

Modern geographical exploration
has gone on ~~with varying results~~
the ground traversed by ancient
expeditions, or famous from wars
a sieges ~~and~~ with various results
as to the historical credibility of
narrators ~~the~~ ~~history~~ of these events.
The history has been subjected to
the test, and has been remarkably
vindicated by the testimony of the
spade and the measuring line,
~~perhaps~~ and perhaps no instance of
this is more remarkable than that
afforded by the results of the work
of the British Ordnance Survey in the
exploration of the Peninsula of Sinai.
Some three thousand years ago, according
to a history avowedly written by contemporaries,
the Hebrew Nation, migrating from Egypt,
entered this inhospitable region and
arrived in Mt Sinai, remained
there about a year, and then
wandered for nearly forty years in
the region between Sinai and
Palestine. No one in the inter-
vening ages is known to have
followed their precise route. Traditions
of Arabs and of Christian pilgrims

had conjecturally fixed many of the
sites of the narrative. Travellers had
passed hastily and without accurate
measurements over parts of the
ground. The results arrived at
were so various and discrepant that
any one of half a dozen theories
might be held as to the actual
route and the more important
points, and sceptics might be
pardonable for supposing that the
writer of the book knew less of
the ground than many of the
subsequent visitors. But now comes
the crucial test of modern
Science. A party of ^{educated} ~~skilled~~ ^{armed} ~~men~~
with all the modern appliances of
their art and accompanied by
scientific explorers enter this ^{small} ~~range~~
peninsula of 150 miles by 130, and
follow inch by inch and with in-
flexible accuracy the route of the
Exodus. They first settle by exhaustive
investigation that the crossing place
fixed by the writer was near Suera,
and they had an opportunity to
experience that strong east wind
which still occasionally visits the Red

* educated
Scientific men,

The Red Sea and seems to have
been instrumental in the miracle
of the passage. They examine the wells
of Mares, notice the features of the
Shur a wall which gives its name
to this part of the wilderness and barred
the way of the Israelites to the East.
They proceed Southward from station
to station & well to well, and
notice correspondences before overlooked
in connection with the wilderness
of Sin and the "creeping of the sea".
They show how the host must have
turned abruptly to the East at the
Wady Feiran and trace their
way to the great plain of Er
Rabah in front of Mt. Sinai,
and show that the plain and
the mountain fulfil in the
most perfect manner all the
conditions of the giving of the law.
They illustrate the tactics and in-
port of the battle of Rephidim, and
show the receipt of the miracle
of the supply of water before
the battle, and the possibility of
letters passing communication with
the

Incelles after the defeat of
the Amelkites. As we follow their
footsteps, and note the number
and complexity of the undoubted
Coincidences between their ob-
servations and the narrative
~~and~~ in Exodus and Numbers,
as we ^{study} ~~note~~ their account of
the fertility and antiquities of
the country, trace the topography
on their beautiful maps and
photographs, and ~~note~~ ^{weigh} their
observations as to the supply of
pasturage and water, and
the connection of these with
the salubrity of a soil like that
of Israel, and with its periods
of want and abundance, we
feel that the narrative of the
writers of these books must be
that of an eye-witness, and all
the learned theories as to a later
authorship and different documents
disappear like mist. This must at
least be the effect of a careful study
of the magnificent volumes of
the Sinai Survey or any man
acquainted with the bearings of

topography and geology as historical facts. The writer obviously had no idea that his work was to be revised by a Sverdrup survey thirty centuries after he produced it; but his incidental references to facts obvious on the ground, but otherwise not explicable, and even his surmises, strengthen his claim to be a veracious & contemporary narrator.

All this would be of extreme interest were the Evedes merely an old story like the siege of Troy or the legendary history of Mycenae; but it is much more than this:—

The Evedes was a new departure in the higher life of humanity. It was a great revival of New Theistic religion, at a time when it seemed about to perish. It restored again the hopes of a coming Saviour. It initiated a religious literature which reached back to the creator and ~~for~~ lived and grew till it culminated in the New Testament. The roots of all that is most valuable to-day lie in the Evedes, and

* Much more than even a great national movement in vindication of the rights of the oppressed and of the sacredness of freedom.

Therefore it is of the highest importance
to know whether the history of this
event preserved to us in Holy
Scripture is true. If it were a
myth or an inaccurate history of much
~~later date or a historical novel,~~
~~or even a story patched up at a~~
~~much later date than the events recorded,~~
we might ~~well~~ feel that its authority
in all respects was shaken; but
when it stands the test of the
applied by the trained observers of the
Ordnance Survey, we may well
rejoice in the possession of one true
history of at least, however we
may repeat that so many volumes
of learned historical criticism have
merely been reduced to waste paper.
The authors of the Report make no
pretensions to be either reporters or
critics of the Bible and they are
prepared to state what they see
independently of its consequences to
any one. Hence it is most
instructive to see ^{obscurely} how as they
sweep away misparings traditions
and conjectures of travellers and

cities both ancient and modern
The ~~entire~~ original record stands
firm and without a flaw like
the great stones of some Crumbled
obelisks from which men have
dug away the earth and soil
in which they have been
buried.

To those who have relied on ^{sub} the
theses ^{as they} of Kutsch, Kuenen or Celsius
respecting the Relativity the results
of the Survey of Sinai must come
like a new revelation, since they must
perceive that the very parallel lines of
the Computations of the books of Exodus
Leviticus and Numbers is that they
are contemporary Journals written as
the events recorded were actually in
progress and not subsequently revised
or altered even to such an extent
as to explain facts of a volume
apparent contradictions as to be ~~see~~
~~planned~~ ~~as~~ ~~the~~ understood in the
Journal. This must at least be
the thing necessary of any intelligent
Student of the Report of the Sinai
Survey.

