

dye, and thus encouraged the manufacture of textiles. Copper was mined in the hills, and the kind of sand found on the shore was suited for the manufacture of glass.

The Phœnicians, therefore, became great manufacturers, as well as traders, while the Israelites, who inhabited the region to the south, appear to have been mainly shepherds, so that skilled workmen had to be imported from Phœnicia to complete the Temple. The absence of manufacturing industries in Judæa may have been partly due to the ease with which articles could be imported, since many caravan routes between Arabia, Phœnicia, Egypt, and Mesopotamia crossed the land.

In the seventh century the followers of Mohammed, known as the Saracens, conquered the whole of Syria, while in the sixteenth century the country fell into the hands of the Ottoman Turks, who are also Mohammedans, and still hold it. The island of Cyprus off the coast has, however, been a British possession since 1878.

#### SUGGESTION.

Show, with reference to the history of Phœnicia, how the value of a coastal belt depends on the value of its hinterland.

#### ASIA MINOR.

This peninsula consists of a narrow coastal plain, from which rises abruptly the plateau of the interior. This plateau is flanked on the south by the Taurus range, which is crossed by a pass called the Cilician Gates, connecting the interior with the coast near Tarsus and Adana by a route that has always been important.

Here, as in Syria, the interior suffers from drought, and is largely poor grassland or desert. The west coastal regions, however, receive a fair rainfall, and the lower valleys of the rivers, which descend westwards from the plateau, are remarkably fertile, producing raisins, grapes, figs, cotton, and opium. At the mouths of these valleys are the sites of the important ancient Greek colonies of Miletus, Ephesus, and Phocæa, the last-mentioned being situated near the modern city of Smyrna, though not on the gulf of that name.

Smyrna is now the chief port of the country, and is connected by rail with the plateau of the interior, where wool and mohair from the Angora goats are the chief products. Scutari, on the Bosphorus, is almost like a suburb of Constantinople, and carries on a large trade with it. From