

Sea and to take them by boat to Suez. A comparatively short portage over Suez would make it possible again to place them on a boat which could go to Ophir. The total expense would be only a fraction of that of carrying them overland from Jerusalem to Ezion-geber. Professor Nelson Glueck, Director of the American School of Oriental Research at Jerusalem, reports that it took him thirteen days on camel back to go from the south end of the Dead Sea, which is already comparatively far from Jerusalem, down the Wadi Arabah, that long rift which runs south from the Dead Sea to the eastern arm of the Red Sea. Dr. Glueck was puzzled as to the reason for establishment of a port so far overland from Jerusalem, until he made an investigation of the southern part of the Wadi Arabah. Here he found numerous copper mines from the time of King Solomon. It was far easier to transport the copper the comparatively short distance to the Red Sea than to carry it overland the long journey to Jerusalem. Then it could be taken to Ophir and exchanged for gold. This, incidentally, proved the accuracy of the statement in Deuteronomy 8:9, "A<sup>a</sup> land...out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass", which had sometimes been doubted since copper had not previously been found in Palestine.

At the head of the Gulf of Aqabah, the eastern branch of the Red Sea, a mound was found which evidently contained the remains of an ancient city, and which fulfilled the requirements for the site of Ezion-geber. Its supply of fresh water was very limited, while to the east of it along the head of the gulf the wells became better and more numerous. Why should Solomon have built his city so far from the best water supply? Was he simply an unwise oriental despot who arbitrarily chose a spot and did not care how much extra burden it caused his servants?

Soon after the excavators began work in 1938 they found a farther reason to wonder about Solomon's wisdom. Great winds came roaring down the valley hitting the place where they were working and almost blind<sup>ing</sup> them. Only a few hundred yards to the east or to the west they would have been sheltered from the wind. Why