

1/31/83

## Recollections of Trip to Palestine in 1929

I shall always be grateful for the fact that I met Dr. Melvin Grove Kyle in Berlin in the spring of 1928. If it were not Had it not been for that I probably would have missed out on having a trip to Palestine for many years, and would probably never have had much contact with Dr. William F. Albright.

It had been my intention to spend two years studying in Berlin and to spend a year in Palestine. In the second half of my first year in Berlin I preached half the Sunday mornings at the American church. One morning I looked up and saw in the congregation Dr. Melvin Grove Kyle whom I had previously met at Xenia Theological Seminary (then in St. Louis) of which he was president when I visited St. Louis in the summer of 1925.

When the service was over I invited Dr. and Mrs. <sup>K</sup>Kyle to have dinner with me that noon. He was full of enthusiasm after his excavation at Tel el Beit Mersim in southern Palestine with Dr. Albright. I mentioned to him that it was my intention to go Palestine a year and a half later. He then told me that I urged me to go earlier than that. HE said that at the end of the year 1928-29 Dr. Albright would return to Baltimore to become professor in Johns Hopkins University. Dr. A°, he said, had been in Palestine nine years and was very brilliant scholar who knew the country as well or better than anyone else. The opportunity, he said, to spend some with time/~~with~~ Albright in Palestine would make the time there worth many times as much as it could be under any other circumstances. This set me to thinking how my plans could be revised.

Realizing from Dr. Kyle's words the importance of studying with Dr. A°, I arranged to skip the last month of the winter semester of the school /year 1928-29 in Berlin and also to skip the first month of the spring semester. This is not so difficult as it sounds because the system over there is ~~unusual~~.