

supposed that Gray, and probably Burke and the others, were killed by the Natives.

"Thanks for all you did at the Meeting of the Geographical Society, and for the trouble you have taken in communicating with Arrowsmith as to calling the new country Burke's Land. If, as I presume, the maps now sent find their way into the possession of that geographer, perhaps you will let him know that by next mail our Surveyor-general, Mr. Ligon, will have carried up his General Explorative Map of Australia to date, and that there will be some alteration of names, as I find, from there being so many exploring parties, that three or four rivers have been christened after myself, and some other people also; and I have told Mr. Ligon that I have selected that named after me by Walker—a new stream flowing to the south-west from the dividing watershed of the continent—and that he must find other names for the rest.

"Mr. Ligon's map will include the details of Mr. F. T. Gregory's recent tours on the west coast, which that gentleman, who leaves, I believe, in the present mail for England, has put at his disposal.

"Mr. Gregory's desire is to get the north-west corner of Australia proclaimed as a separate colony; and I hope he will succeed, as it would much facilitate its occupation for grazing purposes."

The Papers read were—

- 1.—*The Surveys of H.M.S. 'Herald' in the Pacific, under the Command of Captain H. Mangles Denham, R.N., F.R.G.S., &c., &c.*

[Captain Denham's original communication is printed at length in Additional Notices, p. 197.]

THE PRESIDENT called attention to this memoir, which gave a brief outline of the very remarkable labours of Captain Denham, R.N., who, in command of H.M.S. *Herald*, had most strikingly enriched maritime Geography in his numerous distinct surveys during nearly ten years, and had sent home to the Admiralty a multitude of data of the highest value in relation to terrestrial magnetism, tides, currents, deep-sea soundings, &c. Captain Denham was the first to ascertain the prodigious depth of the ocean (44,000 feet) between South America and South Africa, and to show that this depth far exceeded the altitude of the highest mountains above the sea. One of the most useful of the labours of Captain Denham was the establishment, after long and patient surveys, of the existence of a deep-sea passage, from South to North, of great width, and of upwards of 700 miles in length, to the east of Australia, wholly free from coral-reefs and sunken rocks; whilst his precise delineations of the outlines of the Fiji Islands, accompanied by numerous practical sketches, were precious contributions to our knowledge of that interesting group.

---

The second Paper read was—

- 2.—*Excursion to Harrān in Padan Aram, and thence over Mount Gilead and the Jordan to Shechem.* By CHARLES T. BEKE, Esq., PH. DR. F.S.A., F.R.G.S., &c. (Gold Medallist R.G.S.)

THE author having expressed the opinion in his 'Origines Biblicæ,' published in 1834, that the Padan Aram of Abraham was the plain of Damascus, and not Mesopotamia beyond Euprates, was induced by Mr. Porter's subsequent discovery of a village called Harrān,

15 miles east of Damascus, to make a journey, in company with his wife, in order to visit it, and to track the route of the patriarch Jacob on his "seven days' journey" to Mount Gilead. Harrān is a thriving village of 150 to 200 stone houses, plastered with mud, and contains numerous architectural fragments, especially three Ionic columns, from which it derives its local name of *Harrān-el-Awamid*. A fragment of an inscription was found, but it was too defaced to be deciphered. There exists no local tradition bearing on the ancient history of the village. Dr. Beke discovered a well on the western side of the town, which he conjectures to be the well "without the city" where Abraham's servant met Rebekah.

Leaving Harran on January 1st, the travellers first passed over "the river" Awaj, the Pharphar of Scripture, and then followed the great Haj road across the plains of Hauran till they came to Jebel Ajtun, or Mount Gilead, which they ascended. On reaching the summit, near Mahnah,—the Mahanaim of Genesis,—they obtained an extensive view, embracing most of the remarkable places in Galilee. Then descending Wady Ajlun by Kellat-er-Rubbud, crossing Wady Rajib, and passing by the tomb of Abu Obeida, they reached the Jordan, a little way to the north of Wady Zerka, the Jabbok of Scripture, near where Lieut. Molyneux's party were plundered by the Mashalka ("Messallick") Arabs, who, on the present occasion, escorted Dr. and Mrs. Beke across the river. After passing the Jordan, however, they had a skirmish with some Beduins; getting free from whom, they crossed the Makhrūd, and ascended Wady Fār'a to Nablūs, the ancient Shechem.

In Dr. Beke's elaborate paper the geographical correspondence of the chief places through which he travelled, with the events of the Bible narrative, are discussed with minuteness. As regards the latter part of the journey, he considers that after the patriarch Jacob had left Succoth (which he places to the south of the Jabbok) and crossed the Jordan, he entered Wady Fār'a at its junction with the former river, passing between the Makhrud and Karn Sartebeh.

THE PRESIDENT begged the Society specially to return their thanks to Mrs. Beke, as well as to her husband, as that lady had shared in all the incidents of the journey which had been described.

---

3.—*Narrative of a Journey through the Interior of Japan from Nagasaki to Yeddo.* By Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK, K.C.B., F.R.G.S., Ext. Min. Plen. and Consul-Gen. in Japan.

This journey, of which copious details are given in *Additional Notices*, p. 200, led through the inland sea of Japan to Hiogo and