

Anat. Beth Dagon is clearly pagan. Ophra may be derived, as well as Parah, from the "Calf," emblem of the sun. The Gilgals are named from sacred circles. Kirjath Arba has already been suggested by Mr. Tomkins as a name of polytheistic origin. Zarephath presents a name of the Syrian Venus. Rabbath might be connected with a title of Istar. Lebonah and Beth Laban with the name of the moon ("the milk white one"), as is without doubt Jericho. Hermon is the "great sanctuary." Hazor I have shown to be connected with sacred circles. Ai might be suspected of connection with Ea, the god of the abyss. Nebo is the Assyrian Mercury. Rehoboth and Rahab may be connected. Succoth is known to be connected with the worship of Venus.

C. R. C.

SEGOR, GOMORRAH, AND SODOM.

By C. CLERMONT-GANNEAU.

(From the *Revue Critique*.)

PERHAPS there is no question of Biblical topography which has been more hotly debated than that of the site of the Cities of the Plain. The controversialists are divided into two principal groups—those who place the site on the north and those who place it on the south of the Dead Sea.

Several years ago ("Revue Archéologique," 1877) I was led to take up a position among the latter. It was while I was engaged in combating, on philological grounds, the identification proposed by De Saulcy, of Gomorrah with the ruins of Goumrân, not far from Jericho, on the north-west extremity of the Dead Sea. I had occasion then to touch incidentally on the question of Segor, making use of certain data, previously neglected, which are supplied by geographers. I insisted particularly on certain curious legends which appeared to connect the city of Segor with the country of Moab, and which tended in consequence to localise it in the region south-east of the Dead Sea.

The Arab authors, drawing probably on Jewish sources, say that Lot, the ancestor of the Moabites, had two daughters, of whom the elder was named Reyya, Rasha, or Zaha, and the younger Ra'wa, Ra'usha, or Zoghara. MM. Goldziher and Derebourg had clearly recognised the fact that these forms, apparently so difficult, were nothing but faulty variants, easily explained by mistakes in Arabic writing of the Aramæan words *Rabbeta*, the "elder" or the "great," and *Sighirta* the "younger" (*Zoghara* or *Zoghar*, literally, the "little"). I endeavoured for my own part to establish that the names were nothing but those of the two principal towns of Moab, *Rabbat* and *Segor* ("the great" and "the little"), of which the fabulous daughters of Lot were only eponyms. I have since found in the Dictionary of Yakût the formal confirmation of my conjecture (*s.v.* Soghar). The Arab geographer says, *à propos* of the city of Segor, that *Zoghara* was the name of a daughter of Lot, the younger (Soghara), who

was buried near the fountain of Zoghar : that the elder sister, *Reyya* (read *Rabbat*), who died while Lot was on his way to Damascus, had been interred near a fountain called after the name *Reyya* (now *Rabbat*). The eponymous character of the two daughters is thus clearly avowed.

Recently Mr. Guy le Strange, speaking of a new theory of Dr. Selah Merrill, who wants to place Segor at Tell esh Shagûr, north of the Dead Sea, rightly insists on the indications which go in favour of the southern site. Profiting by the Arab geographers, I should like to take advantage of the opportunity to state the case more distinctly.

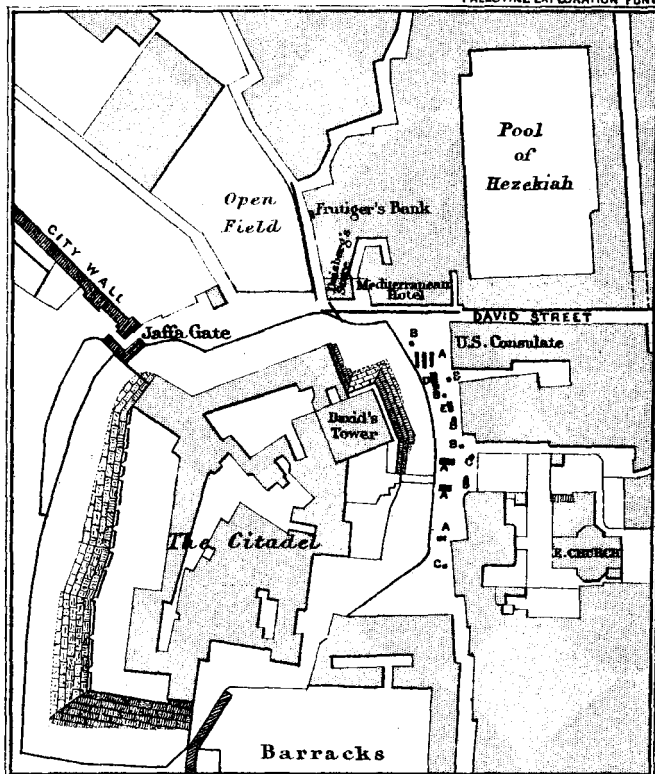
I will not enumerate the numerous evidences which from antiquity to the Arab epoch, and even to the Crusaders, invite us expressly to look for Segor at the south-eastern extremity of the Dead Sea. I will take two only. The *Onomasticon* of Eusebius and Jerome places the Moabite locality of Nimrin (Isa. xv, 6 ; Jer. xlvi, 34) to the north of Zoar, otherwise called Segor. This Nimrim is the Arab N'meira, situated at the opening of the Wâdy N'meira into the Dead Sea, in the region south-east of this lak. Here, then, is a first solid bench-mark. Between this point and Jebel Ūsdum, the uncontested representative of Sodom, in the region south-west of the lake, and nearly opposite there is a distance of about ten Roman miles. Now, the Talmud, in a passage which is not legendary, says that there are nine miles between Sodom and Segor. It is then about half-way that we must look for Segor in the Ghor es Safi, where in fact certain speculative maps have actually set it down. It is astonishing that with indications so precise, none of the travellers who have been so fortunate as to visit this country have been able to find on the spot the name of Segor, which has certainly not disappeared from the Arab name lists. I believe for my own part that a careful examination will cause it to be discovered not far from Kusr el Bashariyeh (?), and the Tawahfn es Soukhâr (ruins of Sugar Mills) marked beside it on the more recent maps. These mills are frequently, in Syria, the indication of an establishment of the Crusading period, and besides, we know that the Crusaders were installed at Segor, which they called *Palmer*. One may hope, therefore, that the question will some day be settled without fear of future controversy. The authors of the *Onomasticon* and of the *Notitia Dignitatum* agree in stating the existence at Segor of a Roman garrison : it will perhaps be sufficient to settle the question if we find one of those inscriptions of which the Roman soldiers were so prodigal. Meanwhile I think that the subject is narrowly limited, and I hope for the day when some traveller will proceed to make the verification, which ought not to be difficult, on the spot.

I will finish by a suggestion on the possible site of Gomorrah. This city is literally called in Hebrew *'Amorah*. The Septuagint transcription Γομόρρα proves that the first letter is in reality a *ghain*, and not an *ain*,¹ with as much certainty as the word Gaza, confirmed by the Arab word *Ghuzzeh*, proves that the Hebrew form was Ghazzah, and not 'Azzah. The southern banks of the Dead Sea do not furnish us with any topical name

¹ Hebrew writing does not distinguish between these two distinct articulations.

PLAN SHEWING POSITION OF RECENT DISCOVERIES IN JERUSALEM.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

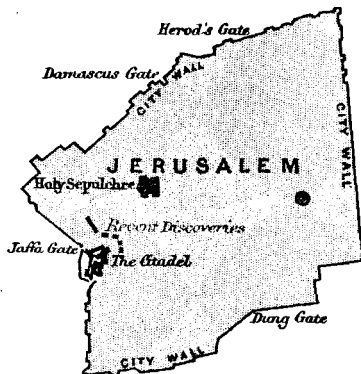


From O.S. Plan of Jerusalem. G.A.

Scale of Feet

E. Weller, iux.

100 50 0 100 200 300 400 500



similar to this. On the other hand, ancient Arab geographers speak of a locality which from the onomastic point of view would answer perfectly. It is *Ghamr*. Mukadessi mentions it on the road from Ramleh in Palestine to the Desert of Arabia: "from Sukkariyeh¹ to Tuleil, two days' march; from Tuleil to Ghamr, two days; thence to Waila,² two days. At Ghamr, he says elsewhere, bad water is procured by digging in the sand. I do not hesitate to identify the Ghamr with the Ain Ghamr of modern times, situated in the Arabah at the entrance of the Wady Ghamr, about twenty leagues south of the Dead Sea.

If objection is taken to placing Gomorrah at so great a distance from the Dead Sea, it must not be forgotten that according to the way in which the Book of Genesis (x, 19) proceeds with its enumeration, Gomorrah, as well as Seboim and Adamah, seems to have been south of Sodom. In this case the cities would occupy the southern part of the basin of the Dead Sea—Sodom and Segor being to right and left the most northerly. This would very well conform with the Arabic tradition, which is not to be despised, and which places in this very region what it calls the "cities of the people of Lot," which also clearly results from the enumeration of Mukadessi, who thus describes the limit of the Arabian desert, going from south to north: "Waila (Elath on the Red Sea), the cities of the people of Lot, Moab, Ammán, Edra'at, Damascus, and Palmyra."

RECENT DISCOVERIES AT JERUSALEM.

BY SELAH MERRILL, D.D., LL.D.

THE broad space between the castle, the buildings opposite, the barracks and the Mediterranean Hotel, also the street between the Jaffa gate and the entrance to the Mediterranean Hotel at the head of David Street, have during the past summer been torn to pieces, graded, and paved, and even side-walks have been built. When the workmen began in the middle of April last to tear up the rubble pavement, they said they were going to make streets and side-walks "like Europe." What they proposed to do could have been done in Europe in six weeks, but five months have elapsed since they commenced operations, and the work is not yet completed.

In grading the streets some of the houses have been endangered, because they were built almost on the top of the ground, and it has been necessary to supply patchwork foundations; consequently the walls near the ground are unsightly in the extreme. The pavement, however, so far as it goes, is certainly a great improvement upon the rough pavement which has been displaced. Unfortunately, the new pavement extends only about 110 yards from north to south, and about the same distance from east to west.

¹ About half-way between Gaza and Hebron.

² Which is Elath at the head of the Gulf of Akabah.