

"It is evident that no ditch ever traversed the city across the line of this passage; and, therefore, the theory of a cutting from Birket Israil to the Street El Wad is untenable, unless it be supposed to have been more northerly in the direction of the arched Souterrains, whose direction, S.S.E., appears inconsistent with such an arrangement. I cannot for a moment think that this passage was originally intended as a drain; it may have been a natural cleft, utilised by cutting, and this would account for its great height, which in some places is full 36ft. above the surface of the sewage.

"Dr. Chaplin suggests that it is the passage, 'Strato's Tower,' mentioned by Josephus as leading to Antonia."

See also "Ordnance Survey of Jerusalem," pp. 45 and 85, and Plate xvii. 6.

PHENICIAN INSCRIPTION ON JAR HANDLES.

SOME two years since there were sent to England, with the other objects found by Captain Warren in the shafts, certain jar handles, all of which were stamped with the same mark—apparently an eagle, rudely designed. They were found at the foot of the wall at the south-east angle. Captain Warren (*Letters*, p. 88, *Quarterly Statement* No. 1.) describes a "clay mould" from 8ft. to 10ft. in depth, resting on the soft rock at the bottom. This is cut away, apparently to allow the stones to be placed in their proper positions, Captain Warren drawing therefrom the inference that the clay mould is of older date than the wall. On this mould were found the jar handles referred to.

In preparing the illustrations for his paper in the forthcoming book, Captain Warren wished a woodcut to be made of the marks on these handles, and for that purpose cleaned one of them. On being brushed, certain letters before hidden by dust became clear and legible. These letters are in shape similar to those of the Moabite Stone.

The letters were not quite the same on the different handles, but they have been deciphered by Dr. Birch, of the British Museum, as follows:—

- (1.) LeMeLeK. Ze PHa. Son of the king Zepha.
- (2.) LeK SHaT King Shat.
- (3.) LeK The following letters being uncertain.

Photographs have been taken of the handles, which can be seen at the office of the Fund. The originals are now—with the other objects found in the shafts—in the South Kensington Museum.