

toward each other in the lonely desert region, driving along the traveled strip of roadway, perhaps a quarter of a mile in width, with the whole desert in which to turn out to avoid hitting one another, at a speed of perhaps fifty or sixty miles an hour, ~~and~~ have run into each other in a head on ~~crash~~ <sup>collision</sup>. Such a happening is a real danger in crossing this desert region. In Syria, under French mandate, everyone is required to turn out to the right in meeting. In Iraq, the rule of the road is to turn out to the left. Somewhere in that desert is the dividing line between the two territories. East of it one must turn out to the left. West of it one must turn out to the right. Driving rapidly through that desert it is easy to forget that one has crossed the line and must change his habits, and hence <sup>may easily</sup> both turn out to the same side and ~~can easily~~ run into each other.

The caravans naturally crossed this desert along its northern edge where it was possible to get water from the Euphrates at intervals. Consequently all the trade between Egypt or Palestine and Mesopotamia went through Syria.

Across this desert was the region of Assyria, center of one of the greatest empires of the world history, which plays an extremely important part in the Old Testament. In fact it is impossible to understand the important historical movements of the Old Testament ~~without~~ without some idea of the history of Assyria and Babylonia to the south of it. This ~~is~~ history and its many important contacts with the Bible, and its ~~many~~ ~~extremely~~ extremely interesting and valuable corroboration of the accuracy of the Biblical history, we survey in the course in "The Old Testament in the Light of the Monuments." For our present purpose we ~~shall~~ only notice that it was a center of a great civilization long before the time of Abraham and on through the entire ~~part~~ <sup>period</sup> of Old Testament history, and observe its geographical relation to the land of Palestine.

At the opposite end of Palestine is another desert region even more barren than the Assyrian desert. Through this region the Israelites came after the departure from Egypt. It was a long and wearisome journey from Palestine ~~into~~ <sup>into</sup> Egypt before the world war. ~~During~~ <sup>During</sup> that war a railroad was constructed