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our sections, below the early Christian pottery, and above the pottery found at the south-east angle of the Haram. I did not see any pottery similar to what has been lately found at Cyprus.

Mr. Arbelo, the English consular-agent, was good enough to show me some columns he had found in his garden. Of one, the pedestal, base, and capital are lying together: on the pedestal is an inscription in Greek (of which I have an excellent squeeze), dedicated to the emperor Hadrian. The base is Attic, and the capital Corinthian. On the bed of the latter is the mason's sign or name, in Greek, incised, but it is difficult to make it out at present. I have a squeeze of it.

It is interesting to remark that there are incised marks on the walls of the city, showing where the aqueduct runs, in the shape of a round O: but this mark must be quite modern.

M. Durighello is going to preserve either squeezes of, or the stones themselves, which he finds in future in the ground bearing Phœnician marks. He took me to see the capital of a column lying in a mosque, of which he has the fellow in his possession. I forward you a sketch of it; it appears to be somewhat similar to the capital of one of the monoliths at the Golden Gate, Jerusalem.

I am able to send you about twenty of the characters from the sea-castle walls, reduced from squeezes, and about twenty more which I sketched.

On arriving at Beyrouth I found that the consul-general, Mr. Eldridge, who was away on business, had very kindly made some preliminary arrangements about a house in the mountains, and I had no difficulty in securing it at once.

C. W.

THE COLEOPTERA OF PALESTINE.

BY G. R. CROTCH, ESQ., ASSISTANT-LIBRARIAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

ON receiving, through the kindness of Lieutenant Warren, a small collection of *Coleoptera* from the environs of Jerusalem, he has suggested that a short account of these would not be unacceptable for the *Quarterly Statement*. It will be, I fear, however, almost impossible to extract much interest from a subject so little calculated to attract the general public. The *Coleopterous Fauna* of Palestine has received a fair share of attention of late years; the rich collections of M. de Saulcy, whose son is an ardent entomologist, laid the foundations of our knowledge; M. Peyron, long resident at Tarsus and at Beirut, has also enriched the French collections with many new and interesting species; M. Ancey, whose captures were described last year by the Abbé de Marseul, largely added to the list; and the immense collections of M. Piôchard de la Boulerie, who has recently spent three months in Syria, bent solely on amassing *Coleoptera*, will, when examined, give a thorough idea of this interesting *fauna*. The species collected by the Rev. O. Pickard, Cambridge, when in company with the Rev. H. B. Tristram, were also of the highest interest; these an

another set collected by Mr. Lowne have recently passed through my hands; and a further set, limited unfortunately in number, collected by Mr. Palmer at Sinai, shows that the southern *fauna* is much more characteristic and novel than that of the more northern parts. The present expedition of Messrs. Drake and Palmer will, I hope, be very productive in this respect, as the former is an able and zealous naturalist, who has already made large collections in Morocco. The *fauna* itself has but few striking features, compared with that of the Mediterranean generally; there is a dearth of new or striking forms, compensated, it is true, by the very interesting modifications which nearly all the European species found there undergo. The dominant group, to the eye at least, is certainly the *Heteromera*; for such genera as *Pimelia*, *Blaps*, *Ocnera*, *Tentyria*, *Adesmia*, &c., seem to form the leading features of the country, present as they are in every burnt-up place, where it would seem impossible for them to obtain nourishment. The rapacious *Casabidae* are much less strongly represented—the numbers not being great and the variety certainly small. The *water-beetles* are, from the arid nature of the country, rare, but abundant when found; several that I received from Mr. Palmer from Mount Sinai appear quite peculiar to that locality, whence they were described in 1832 by Klug in the "Symbolæ Physice" of Ehrenberg and others; a work replete with information for the Syrian *fauna*, and whose illustrations leave little to be desired. The third great division of beetles, called "*Staphylinidae*," are not apparently abundant; at least I have only received two or three species as yet; but M. de Sauley, whose predilections are in favour of this group, was able to discover a number of minute and extremely interesting species, forming several new genera, especially some of the utmost interest inhabiting the nests of the different species of ants, under stones, and living with them, on what footing is difficult to discover, but certainly as intimate guests. Nearly all these species are minute, but present very curious modifications of structure, and are indeed often quite blind, though they find their way about with some rapidity. From these we pass to the great group called *Clavicornes* by Latreille, which is so largely developed in Central and Northern Europe, and whose office it is to remove all matter in a state of decomposition. The dryness of the climate prevents there being much demand for these; hence they are but poorly represented.

The group of *Lamellicornes*, the finest and best known group of *Coleoptera*, are abundant; the sacred beetle of the Egyptians (*Utenchus sacerd*) is present everywhere, and numerous smaller dung-beetles may be observed in almost incredible numbers fulfilling their vocation. The more beautiful flower-loving *Lamellicornes* are also abundant, two or three *Cetoniæ*, especially the pretty white-spotted *C. Nemi*, absolutely swarm; the purple and green *Amphicomas*, so beautifully clothed with hair (and so difficult to preserve), also occur in immense abundance on flowers, and in the most perplexing varieties. The group of *Buprestidae*, the most brilliant of beetles, is poorly represented in species; some, however, as *Capnodis porosa*, occurring literally by hundreds. The beautiful genus *Tulodis*, scattered all over the European end of Asia, is

not well represented; the elegant covering of yellow dust-like pollen with which they are covered is removed with the least touch, and renders them almost impossible to preserve satisfactorily. The *Clateridae* are few in number and unimportant. The flower-infesting *Malacoderms* are only just commencing to attract attention, but appear, to judge from Mr. Ancey's *Voyage*, to be abundant, and to contain many new forms. The *Heteromera* I have already spoken of as the great feature of the place. The second section, of more flower-loving habits, is also well represented, especially the numerous varieties of blister-beetles or *Canthidae*. The orange and black *Mylabris* are everywhere in flowers, and are most variable. The *Curculionidae* are but little known, though furnishing some interesting genera. More remains to be done in this group than in any other; and throughout the world it is of incredible richness, more than 12,000 species being computed to exist in collections. The *Longicornes* are tolerably well represented, especially by the comparatively gigantic *Prioni*, but the beautifully striped genus *Dorcadion*, so characteristic of Asia Minor and Turkey, is scarcely represented here. The herbivorous *Phytophaga* are abundant, wherever there is vegetation, and will furnish many new species; two extremely curious species of *Cassida* discovered by M. Ancey have quite an exotic appearance.

The lady-birds or *Coccinellidae* are not abundant or remarkable; the common seven-spotted species appears to occur there without change, and is in fact spread over half the world. From this brief sketch it will be seen that the *fauna* has altogether an European cast, and to obtain much strikingly novel, excursions must be made eastward and southward. The grand mountain district of the Lebanon, while furnishing some interesting things, is very poor compared to any of the mountains of Asia Minor, as the Taurus, &c., which absolutely teem with insect life.

In conclusion, I can only say that if any one who may read this has specimens of this group of insects from Mediterranean districts, I shall be most delighted to render any assistance in examining and naming the specimens.

Cambridge.

G. R. CROTCH.

REMARKS ON A VISIT TO 'AIN JIDY AND THE SOUTHERN SHORES OF THE DEAD SEA IN MID-SUMMER 1867.

BY CAPTAIN WARREN, R.E.

IT being desirable to photograph several objects of interest in the southern shores of the Dead Sea, previous to the departure home of our photographer, an expedition was arranged. Our party consisted of Dr. Barclay, Mr. Eaton, myself, and Corporal Phillips (photographer).

Visits to this part of the Dead Sea had been hitherto made during the cold weather, and whether Franks could stand the heat in midsummer was quite a matter of conjecture; we knew that the Bedouin abandon the