

of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of "plains" and "mountains." This mountainous character—this abundance of water both from natural sources and from the clouds of heaven—was absolutely peculiar to Palestine amongst the civilized nations of the East. "Feeble as its brooks might be—though, doubtless, they were then more frequently filled than now—yet still it was the only country where an Eastern could have been familiar with the image of the Psalmist: 'He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the "mountains."' These springs, too, however short-lived, are remarkable for their copiousness and beauty. Not only not in the East, but hardly in the West, can any fountains and sources of streams be seen so clear, so full-grown even at their birth, as those of the Kishon, the Jordan, and the whole of the Jordan valley. Wales or Westmoreland are, doubtless, not regarded as fertile regions; and the green fields of England, to those who have come fresh from Palestine, seem, by way of contrast, to be indeed 'a land of promise.' But transplant Wales or Westmoreland into the heart of the Desert, and they would be far more to the inhabitant of the Desert than to their inhabitants are the richest spots of England. Far more; both because the contrast is in itself greater, and because the phenomena of a mountain country, with wells and springs, are of a kind almost unknown to the dwellers in the deserts or river-plains of the East."]

Springs are found in all varieties of soil and at all degrees of elevation; but are most numerous in the stratified formations, which permit the waters to assemble together, and to excavate for themselves a subterranean channel.

The granite and schistose mountains give birth to numerous springs, but their volume is generally weak. The ancient rocks, such as the porphyries and the trachytes, also produce a considerable number. Many are found, for example, in the chain of the Mont Dore, where they frequently tumble and flash in beautiful cascades.

Springs are also met with at the base and in the neighbourhood of volcanoes, but rarely on the volcanic mountains themselves; a fact which is attributable to the porosity of the lavas and scorified rocks, which allows a ready passage to the water, and suffers them to escape into the lower strata of the soil.

The frequency, but comparative insignificance, of the springs which issue from the granite, gneiss, and mica-schist, is readily explained by the fissures and crevasses of these strata, which, dividing the infiltrating water into an infinite number of crystal threads, permit it to percolate in every direction. Nevertheless, as