

**PALESTINE OF THE
JEWS: PAST, PRESENT
AND FUTURE**

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Palestine of the Jews: Past, Present and Future by Norman Bentwich

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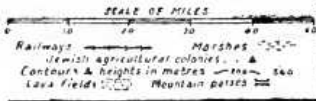
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NORMAN BENTWICH

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AND FUTURE**

PALESTINE



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PALESTINE OF THE JEWS

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

BY

NORMAN BENTWICH

EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Author of "Josephus" and
"Philo-Judæus of Alexandria"

WITH AN APPENDIX

THE REDEMPTION OF JUDÆA
AND OTHER ARTICLES ON THE BRITISH ADVANCE

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PREFACE

THIS little book has been written during the leisure hours of camp life in the Summer of 1917 while waiting at the portals of Palestine to enter the Promised Land. It is based on notes which I had jotted down in the country during several visits in the years before the war. As, between 1916 and 1917, we slowly crossed the Wilderness of Sinai in which the Hebrew tribes had wandered nearly 4000 years ago, I would often meditate at night under the starry sky upon the past and the future of my people who have wandered now over the world for nigh two thousand years. When vision was limited, reflection and reminiscence helped the lingering hours to pass, and when action was checked I would dream of what might be when Israel was restored to his home. Like the camels I was leading over the desert, I would chew the cud of memory when the day's work was done, and the gentle evening breathed peace and tranquillity.

My stray notes which I have put together in these circumstances may perchance help to make better known the rebirth of the Jewish people, and the regeneration of the historic land of Israel, which has been happening in

the last half-century. As a great French writer has said, "La verité a toujours quelque chose de l'inattendu qui la rend supportable," and my reason for adding to the inexhaustible literature of Palestine is that I have tried to tell the simple tale of what has been achieved by a small remnant of the oldest nationality.

For more than two years I have been far from books and papers, which do not find a place in a marching kit, even with the generous allowance of 50 lbs. of baggage; and I must crave indulgence on that account for any inaccuracies and mistakes. I have made no attempt to be exhaustive in the account of the Jewish settlement, and I have given only my personal experience. To my father I owe it that my pencilled notes have been prepared for publication, with the assistance of my sister and her husband, who were among the colonisers before the war. And I am indebted to the same ready help for the incorporation in the text of references to the more salient later developments, so as to bring the work more nearly up to date.

PALESTINE, $\frac{1918}{5678}$

NORMAN BENTWICH.

POSTSCRIPT.—The Appendix, containing a series of Sketches on the British Advance to Jerusalem, is added by kind permission of the Proprietors of the *Manchester Guardian*, to which they were originally contributed, a short Article on "The Redemption of Judæa" published in *Palestine* (the organ of the British Palestine Committee) being also included. And the Map which forms the Frontispiece is, by courtesy of the proprietors, taken from the larger map specially prepared for the latter publication.

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