

Steamer Medea,  
off Smyrna,  
March 14/84.

My dear Mr Ferris,

We returned to  
Jaffa on the 1st of March,  
bringing all our collections in  
Judaea and at the Dead Sea,  
then shipped from that place;  
and left in the Austrian  
steamer for Beyrut on the  
2d. We had a good opportunity  
to view from the  
sea the Sharon plain and  
Judaea hills, and the  
site of old Caesarea, and  
as the steamer called at  
Haifa, had a near view  
of the front of Carmel in  
the evening, and next  
day passed Tyre and Sidon

of which I could have wished  
 to have a nearer view.  
 We reached Beyrout on the  
 forenoon of the third, in  
 time to spend the afternoon  
 on the rocks and sands  
 in its vicinity, in company  
 with a class of the American  
 College, by one of whose pro-  
 fessors, a host, we were  
 hospitably entertained.

Beyrout is a town of  
 80,000 inhabitants, beautifully  
 situated in a bay at the  
 foot of the Lebanon, now  
 showing all its summits white  
 with snow. It is the most  
 prosperous and best ordered  
 town we have seen in this  
 part of the world, a distinction  
 which it owes to the  
 settlement of Christians here

after the Damascus mapovers  
 of 1860, and to the efforts of  
 the missionaries and of  
 a somewhat influential Eu-  
 ropean population. The  
 American missionaries have  
 here the head-quarters of their  
 Syrian mission, including a  
 well-appointed college with a  
 Faculty of Arts, and also a  
 Medical and a theological  
 School. It has thus depen-  
 178 students, Syrians, Armenians  
 and Greeks, and belonging  
 to the Maronite, Greek, Armenian &  
 other sects of this country,  
 but all receiving Scriptural  
 as well as literary & scientific  
 training. I had an opportunity  
 of speaking to them on Sunday  
 evening, and they all appeared  
 to know enough of English to

understand what I said. I  
 also gave an extempore lecture  
 to the English inhabitants, on  
 the probable uses of the  
 Lebanon Caves &c, which I  
 had just been examining,  
 and which was very largely  
 attended for the place; about  
 300 being present. \*

As the arrangements of  
 the Steamers allowed us only a  
 week for Beirut, unless we re-  
 mained there, which would be  
 too long, I decided not to  
 visit Damascus; but to con-  
 fine myself to the Lebanon  
 Range. So we drove across  
 the Mountains in a hired Car-  
 riage, stopping where I pleased  
 to collect fossils, &c. At the  
 height where the road crosses  
 (5300 feet by my aneroid) the

+ I should have added that  
Beirut has the most important  
Arabic printing establishment  
in the East. It issues yearly  
thousands of Bibles, tracts,  
Hymns & books, <sup>Newspapers,</sup> and school  
books, and other useful  
publications. One of the  
latest is an illustrated  
life of Christ. These publica-  
tions are circulated throughout  
Asia Minor, Syria & Egypt,  
and even in India; and  
are sought for and eagerly  
read by people of all creeds,  
many of whom would  
not listen to any Christian  
preaching.

hills were still covered with snow, which had been cut out in some places through drifts four feet deep, and we had a small shower of sleet in crossing the summit. On the opposite side, we had a fine view of the plain of Coele-Syria and the Anti-Lebanon, including the grand snowy ridge of Hermon. We rested at night in the Maronite village of Zahleh, where a very interesting Muzummary work is being done by Mr. Dale, and which is a place of 8000 inhabitants with well-built houses, but pitched on a hill side so steep that they look as if they might easily slide into the valley below. Returning by the same road, I was able very well to study the rocks

which are exposed everywhere, and to collect many interesting fossils; Dr Bley, who went with us, and the ladies aiding in the work, so that we had a pretty heavy load in the carriage & the time we returned to Byrant.

Two other days were devoted to the caves and grottoes containing flint implements and other remains of prehistoric men, which are in some respects the most interesting known, as they occur in a country whose history extends back so far. We visited the old Caves at the pass of Nahr el Kelb, and collected specimens of the Gneiss with bones & teeth of animals now extinct in Syria, along with the flint knives of the

old inhabitants. We were so fortunate as to discover a new Cave in addition to that described by Kirstam, and took measurements & made observations which will throw new light on these interesting deposits. We also explored a large cave at about Elias, not previously examined, and found abundance of bones and flint knives of somewhat later date, as I suppose, than those of Nakh & Kelle. Dr Hopp and I also thoroughly explored the Vent Sands & Sandstones near Depot itself, and ascertained the relation of the implements found there to the other deposits. These flint implements, in no respect superior to those of our American Indians, belonged to populations which inhabited this country before the



Canaanites & Phoenicians, and some of whom were in all probability Antediluvian, and lived at a time when the country was in a somewhat different state from the present.

We left Beyrut on Monday the 10th, calling at Larnaka in Cyprus, and at Rhodes; and have been coasting along the shore and islands of Asia Minor, nearly in the track of Paul on his last visit to Jerusalem, though going in the opposite direction, and seeing, though at a distance, the little island of Patmos, in which the banished John wrote the last book of the New Testament. From Smyrna we are to sail for Piræus & hope to have a peep at Athens,

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after which we go on directly as possible to  
Harris & Lewis and then through Belmont Hospital,  
stopping up at Avenue, Bross & Graves, at  
all which places I have a little business to  
attend to, I have enquired at Bross, where I  
hope to meet the large morphological collection  
of Hantz, and, <sup>to</sup> establish some one for relations  
with him.

With all good wishes to you and  
all our mutual friends,  
Believe me

Yours sincerely  
W. Brewster