

for the discussion of these points. It therefore happens that a great many pages may be devoted to the site, say, of Emmaus. This practice, Professor Socin points out, may lead to the general adoption of a wrong theory, or at all events of sites and routes which do not commend themselves to many scholars and students. This may possibly happen. But the best way to prevent it from happening is for every opinion to be represented. The *Quarterly Statement* is read by Palestine students over the whole world. If this is borne in mind by Professor Socin, he may himself perhaps be minded to prevent the spread of what he considers error.

The *work* of the Society, properly so-called—all that the Committee are called upon to defend—is the mass of *facts* which it has been able to amass and is still amassing. A practically impregnable map, for instance; an immense Name List, which may be added to and even revised: great discoveries in Jerusalem and elsewhere: a Geological Survey, not yet published: thousands of ruins sketched and surveyed,—this constitutes the work that has been done. But theories, etymologies, illustrations, tribe boundaries, and speculation generally do not constitute the work of the Society, and must not be criticised under that name. W. B.

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## NEW DISCOVERIES IN JERUSALEM.

BY SELAH MERRILL, D.D., LL.D.

DURING the past two or three months some very interesting tombs have been discovered in the western slope of the hill above Jeremiah's Grotto. As these appear to have direct connection with the church in that vicinity described by Captain Conder and Lieutenant Mantell in the *Quarterly Statement* for April, 1882, pp. 116-120, and further described by myself in the *Quarterly Statement* for October, 1883, pp. 238-242, the reader is referred to those two articles for the previous history of excavations in this quarter.

On page 241 (as above) I stated that the ruins appeared to extend under ground to the south-east and east of the point where the Mosaic floor (see page 239) was found, and spoke of the desirableness of the work of excavation being extended in those directions. During the past year (1884) this work has been done to a certain degree, and my supposition has been confirmed by the new facts disclosed.

There was found a short distance south-east of the Mosaic floor, the threshold of a door. This was 8 feet long and 4 feet above the level of the Mosaic floor, and may have belonged to a later structure, unless it was a window in the older structure, which does not seem possible. Its size and the work upon it give the impression that it formed an important part of some large building.

The watercourse described on page 239 was found to extend much farther to the east, and in fact it disappears again in the mass of rubbish beyond the limit of the excavations in that direction. Before it disappears it turns by nearly a right angle to the south, and at the angle there is a large basin, or rather a small reservoir, still quite perfect.

Some 30 feet east of the Mosaic floor, and beyond a thick wall which belonged to the later structure, the base of a column, in position, was found, and this, I should judge, evidently formed a part of the older of the two churches which I have described.

Just north of the point where this base of a column was found, the large roof of a later structure has fallen in, and above the centre of its arch, which in the collapse of the building was inverted, the *débris* is fully 10 feet deep. This ruined building, whatever it was, now forms part of the mound which has yet to a large extent to be excavated.

Twenty feet south-east of this base of a column a deep channel or passage was found to have been cut in the solid rock, apparently coming from the north, and turning a right angle towards the east, in both of which directions it is covered by the great mound of *débris* just mentioned. This passage has been followed down 10 or more feet. The rock walls are vertical, and the passage, which is uniform in width, is 2 feet wide. The rubbish or mound above the surface of the rock is 10 to 15 feet in depth. It will be very interesting to learn the object of this deep channel, and where it leads to. It will be understood that as the bottom of the channel has not yet been reached, I report only the depth to which the clearing has already extended. Perhaps I ought to say that excavations in this particular part of the ruin were suspended nearly a year ago.

Among other things brought to light is a section of a column 15 feet long, 33 inches in diameter, and of the same character as those described on page 241.

The distance from the Mosaic floor to the place where the newly discovered tombs are found is about 60 yards in a south-east direction. They were really discovered by accident. To enclose this large plot of ground, and thus separate it from the road leading up the Jeremiah-Grotto Hill, a high wall was built, and in digging for a foundation for this the workmen dug into the tombs in question. In fact, where the wall passes over them they are very near the surface of the ground, although the *débris* on their west side was 10 feet deep.

The five accompanying plans will give a pretty correct idea of the character of these tombs.

Figure No. 1 is a ground plan of the tombs, of which there are two storeys. The lower storey was covered partly by a roof and partly by the side tombs being cut under the overlying rock.

Figure No. 2 is a ground plan of the lower storey of tombs.

Figure No. 3 shows the vertical wall at the west end of the lower storey of tombs, and how the roof was fitted into the rock.

Figure No. 4 shows the form of the separate rooms, a side, the top, and the front of one of the rooms being removed for that purpose.

Figure No. 5 shows a curious device found in one or more of the tombs (but not in all), namely, a kind of wreath in relief where the head would naturally be placed. Singularly enough, in tomb No. 7 they are found both at the head and the foot. The tombs being of such unusual size it is possible that two bodies were laid on one side, or bench.

GROUND PLAN OF ROCK-CUT TOMBS RECENTLY DISCOVERED ON THE SKULL HILL, JERUSALEM.

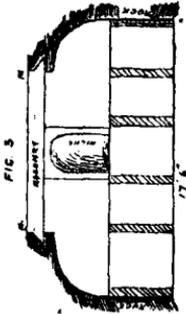
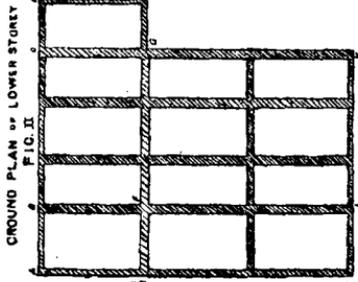
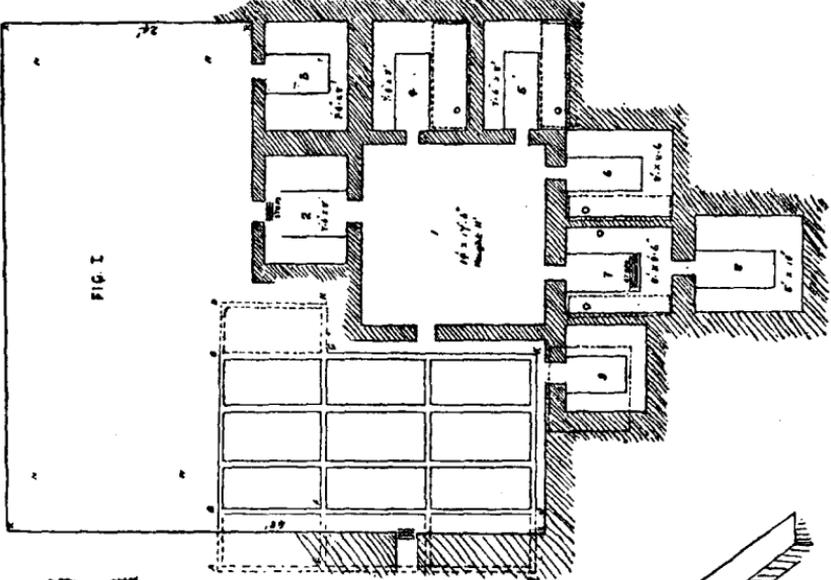


FIG. I.



GROUND PLAN OF LOWER STOREY  
FIG. II.

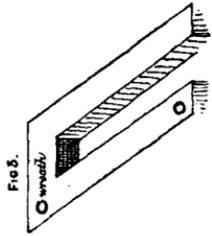


FIG. 5.

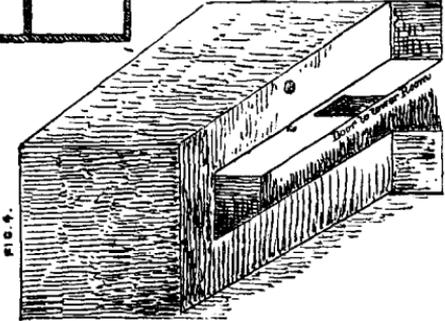


FIG. 4.

Room No. 1, Fig. I, seems to have been a large hall or chapel from which the rooms surrounding it led off in different directions. These are numbered from 1 to 9, Fig. I. Underneath these, or portions of them, are other rooms, represented by dotted lines, which are not numbered. The floors of the different rooms are all on a level with the floor of the chapel, with the exception of 2, which is not certain, and No. 8. A person would leave room No. 1, enter the door of room No. 7, and after a few feet ascend four steps and enter room No. 8, which is on a higher level than the others. Room No. 8 is the largest of all the rooms surrounding No. 1, or the chapel.

Between rooms No. 3 and 4 there was a hole or passage, but it seems to have been caused by a subsequent breaking away of the rock rather than to have been a doorway in the original structure.

Underneath a portion of the structure there was a vault for thirteen bodies or sarcophagi, represented in Fig. I, partly by solid and partly by dotted lines, and marked by the letters *A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K*. This vault was so constructed that the portion *B, C, J, K*, was roofed over (*MM*, Fig. 3), while the parts *A, B, I, J*, and *C, D, G, H*, were cut under the rock as seen on the right and left in Fig. 3. These thirteen graves were arranged in three rows, five in the western row and four in each of the two others. On the right hand side (see Fig. II and Fig. 3), only one tomb, *C, D, G, H*, was cut under the rock. The reason doubtless was that the designers did not wish to weaken the walls and floor of room No. 1, Fig. 1. The roof stones over *B, C, J, K* (Fig. i), were nicely fitted into the rock as seen in Fig. 3.

At *L* there was a large door, 3 feet wide and 6 feet high, with steps leading from the outside down upon the roof (*MM*, Fig. 3) over the vault *B, C, J, K*, Fig. I. This roof was on a level with the floor of room No. 1, Fig. I. The door at *L*, and that of room No. 1, were nearly opposite to each other. The roof over the vault being now broken in, we cannot say how one descended to it. This roof was 6 feet or  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet above the floor of the vault.

In the vertical wall of the western end of the vault (Fig. 3), over the middle place or receptacle, there is a niche, and a corresponding niche in the eastern wall. These niches were directly opposite to each other, but there being only four receptacles in the eastern row, the niche in the eastern wall must of course have one receptacle on one side of it and two receptacles on the other side.

The south wall of room No. 2 has been broken away, but being so much above the level of the vault, neither the roof of that nor any portion of *C, D, G, H* were in any manner affected by it.

The large space on the west, *N, N, N, N*, appears like the bed of a quarry, the general level of which being the same as that of the roof over the vault. This bed slopes considerably, however, towards the south-west. The *débris* over this portion was 10 feet deep, and sloped upwards towards the hill above Jeremiah's Grotto. These tombs were excavated in the western or north-western slope of the Jeremiah-Grotto Hill, and the road by which one ordinarily ascends this hill passes over rooms No. 6, 7, and 8, Fig. I.

Underneath rooms No. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9, Fig. I, smaller rooms are shown by dotted lines. That under room No. 9 is different in shape from the rest, and not quite perfect. With this exception these rooms are 4 feet wide, 3 feet high, and of the same length as the rooms above them. They are in each case on the right hand of the person entering the rooms. They were entered by doors  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, and of nearly the same width, cut in the vertical walls of the benches above them (Fig. 4). In the benches above the small rooms there was in each case a large hole marked by a circle in rooms Nos. 4, 5, 6, and 7, Fig. I. The actual arrangement is best seen in Fig. 4, which shows the interior of one of these rooms, the top, one side, and the front being removed so that the three benches for bodies or sarcophagi can be seen, also the passage into the room, the door in the vertical wall of the bench at the right hand leading to the small room and the hole in the bench above the small room. Room No. 7 has two such holes. (For what were these holes designed?—for ventilation? The Arabs say that they were made so that the dead could speak to each other.)

The walls in all the rooms are vertical, and the ceilings horizontal. This remark is intended to imply that there are no arches lengthways of the rooms, as are found in some tombs, over the benches where the bodies or sarcophagi were placed.

Room No. 8, Fig. I, is noticeable by its size, being larger than any of the others surrounding the chapel. I have explained above that it is on a higher level than the others. Moreover, the places for bodies in front and on the right and left hand were not benches as in the case of the other rooms (see Fig. 4), but open boxes like very large sarcophagi. The lids had been removed, whether by the present workmen or in former times I cannot say. Sarcophagi with their own proper lids may have been placed in these stone boxes.

It is reported that crosses have been found, but I saw none, and none were pointed out to me. Likewise, that inscriptions were found in connection with the broken sarcophagi. These had been removed and taken out of the country (so I was told). It may be, however, that, if they really existed, they were simply concealed in Jerusalem, and jealously guarded by the Latins to whom the place now belongs. I may say in passing that my visits, I felt, were looked upon with suspicion, hence I made my observations as quickly as possible and withdrew so as to avoid giving offence.

Great quantities of bones were found and carefully preserved in boxes. They may hereafter serve some priestly or churchly purpose when the place and time have been prepared for their use.

In the middle receptacle of the western row of graves, over which I have said that there existed a niche, there is a part, perhaps one-half, of a sarcophagus still remaining, and it may be that sarcophagi were placed in all these thirteen receptacles. Perhaps it will be understood without my saying it that what I have called receptacles are sunk in the solid rock.

Owing to a fact which I have alluded to above, my measurements were not minutely exact, but sufficiently so, I trust, for all practical purposes, and I will give some of them in detail. Room No. 1, which I have called a chapel,

is 14 feet by 17 feet 6 inches, and 11 feet high. Room No. 2 is broken, and the same is true of room No. 3, but the latter was 7 feet 6 inches by 8 feet. There was here also, as in some of the other rooms, the small room under the right hand bench. This I have indicated by dotted lines because the room was not absolutely perfect. Its construction, however, was like the others. Rooms No. 4 and 5 were each 7 feet 6 inches by 8 feet, and 6 feet high. Rooms No. 6 and 7 were a little larger, being 8 feet by 8 feet 6 inches, and 8 feet high. Room No. 8 was 8 feet by 10 feet, and 9 feet high, being, as I have said, the most spacious of all those surrounding the chapel. The doors of these different rooms were 6 feet high and about 3 feet wide. The width from wall to wall across the western row of receptacles (see Fig. 3) was 17 feet 6 inches. The entire length of the three rows of receptacles I did not get. The distance from the broken western wall of room No. 3 to the western side of the space marked *N, N, N, N*, is 24 feet, and that from the north to the south side of the same space is 48 feet.

Since the 1st of July of the present year the work of clearing away the rubbish has ceased, and forty or fifty workmen have been busily employed in erecting some sort of a chapel or church over the entire space marked in the plan. My plan, however, is of the ruin as I saw it before the building was commenced. Some parts will necessarily be walled in, but doubtless the idea is to preserve the tombs intact as far as possible.

It may be that some of those who read this article will have seen the model of the Golgotha Hill prepared by General Gordon, and if so they will be interested to know that the tomb represented on the side of that model is only ten yards distant from room No. 8 in my plan. Otherwise the tombs have no apparent connection.

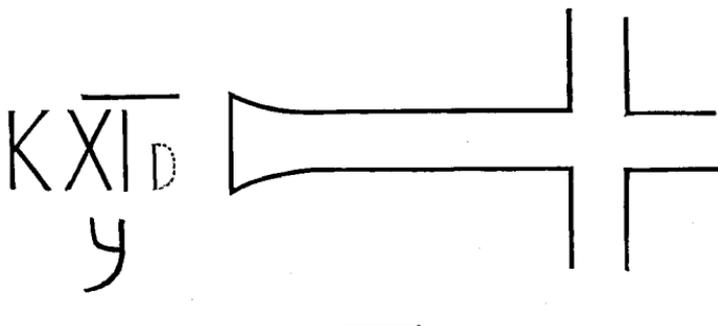
These newly discovered tombs appear to be Christian and not Jewish. It is well known that after the reputed discovery of the body of St. Stephen a magnificent church was erected to his memory by the Empress Eudocia, the wife of Theodosius the younger. The church was dedicated in A.D. 460, and the Empress herself was buried in it. This church was on the north of the city not far from the present Damascus Gate, which for ten centuries subsequent to this event bore the name of St. Peter's Gate. The church was built on the supposed place of the martyrdom of St. Stephen.

*Jerusalem, August 18th, 1885.*

#### POSTSCRIPT.

Since excavations in this particular quarter are assuming, as will be seen by the foregoing article, special importance, I would like to add a note to my description of the two churches which appeared in the *Quarterly Statement* for October, 1883; for the reason that on page 240 a singular mistake has somehow been made. It is in connection with the inscription which I found in the tomb near the Mosaic floor. As printed, two horizontal bars appear before, that is, on the left hand of the inscription, which I certainly did not place there. Two lines below the inscription I wrote: "extends from the 'X' to the small character at the end;" and instead

of inserting the letter or character "X," the printer has substituted the word "cross," which makes a bad mess with the sense I intended to convey. To set matters right it will be necessary to reproduce the inscription and the left hand bar of the cross as follows. It will be understood that the large cross was on the right hand of the inscription to one facing it.



#### NOTES BY CAPTAIN CONDER.

I HAVE just got the *Quarterly Statement* for July, and though very busy with boundary and land questions here, I should like to send you a note or two. It is a valuable number, and I am only sorry not to have seen the two preceding.

On page 154 I should like to say that though the proposed sites for Golan and Alema are possible, the suggestion of 'Arkûb er Rahwah for Argob is inadmissible. It has only the B and the R in common, and 'Arkûb is the common word for a "ridge." The Arabic for Argob would be Arjib or Rujib, and such places as Kefr Arjib and the northern Rujib are more suitable. Argob was, however, east of Golan to the best of my remembrance.

On page 159, I think the hot springs near Pella were probably some of those further north at Gadara. The whole of the paper by Mr. Guy le Strange is most interesting. Perhaps he may have noticed whether there are any mason's marks on the masonry at Kala't er Rubud, which would settle the Crusading origin which I always attributed to this castle, which I have only seen in the distance, but which Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake visited and considered Crusading.

Page 183.—The so-called altar at Zorah resembles many rock cuttings familiar to explorers in Palestine, which result from the quarrying of stone. Manoah would hardly have used an altar of cut stone.

Page 184.—The objection as to En Rogel raises the question of the dates and authorship of Old Testament books, which is evidently not one to be discussed in the *Quarterly Statement*.

Page 181.—Mr. Drake and I, in 1873, found what we took to be an overturned Dolmen in Judea, near the village of Jeb'a (Gibeah of