

Jerusalem, 26th June 1939.

I returned Thursday, June 22nd from a short trip in Transjordan with Dr. W. Lowdermilk, who has been staying at the School for some time now. It was an education to be travelling with him, because of his deep interest in ^{and knowledge of} the problems of soil erosion. I naturally was able to point out to him the existence of ancient terraces, some of which, still comparatively intact, keep the soil on the hillsides in place, while others, completely neglected and broken down, have not been able to prevent the good earth from being washed away. En route to Amman we stopped off at several places, including Tell el-Mustah and Khirbet Abu Tineh, the first an Early Bronze site, and the other a mediaeval Arabic site. At Amman we went up to the air-camp, and there through the courtesy of Group Captain Lowe, Officer Commanding the 14th Bombing Squadron stationed at Amman, we spent several interesting hours looking through air-photographs. In the afternoon we drove to Meshetta, because I wanted to show Dr. Lowdermilk what a great site looked like, situated on the edge of the desert. The crops this year are very good in Transjordan, and the cultivation has been pushed as far east as is possible. We took Mr. Head with us to Meshetta, whom readers of my reports on explorations in Eastern Palestine may recall as having accompanied me on numerous trips during the first part of the American School's survey in Transjordan. He used to be connected with the Transjordan Department of Antiquities, and was then transferred to the Transjordan Department of Agriculture and Forests. Several months ago, while spending the night in a small village in northern Transjordan, Mr. Head was kidnapped by a band of bandits, which had evidently come in from Syria on its way to Palestine. He was rather badly beaten up at first, but suffered no other harm at the hands of his captors. They marched him all night long, intending to cross into Syria over the railway bridge across the Yarmuk near el-Hammeh. The army, however, had been notified, and every passage-way across the Yarmuk was guarded. When the band approached the railway bridge, it was sighted and fired on. Head threw himself to the ground, while his captors retreated precipitously, and he was thus saved. It seems that they captured Head not to kill him, but to keep him as a hostage in order to attempt to effectuate the surrender of one of the gang leaders captured by the army. It is an interesting comment on the degree of foreign intervention in the troubled situation in the Near East, ^{that} that when recently several bandit leaders were captured by the army in Transjordan near the Syrian boundary, they were found to have cheques payable to the bearer on the Banco di Roma in Jaffa. Fortunately, however, the government of Transjordan has been able to maintain the peace there, although strong efforts have been made to disturb it. I was told the other day that the gang which captured Head is back in the Ajlun district, so I am afraid that for the present I shall have to omit the Ajlun district from my itinerary. However, I propose to continue the archaeological survey north of the Zerqa, keeping a line approximately east of Jerash.

The next day, Dr. Lowdermilk ^{Mr. Head} and I drove to Umm el-Jemal, via Zerqa and Khirbet Semakh. It was the first time that I had been to Khirbet Semakh and Umm el-Jemal, both of which are extremely interesting places. Umm el-Jemal is an astonishing place, and in many ways is, in a much different fashion, perhaps even more striking than Petra. From Umm el-Jemal we drove to Mafrak, where I re-examined the ruins of the massive

structure there which I had looked at previously in 1932. It is difficult to decide whether it is a Roman or an Early Iron Age site, but it certainly does not precede Early Iron. On the whole, the massive building blocks in it are somewhat similar to those in the great Early Iron Age sites found, for instance, in the Beq'ah valley on the way from Suweileh to Jerash. From Mafrak we drove to Jerash, where we spent that night and the following night as the guests of Mr. Harding, the Chief Curator of the Transjordan Department of Antiquities. The next morning, Dr. Lowdermilk and Mr. Head went off to see the forest reserved area in Jerash, while one of Mr. Harding's staff and I got on horses and went exploring for antiquity sites. I shall mention here only the most important that we found that morning. A few kilometres north-east of Jerash, on top of a high isolated hill commanding a clear view of Jerash, we found a very large, strongly fortified Early Iron Age site, called Khirbet Kibd. Whether or not this place is to be identified with the Early Iron Age equivalent of Jerash, I am not yet prepared to say. In addition to a large cistern within the wall enclosure on top of the hill, there is a strong spring immediately below it called 'Ain Shawahid. We were to make an even more exciting discovery that afternoon. We climbed up the east side of the walls of Roman Jerash in order to show Dr. Lowdermilk how soil washed down from the hillsides above the east side of Jerash was now level with the top of the north-east and east walls. While walking on top the wall, I noticed a sherd which was undoubtedly to be dated to \pm 2000 B.C. Where there was one sherd, there had to be more. The search immediately began. On the slope of the hill, above the north-east corner of the Jerash Roman wall, we found large numbers of indubitable EB IV - MB I sherds, and on a long and wide, completely isolated hilltop immediately above this slope, we found a tremendous walled Early Bronze Age site. While some of the surrounding hillsides are completely eroded, the slopes of this hill are cultivated from the bottom to the top to this very day, because the terraces built in approximately 2200 B.C. still suffice to hold the fertile soil in place. Dr. Lowdermilk was naturally delighted, because it gave him an opportunity to take soil-samples from an ancient site, the date of which I could guarantee him. I was pleased because we had discovered the Early Bronze Age site which was the counterpart of Roman Jerash. As soon as possible, probably about the middle of July, I shall return to the Jerash region for an extended trip in continuation of the American School's archaeological survey. It is my hope this summer and early fall, and during part of next year, to continue and complete the American School's archaeological survey of Transjordan. The next day we returned safely to Jerusalem.

Dr. Lowdermilk and his family are leaving today for a month's stay in Syria, before continuing their journey to Europe. It has been a great pleasure to have them here. On June 15th, Mrs. Glueck and I gave a dinner for them, and had previously given a tea for them, to introduce them to some of the members of the Jerusalem public.

On June 8th, Mrs. Glueck and I, as representatives of the American Schools of Oriental Research, attended the reception given by H.E. the High Commissioner, Sir Harold MacMichael in the beautiful gardens of Government House on the occasion of the King's official birthday. One could write a commentary on the political situation in Palestine by the character of the attendance of the guests on that occasion. Although there were hundreds of guests, most of the Arabs and most of the Jewish

representatives who usually attend these affairs were conspicuous by their absence as a result of their protest against the White Paper and the attitude of the government. There were a few Mufti-ites and a few Nashashibis present, the former group wearing kefiyehs and agals with their morning-dress suits, and the latter also wearing formal morning-dress, but reverting to the red tarbush which all city Arabs wore up till about a year ago. On the whole, the tenseness throughout the country has not abated. The White Paper has brought no peace with it. There is, however, more general public security than there has been for some time, despite the occasional bombings and shootings that are still indulged in.

By the first week-end of July the School will be emptier than it ever has been in my memory. Dr. and Mrs. Harold Glidden have gone to Antioch to join Mr. W.A. Campbell in charge of the excavations there. He telegraphed to me recently to find him one assistant or two who could help him in the work there. The Gliddens were on hand, had had experience with me during the excavations at Aqabah, and were delighted to have an opportunity for further work. It was a good opportunity for them and an excellent solution for Mr. Campbell. Dr. Fisher, instead of going to Cyprus for his vacation as he had planned, is taking Miss Carey's beautiful house at Ain Karim for the summer. Mrs. Glueck is leaving at the beginning of July with our baby, to visit our families in Cincinnati, and will return with me in December. There will remain here at the School then during the summer only Sir Flinders and Lady Petrie, Miss Wambold and myself, and I shall be in Transjordan at least half of each month up till October. Then I shall be leaving for the lecture-tour throughout the United States and part of Canada on behalf of the American Schools of Oriental Research.

Mrs. Glueck and I were at the High Commissioner's for dinner the other night. Sir Harold MacMichael seems to be keeping abreast of the progress of the American School's archaeological work, because in our conversation together he asked numerous questions about our recent excavations at Tell el-Kheleifeh. He had visited the site last year. Mr. Keith-Roach, the District Commissioner and the Governor of Jerusalem, has called several times recently. He is going off soon to get married again, his wife having died last year after years of severe illness. The government officials are not generally allowed to come to this district at night-time, but Mr. Keith-Roach lives near here, and as he himself gives the orders, he can break them occasionally. However, when he walks across the field at night-time from Larssen's pension where he lives to our place, he is accompanied by two British detectives who hold what look to me like small cannons in their hands. In as much as some months ago a bomb was thrown in his yard, directed more or less at him, I guess it is necessary for him to take precautions. I do not believe that we at the School are in any more danger because we live in this quarter, despite the fact that the government has compelled all the English families in the vicinity to move out, than if we lived in almost any other place in town. As a matter of fact, I believe and hope that there is no danger whatsoever for us at the School. I say this to reassure the friends of the School who may be concerned about our welfare. I keep my ears close to the ground, and feel on the whole that the situation has improved slightly for the better.

Returning from Transjordan the other day, I again visited Mr. Iliffe at the Government Hospital, and was delighted to find that he has been improving very rapidly. He has gained weight, and can now walk about unassisted. The victory for him is won; and that is one good man they did not get down.