

AGE OF THE TEMPLE WALL.

II.—PILASTERS OF THE WEST HARAM WALL.

IN investigating the rock-cut aqueduct which leads from the Twin Pools to the Haram wall just south of the great rock scarp at the north-west corner, I was able to penetrate into a chamber (see Fig. 1) whence the old wall is visible at a higher level than that at which it has been observed at any other point.

This discovery was briefly referred to in my report written after the visit which was made April, 1873, in company with Mr. Shick and a party of young Englishmen then in the city.

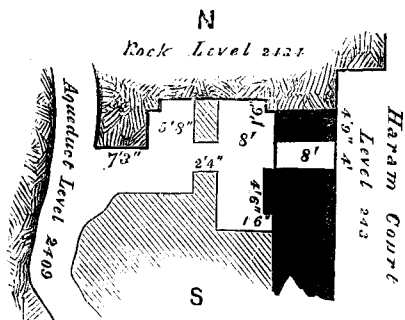
We passed along the passage which had been cleared out by Joseph Effendi on boards, and reached the end of the aqueduct at the point where the masonry had been previously described by Mr. Shick (*Quarterly Statement*, April, 1872, p. 50). The most interesting point with regard to the wall at this place is the fact that each course is set back about 6 inches, thus giving a batter to the wall. The care taken to preserve the effect on the eye produced by the sunk draft is remarkable. The set-back would naturally have the effect of making the horizontal drafts appear narrower than the vertical, which are flush, and for this reason the former are made 6 inches broad, the latter being only 3 inches; thus the total breadth of the surface on one plain is equalised.

The level of the rock at this point is 2409, 29 feet higher than the base of the great course, the highest left *in situ* along the greater part of the south wall. The height of the course visible is greater than the average given in Captain Warren's table, and less than that of the great course, being 4 feet 7 inches.

A batter was seen on the east wall by Captain Warren ("Recovery of Jerusalem," p 168) at a level 2370 and upwards. The set-back was here $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

From the point where the aqueduct begins to turn round towards the Haram wall, a small passage leads due east beside the south face of the great corner scarp. We were thus able to ascend through the floor into a small chamber built against the Haram wall outside (see Fig. 2). A window in this chamber looks into the Court of the Haram, which has here the level 2431. We found the masonry of the wall to be similar to that beneath, and the window to be ancient. Still more interesting was the fact that the wall is here seen built with pilasters projecting just like those of the Haram at Hebron. The breadth of the pilaster is more than double that at Hebron, which is, I believe, 2 feet 6 inches, and the distance apart 5 feet, whereas the buttress here visible is 4 feet 9 inches broad, and the distance from the corner one 8 feet 9 inches. The projection is 1 foot 6 inches.*

* The rock buttresses found in Souterrain No. 29 north of the platform might also be compared; they are 3 feet 6 inches broad, and from 12 to 13 feet apart. Their projection is about 8 feet.



PLAN SCALE $\frac{1}{250}$

Fig. 1.

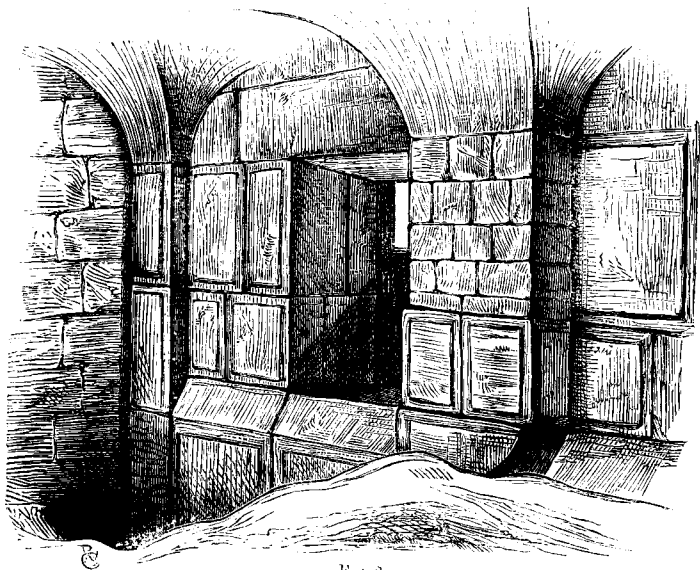


Fig. 2.

The north wall of the chamber is partly of rock, which here runs up in a scarp to the level 2434; in the north-east corner is a buttress of masonry 1 foot 6 inches broad. In the intervening space is the window with a flat lintel, the wall being 8 feet thick, the window 4 feet broad.

The projection of the pilasters is due to a bevelled set-back in the wall at the level of the sill of the window (2429). This measures 2 feet along the slope and 1 foot horizontally. The course immediately under the bevelled stones projects 6 inches, and is thus flush with the pilaster. This arrangement is similar to that of the tower at the north-east corner of the Haram. (See Plan and Sketch.)

This is, I believe, the only point where the masonry of the Haram has been observed at a higher level than that of the interior of the court, and it appears to show that the outer wall was originally decorated with pilasters. In his restoration of Herod's Temple, M. De Vogüé has so represented the wall.

It is probable that there would have been 70 of these buttresses along the south wall, but unfortunately the third buttress is south of the south wall of the chamber, so that the space between cannot be checked.

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NOTES FROM THE MEMOIR.

SINCE the publication of last *Quarterly Statement* the Memoir has been making very steady progress. Four sheets are now arranged, being respectively the Cæsarea sheet (7), the Bethshean sheet (9), the Gezer sheet (16), the Jericho sheet (18). The Jaffa sheet is also nearly ready (13). In addition, the translation of the nomenclature (6,000 names) is completed, and many valuable results have thus been obtained. Some 150 sites have been recovered (according to identifications proposed by me), which bear the names of Biblical towns, not to mention the numerous additions to our information as to Egyptian, Samaritan, early Christian, Talmudic, and Crusading sites furnished by the map.

The principal points of interest in the sheets as yet completed may thus be briefly summed up.

Sheet 7.—A full description of Roman and Crusading Cæsarea, the hippodrome, temple, theatre, harbour, the Crusading cathedral and walls, the two great aqueducts, an account of *Kefr Lâm* (the Crusading Capernaum), and of various rock cemeteries along the shores.

Sheet 9.—The description of the Roman town of Scythopolis, its theatre and hippodrome, the Crusading citadel. Full account of the fortress of Belvoir, of the sites of Nain, Endor, Jezreel, and Shunem; also the proposed sites of the well Harod, of Bethabara ('*Abâra*), and of Megiddo (*Mujedd'a*).

Sheet 16.—An account of Yebnah (Jabneel), its church and mosques, with their inscriptions, the probable site of Gath at *Tell es Sâfi*, and of