

white chalk, and, even if they were, this is a geological observation of no importance. In that remote antiquity when Lebanon received its appellation, men called it "white" who stood at a great distance, who probably never set foot on any of its ranges, simply and instantly upon the sight thereof—in winter from the mantle of snow wrapping its massive form, and in summer from the glacier-like crown ever brilliantly radiant upon its lofty head.

....From A. D. F. Randolph & Co. we have a very timely supplement to Angus's "Bible Hand-book" in Conder's *Hand-book to the Bible*. One of the two authors is known in connection with the Palestine Exploration Fund, and their little volume does good service in its attempt to throw the light of modern research on the Bible in the departments of chronology, history, measures, time, rituals, government, tribute and offerings, art and science, social life and physical geography. We are confident Bible-readers generally will find it to their advantage not only to peruse it, but to keep it at hand as a means of reference. Yet, strangely, where we should expect this effort to be most reliable, there we find it least worthy of implicit trust. While Lieutenant Conder is perfectly familiar with the ground, he is not as judicious or happy in the line of identification of places as he ought to be. He attempts a great deal too much and expresses himself with too great haste and confidence. Few of his recoveries that are sure are important, and some are certainly wrong. For example, take merely three places, connected with the Jordan. Bethabara is carried to a ford of the river in the upper part of the Valley, away to the north of Bethshan, Beisân, mainly because an occurrence of a descriptive term, 'Abârah, ford, has been discovered there; whereas, the connections of the narrative positively require a position for the place in the lower portion of the Jordan vale. Not long ago (October, 1877), Lieut. Conder proposed, in the "Quarterly Statement" of the Fund, to identify Bethany-beyond-Jordan with the remote Ard el-Bethânleh, on the north of the mountains of the Haurân. This was promptly shown, in the columns of THE INDEPENDENT, to be utterly impossible. Now, without retraction, the position is taken that this Bethany, Bethania, or Batanea, was the tract to-day called el-Butein, on the northern slope or base of Jebel 'Ajlûn, and just south of the Yarmûk or Hieromax, also without acknowledgment that Burckhardt had placed it there nearly seventy years ago ("Travels in Syria," p. 287). The region of Succoth is attributed to the midst of the Jordan depression, over against the valleys of the Zerkâ and the Farah. But the location of Succoth there has been shown, in the *Bibliotheca Sacra*, to be impossible. Or, take another example, in another line. Lieut. Conder allows his scientific knowledge to deceive both himself and his readers in defining Lebanon as "milk white," from the fact that its ranges consist of hard crystalline limestone, overlaid by a formation of soft white chalk. Here is a misstatement, for the higher portions of the mountains are far from being made up of soft