

quite irksome, particularly when the walls seemed no longer to be needed. Frequently the inhabitants of a town became so dissatisfied that they established new homes in the valley and carried the old name along with them. The hill was deserted and soon all appearances of habitation on it disappeared. Rain washed down its sides and soon it was completely forgotten that it had ever held a town. The name might be preserved by a village a mile or two away, while the hill eventually received some nondescript name such as "hill of beans". Most of these names begin with the word "tell" which is modern Arabic for hill, or mound. Hence, archaeologists use the term to designate an artificial hill which contains ruins of an ancient city. There are about ~~two~~ hundred of these tells in Palestine, and their shape is so distinctive that often it is easy to recognize them even from quite a distance. Petrie's discovery thus solved the problem of places with ancient names but without early ruins. It gave the clue to the existence of many an ancient site which otherwise might have remained undiscovered. It provided the archaeologist with the great privilege, in many cases of beginning his excavation with material antedating New Testament times, without having to dig carefully and laboriously through later material. It provided important places for research where it was unnecessary to disturb modern houses in order to dig (though sometimes there is a Moslem shrine on the top of the tell, making inaccessible the very place where they city records would be most apt to be found). Finally, it showed that in many places a relative chronology could be easily established, since the later cities would naturally be above the earlier ones.

The second great discovery which Petrie made was the importance of pottery for dating. Many other scholars questioned the value of this discovery for some time, but now opposition to it has pretty well disappeared. Petrie pointed out that pottery, or earthenware dishes, gave a remarkable criterion for fixing chronology. After the invention of pottery in prehistoric times, it was used wherever people lived. Once clay is baked into pottery, it is virtually indestructible. Even if broken into small pieces it is immediately recognizable as distinct from any natural material. Inevitably most dishes are broken in time. Once broken, the pottery would be very difficult to repair satisfactorily, while the cost of replacing it was not great. So wherever people have lived in Palestine, <sup>(7)</sup> places of pottery are quite certain to be found. ~~could vary from time to time.~~ These are many <sup>ways</sup> in which pottery could vary from time to time.

These include the shape of the dishes, <sup>(2)</sup> the shape of the handle, the shape of the rim, the