

These inscriptions, and the bas-reliefs on the monument called *Kamua Hurmâl*, in Cælo-Syria, near the source of the Orontes, and possibly of the same period, are an enigma, as yet, to the most learned Orientalists. It is to be hoped, however, now that attention is again called to the subject, that the clue may be found that shall unlock their meaning, and that Northern Syria will be no longer overlooked by the explorer.

DISCOVERY AT THE MOSQUE EL AKSA, JERUSALEM.*

A DISCOVERY of considerable interest has been made in this Mosque by the Rev. J. Neil, who has only recently gone to Jerusalem for the Society for the Conversion of the Jews. "In the Mosque of El Aksa," he writes, "you will remember that there is a long plain room opening out at the south-east angle, called the Mosque of Omar, in which the only object of interest whatever is a recess supported by two twisted pillars, and called the *Mihrab*, or Praying-place of Omar. You may, perhaps, remember that the pillars on each side of this recess, of Solomonic twisted pattern and polished marble, appear to have been turned upside down, and to have their capitals of greyish stone in broken leaf-like patterns below. On visiting this the day before yesterday, July 5th, I discovered that a great part of the yellowish plaster had been removed from the top of these pillars, and that rich grotesquely carved capitals were exposed to view in an admirable state of preservation. These capitals, though pressing behind against the wall, are carved on all the four sides. The Sheikh of the temple told me this was first seen about two days before my visit, while cleaning the wall. . . . The sketches I send are shamefully rough, but I have no idea of drawing: they were made by myself from still rougher sketches."

These drawings are at the office of the Palestine Exploration Fund, 9, Pall Mall East, where they have been sent by the Rev. F. Smith, to whom Mr. Neil was writing.

ON THE RELATIONS OF CANAANITE EXPLORATION TO PRE-HISTORIC CLASSIC ARCHÆOLOGY.

BY HYDE CLARKE.

IN a late paper in the *Journal of the Palestine Exploration Fund*, I showed, on the evidence of the river names of Palestine, what was the connection of the Canaanite population with general history, and I called the attention of investigators to the probability of discovering pre-Israelite monuments and relics. As an effort is now being made

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