

## CHURCH OF THE KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN.

**IMMEDIATELY** to the south of the church of the Holy Sepulchre, and almost in the centre of Jerusalem, there has existed for more than 600 years an open plot of ground, upon which no buildings have been erected. This waste space, now known as the Muristan, was formerly covered by the spacious palace and hospital of the Knights of St. John, but until quite recently the only visible remains were a picturesque gateway, with figures representing the signs of the zodiac, and portions of a church and courtyard; the two latter so covered with foul refuse that few travellers ventured to give them more than a momentary glance.

In 1869, on the occasion of the visit of the Crown Prince of Prussia to the Holy Land, the Sultan made a grant of the eastern half of the Muristan to the Prussian Government, with permission to erect a church or rebuild that of the Knights of St. John. Excavations have since been actively carried on in this ground under the superintendence of Mr. Schick, who has kindly placed copies of the plans which he has made at the disposal of the Palestine Fund, and informed the Secretary of the result of his labours. The annexed plan shows the church of the Knights of St. John and the buildings immediately connected with it.

Nothing of very ancient date has yet been found, but additional excavations are to be made, and a new street is to be opened between David Street and the church of the Holy Sepulchre. During the execution of these works it is to be hoped that some interesting relics of the ancient city may be laid bare.

One of the most valuable of the results which may be expected from Mr. Schick's labours is the determination of the natural features of the ground in the vicinity of the Holy Sepulchre, which have been concealed from view for so many centuries. It is also possible that the excavations may settle the question of the site of the second wall of the ancient city.

An account of the hospital of the Knights of St John will be found in Murray's Handbook to Syria and Palestine, and Captain Warren has given a detailed description of his excavations in the Muristan in the "Recovery of Jerusalem."

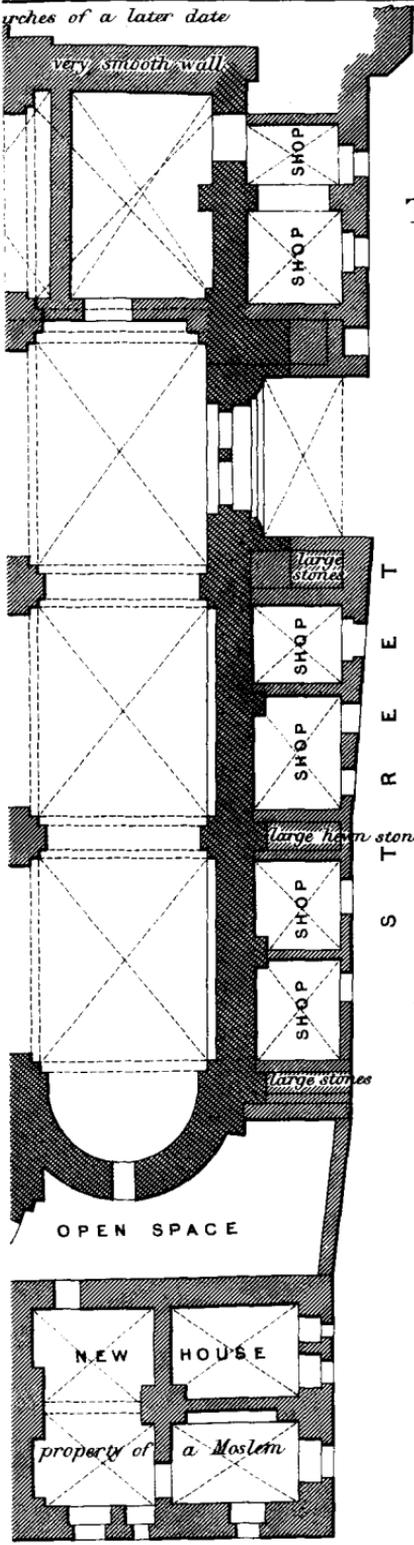
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### REPORT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

HELD AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTION, 17TH JUNE, 1872,

HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK IN THE CHAIR.

The CHAIRMAN.—My lords, ladies, and gentlemen, I have to call upon the Reverend Mr. Holland to read the Report, and I must in



CHURCH  
OF  
THE KNIGHTS  
OF  
ST. JOHN.

(GROUND PLAN)

Drawn by  
HERR C. SCHICK  
K.W. Baurath  
1872.

MASONS' MARKS.

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