

HIDING PLACES IN CANAAN.

IV. THE ROCK RIMMON.

THIS has been already treated of (p. 50 *supra*), but I gladly reply to the remaining objections urged by Captain Conder.

1. "Six hundred men cannot have lived in the cave (p. 156) four months without ventilation" (1881, 250). But the cave is *not* without ventilation. Mr. Rawnsley reported that in the cave "the wind well nigh blew our torches out." Perhaps it will now be objected that the cave is too draughty. If it is meant that "they cannot have remained in it for four months *without ever coming out*, then I ask, who ever supposed they did? The cave was *only a hiding place*, and yet it allows more square feet per man than is required for each child in an elementary school.
2. "It is not mentioned in the Bible." Neither is the making of Jacob's well at Sychar mentioned in Genesis.
3. So far is Gesenius from stating or implying that *sela* does not mean a precipitous rock, that (as observed or unobserved by Captain Conder) he actually suggests the identity of the *Rock Rimmon* with Saul's *Migron* (precipice).

The solitary objection that "the Hebrew word (*sela*) has not the meaning of precipice," is in direct contradiction to Captain Conder's own writings previous to, simultaneous with, and subsequent to this objection on page 248; *e.g.* :—

- (a) "Joktheel (*cliff* of). 2 Kings xiv, 7 = Selah." "Handbook," 416.
 - (b) "The south *cliff* of the Michmash valley." (1 Sam. xiv, 4, *sela*) p. 248.
 - (c) In this passage the Bible gives the title of *the sela* to both the northern and southern sides of this gorge, but Captain Conder in his interesting report applies to them the terms of *cliff* or *precipice* no less than *thirty-three times* in seven pages (247—253).
4. Lastly, his too exacting canon (p. 151) would make the identification of the *Rock Rimmon* with the cliff in Wâdy Suweinit near the cave of El Jai into a vague conjecture, "unless the ancient name can be proved still to exist." It will therefore be satisfactory to all concerned, to see Mr. Rawnsley's vindication (177) of *Rummân* (*Rimmon*) as a genuine name and above suspicion. It is probably by this time that Benjamin's stronghold is still, as of yore, a most dangerous place to attack.

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