a fine new barrack. In the latter place the once lonely valley towards the east has assumed quite a homely aspect, and in the town are many new private buildings and also a new khan. There are also the new school, the Roman monastery, and the buildings of the Protestant mission. In Bethlehem a new barrack and arsenal have been erected. New houses are also to be seen in Jifne, Ramallah, Beit-Jal, Beit-Sahur, and other places. Through the schools and the increasing trade the working people have acquired greater style and taste, and the newer houses are thus mostly a great improvement on the old—not the oldest, which, as a rule are well built. Nearly all the houses have now glass windows, a rare thing 20 years ago. As a sign of the advance in agriculture, it may be mentioned that in Jaffa the gardens have increased in extent fourfold during a quarter of a century. Besides the German colony referred to,

new settlements are to be seen on the Aujei river, in the plains near Bir Adde, and Kefr Saba, as also many new gardens, especially in Hable. New plantations are seen here and there; the country people are investing their capital abundantly in cattle-rearing. At Kolonieh several new houses have been built, and the gardens there are noteworthy; as also in Artos. In the vicinity and in the region around Jerusalem, the land has nearly all been taken up, trees have been planted, and cisterns dug. So also the aqueduct, which brought the spring water in the olden time from the so-called Pools of Solomon to Jerusalem, has been again erected; so that again it discharges at the place of the Temple. A very notable advance is seen in the lighting of the streets of the towns and the arrangements for keeping them clean; in the latter respect, however, there is still much to be desired. No longer are the gates of towns shut at sundown, to the obstruction of trade and the imprisonment of the inhabitants within the walls. There has also been a great advance in the paving of the towns; in Bethlehem, even in the winter time, the streets are quite passable, which was far from being the case formerly. In Jerusalem, the tanneries and the slaughter-houses have been removed outside the town. On several buildings clocks have been placed which strike the hours for the public benefit. Herr Schick notices as a great advance the increasing toleration between the different religionists during the past 25 years; Jews, Mussulmans, and Christians, as a rule, live in harmony, and a non-Mussulman seldom suffers in any respect on account of his creed. Even the red fez is not obligatory on non-Mussulman Government servants. European clothing is now common both with men and women, and many of the latter may be seen dressed in the latest Paris fashions. The pashas no longer move about in constant state, but may often be seen on foot in the streets with only one or two attendants. European furniture, chairs, sofas, and tables, are now common. Great bells are now allowed to be tolled in the Christian churches; old Christian churches have been restored and new ones built in Jerusalem, Nazareth, Tiberias, Tabor, Nablus, Jifne, Ramallah, Beit-Jal, Lydd, &c. So also have a number of synagogues, especially in Jerusalem, been built during these 25 years. All this progress must not be taken as a sign of any laxity in religion on the part of Mahomedans, who have during this time built many new mosques and otherwise shown themselves as much attached to their religion as ever. Justice, also, is much more impartially administered and the old barbarous punishments have been abolished. In Jerusalem the sanitary department is in charge of a German physician, and building affairs are in the hands of a German architect. From these statements, which we believe are perfectly trustworthy, it is evident that great progress has been made in Palestine during the past 25 years. We would hope that this example might prove infectious, and that in the next 25 years a like progress might be seen in the whole of Turkey in Asia.
