INSCRIPTION FROM JERASH.

The following inscription was copied by Captain Warren on his visit to Jerash in 1867. Accident led to the discovery that the Rev. R. B. Girdlestone had a copy taken ten years before Captain Warren’s visit, and when the stone was in better preservation. He very kindly placed his copy, with conjectural restoration of some parts wanting, in the hands of the Secretary of the Fund.
The inscription was evidently intended for a church door, as a memorial of the change which had taken place since the site had been devoted to this sacred object. Mr. Girdlestone adds in a note on the inscription: "To the Christian antiquarian the inscription is undoubtedly of interest. In the last line but three, part of which has been obliterated, perhaps with a purpose, we find a reference to the Cross, the symbol of the Christian faith. Thus there is the Oriental salutation as a mark of respect to the Saviour, whose work the Cross represents—brought into rude contrast with the holding of the nose to keep out the intolerable odours that had formerly arisen from the same spot when it had been used as a slaughter-house. Again, we have the name of the person through whose pious care the transformation was effected; and lastly, his office is designated, the heathen word Hierophant being transferred, doubtless, to the Christian order of the ministry.

"The whole inscription brings vividly before us the process of transition from heathenism to Christianity, which not only the inhabitants of cities, but also their buildings, had to go through... Shall we be far wrong in setting down the date of this inscription as in the second century after Christ?"

A precisely similar inscription is given in the Count de Vogüé's "Syrie Centrale."

The inscription is a rude imitation of a Homeric hymn—the eleventh line being copied exactly from Hómēr.

Note.—The words in brackets in the 10th line are conjectural. There is also some uncertainty about the word ἄγιος in line 2, μεθον in line 3; and in line 9 Captain Warren has μετωπῳ and Mr. Girdlestone προσωπῳ.