



NARRATIVE OF A JOURNEY
THROUGH
SYRIA AND PALESTINE

IN 1851 AND 1852

BY

C. W. M. VAN DE VELDE

LATE LIEUTENANT DUTCH R.N., CHEVALIER OF THE
LEGION OF HONOUR.

TRANSLATED UNDER THE AUTHOR'S SUPERINTENDENCE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

"We walk by faith, not by sight."—2 Cor. v. 7.

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS,
EDINBURGH AND LONDON.
M.DCCC.LIV.

TO JOHN HENDERSON, ESQ.

OF PARK,

WHOSE KINDNESS, MORE THAN THAT OF ANY OTHER FRIEND,

ENCOURAGED AND ASSISTED ME IN MY INVESTIGATIONS IN PALESTINE,

THIS RECORD OF MY TOILS AND TRAVELS

IS DEDICATED

WITH SINCERE RESPECT AND GRATEFUL AFFECTION.

C. W. M. VAN DE VELDE.

CONTENTS OF VOLUME I.

VIA MARSEILLES TO BEIRÛT.—BEIRÛT—SIDON.

Preliminary Remarks.—Departure for Paris.—M. de Saulcy, the Oriental Traveller.—Interview with an Infidel on his return from the Holy Land.—From Paris to Marseilles.—Lyons, Avignon, Marseilles.—Voyage to Malta.—The French Steamer.—Arrival at Valetta.—Valetta Harbour.—Voyage from Malta to Smyrna.—Passengers in the Mediterranean.—The Grecian Archipelago.—Syracuse.—Smyrna.—Spiritual Wants and Missionary Efforts.—Departure for Beirût by the Austrian Lloyd's Steamer.—Samos, Patmos, Cos, etc.—Rhodes.—Cyprus, Larnaka.—Last Night on Board.—First View of Mount Lebanon.—Arrival at Beirût.—First Impressions.—Preparations for my Surveying Expedition.—The Winter Storms begin.—A Visit to Abeyh and Sidon.—Beirût and its Environs.—The American Missionaries in Syria.—Dr Kalley, my Travelling Companion.—Difficulties with Muleteers and Servants.—Off for Sidon.—Manner of Travelling.—Effects of the Early Rain.—The Nahr-ed-Damûr.—Nabi-Yûnas.—The Auwly.—Arrival at Sidon.—Detained by the Winter Storms.—Mr Thomson's Hospitality.—Missionary Labours at Sidon.—Town and Environs.—Antiquities.—Excursion to Rummiët-Roum.—An Evening in Mount Lebanon.—Splendid Scenery.—Excursion to Surafend (Ancient Sarepta), P. 1

FROM SIDON, BY THE CASTLE ES-SJUKIF, TO HASBEIYA.

Road from Sidon to Nabothiëh.—A Night in a Khan.—Suffering Villagers without Help.—Overtaken by Bad Weather.—The Castle es-Shukif (Belfort).—Magnificent Views.—The Leontes River.—El-Hamrah (Rama in Asher).—Storm on the way to Hâsbeiya.—Danger.—In Safety at Hâsbeiya.—The Town of Hâsbeiya.—Druses.—Mount Hermon.—The Northern Jordan-Source.—Protestants at Hâsbeiya,

their Persecutions and Prospects.—Explorations round Hâsbeiya.—Shweiya, Hibariëh, Kefr-Hammam, Kâlat-Aisafa, etc.—Antiquities.—Excursions to the Chasm of the Leontes at Jisr-Burguz and Blât.—Expedition to Kâlat-Bostra.—Remain for the Night at Rasheiya-el-fokhar, and return to Hâsbeiya.—Robbery.—Judicial Proceedings in this Country.—Nicola returns to Beirût, 105

BACK TO SIDON BY THE WAY OF HUNÏN, BINT-JEBAIL, AND TYRE.

Dark Dispensations.—Friends.—Encouragement.—Back to Sidon.—Valley of the Upper Jordan; Ibel and Deir Mimas.—The Castle of Hûnin.—Mountains of Naphtali.—Bint-jebail.—Tamer Beg, one of the Governors of Belad-Besharah.—Yarûn.—Kefr-Burreim.—Ancient Sites.—Hazûr (Hazor).—Jathir.—Lose our Baggage.—Reception at Kana.—Tomb of Hiram.—Ras-el-'Ain.—Arrive at Tyre.—Palae-Tyre.—Ancient Glory and Present Misery.—Historical and Biblical Recollections.—Hospitality of Yakûb 'Akad.—Ruins and Remains of Tyre.—Recent Excavations.—The Tyrian Plain, now waste and deserted.—Oppression of the Turkish Government.—Antiquities between Tyre and Sidon.—Again at Mr Thomson's.—Renewed Travelling preparations, 159

FROM TYRE TO TIBNÏN, 'AKKA AND KHAIFA. ZIG-ZAG TOURS IN WESTERN GALILEE.

Once more at Tyre.—Meet Dr Kalley and Mr Crawford.—Encouraging Recollections and Meditations.—Disturbances in Belad-Besharah.—New Dangers.—Off for TibnÏn, protected by a Metawileh Guide.—The Leontes.—A Night at Srerieh.—Difficulties in Surveying the Country.—Cross the Leontes at Kakaieh.—Reception at the Castle of TibnÏn.—Hamed-el-Beg.—The Conscription and its Effects.—TibnÏn, the Ancient Town.—Haris, Salhani, and other Villages.—The Ruins of Blât.—Valleys and Mountains.—Unvisited Regions.—Ruins.—Terharfa.—Kâlat-Shemma.—ShihÏn.—Road along the Coast from Iskanderûna to Ras-Nakhûrah.—Kâlat-Karn (Castellum Regis).—Mellia and Turshiha.—Hospitality.—Kâlat-JedÏn.—Arrival at 'Akka.—Signor D'a Finzi.—Historical Glances.—A Visit to the Pasha of 'Akka.—More Instances of Oppression.—Excursion to Yerka, Medjdel-Keroum, Shef-Amar, and Khaifa, 205

CARMEL, AND THE COUNTRY TO THE SOUTH OF IT.

A Visit to the Carmel Convent.—The site of Elijah's Sacrifice unknown.—Dr Kalley once more my Travelling Companion.—His manner of Preaching the Gospel.—Tour to Athlit (Castellum Peregrinorum) and 'Ain Haud.—Villages and Ruins in the Carmel Mountains.—The Excellency of Carmel.—Esfieh.—El-Mohhraka recognised as the site of Elijah's Sacrifice.—From Esfieh to the Plain of Esdraelon, KaimÏn, Iksim, and Tantûra (Dor).—Road along the Coast.—Ruins of Cesarea. Plain of Sharon.—We go again to the Mountains.—Beautiful but Deserted Valleys.—Prophecies concerning the Land.—The aspect of the Villages changes when South of Mount Carmel.—SebarÏn.—El-Lejjûn (Megiddo).—Dr Kalley returns North, 292

FROM MEGIDDO TO JENÏN, SAMARIA, AND SHECHEM.

Heat in the Plain of Esdraelon.—Taânach (Taanuk).—JenÏn.—Weariness.—The Great Plain at Sunset.—A New Guide.—Kefr-Kûd.—Unexpected Discovery of Dothan.—Sanûr (Bethuliah).—Ancient Road from Samaria to Jezreël.—Instance of Fatalism.—Rama (Remeth of Issachar).—Sileh.—The Mountains of Samaria.—The Hill of Shemer.—Biblical Recollections.—Samaria, now Sebastieh.—Hostile Population.—Difficulty in finding a Place of Shelter for the Night.—Nakhurah.—Fulfilled and Unfulfilled Prophecies concerning Samaria.—The Valley of Shechem.—Lepers at the Gate of Shechem.—Lodged in the Town.—Want of Rest and Refreshment.—Jacob's Well.—Thoughts upon, and experience at the so-called Holy Sites.—Former situation of Shechem.—Encounter at Jacob's Well.—Remarks upon John iv., 357

FROM SHECHEM TO JOPPA (JAFFA), AND THENCE TO JERUSALEM.

Journey along the West Side of the Mokhna Plain.—'Awertah and other Ancient Villages.—Kerawa.—Deserted Country.—Wretched Population.—Shech Halil.—Overtaken again by Storms.—Kefr-Kasim.—The Castle of Ras-el-'Ain.—Danger at the Aujeh River.—Abû Mon-sûr nearly Drowned.—Return to Medjdel.—Annoying Ceremonies at the Hospitable Shech's.—Cross the Sharon-Plain to Jaffa.—Jaffa's

Gardens.—Preparing to go to Jerusalem.—Ludd (Lyda) and Ramleh.
—Reception at a Convent during the Fast Days.—Road from Ramleh
to Jerusalem.—Arrival at Jerusalem, 410

A FEW DAYS IN JERUSALEM.

First Impressions of Jerusalem.—Disappointment.—Arrival in the City.
—Street Bustle.—Furnished Apartments at Mr Max Ungar's.—The
Damascus Gate.—Walk round the City Wall.—The Jaffa Gate and
Upper Part of the Valley of Gihon.—North-West corner of the City.—
North Wall.—Grotto of Jeremiah.—Traces of the Old Wall.—Remains
of the Foundations of the Third Wall.—Gate of Herod.—Valley of
Jehoshaphat and East Wall.—St Stephen Gate.—The Cedron Brook.—
Gethsemané.—Impressions.—The Golden Gate.—Tombs of Absalom,
Jehoshaphat, etc.—Jewish Tombs.—Siloam.—Mount of Offence.—
Ophel.—King's Gardens.—Mount Zion.—Tombs of the Kings.—Zion
Gate.—Coenaculum.—Christian Burial Ground.—Valley of Gihon.—
Lower and Upper Pool.—Hezekiah's Conduit and Pool.—David's
Castle.—Millo.—Tower of Hippicus.—Place of Promenade.—A Visit
to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.—Pilgrims in the Church.—
Idolatry and Profanation.—Mistaken Religious Feelings in Visiting
the Holy Sites.—The Church of the Sepulchre and its Contents are
False.—Reasons why Golgotha cannot have been on that spot.—
Tradition contradicts itself.—Why Golgotha's true Site is kept un-
known to us.—Divine Services in the Protestant Church on Mount
Zion.—The Members of the Jewish Mission.—Spiritual Intercourse.—
Intention to go on an Exploring Tour to the Dead Sea.—Hindrances.
—Disappointment, 453

ILLUSTRATIONS.

View of Jerusalem,	Opposite the Title Page.
Map of Syria and Palestine, shewing the Routes, etc.	57
Plan of Jerusalem,	453

A

JOURNEY THROUGH SYRIA AND PALESTINE

IN 1851 AND 1852.

VIA MARSEILLES TO BEIRUT.

PARIS, October 5, 1851.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—There are moments in life which find us placed in circumstances of so great and so varied an import that we feel as it were awed and overwhelmed by them—a state of mind best expressed by silence. Such are my present feelings, on my way to the Holy Land—"a stranger from a far country going to see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses which the Lord hath laid on it."* One who would attempt to measure this "inheritance of the Lord," looking, while so doing, to the prophecy, "Behold, I will set a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more"†—one who believes the promise, "that the old wastes shall be built, and the former desolations raised up, and the waste cities, the desolations of many generations, shall be repaired;"‡ and whose firm trust it is that the land "which as yet lies desolate in his sight, as he passes

* Deut. xxix. 22.

† Amos vii. 8.

‡ Isaiah lxi. 4.