

ON SOME NEWLY FOUND INSCRIPTIONS.

I.

I AM afraid that anything I have to say about the inscriptions, of which you were good enough to send me copies at the moment of my departure from England, will have become unnecessary long before you receive this letter. I had no time to write to you before leaving Cairo, and on board a dahabiah one is beyond the reach of the post.

No. 1 reads *Μαρρούλη Χρηστή Χαίρε, ζήσασα ἔτη ξ*, "Farewell, good Marroulê, aged 7 years." *Χρήστος* is a common epithet in early Christian epitaphs, owing to the similarity of the word to *Χριστός*.

No. 2. *Ἰηω[ν?]α Χρήστε Χέρε*, "Farewell, good Jonas (?)." The reading of the proper name is uncertain.

No. 3. *Κλαύδιε Σαβεινίανε Χρήστε [κα]ῖ ἄλυπε Χαίρε*, "Farewell, good and harmless Claudius Sabinianus."

No. 4. *Κασσία Πρισκίλλα Χρήστη καὶ ἄλυπε*, "(Farewell), good and harmless Cassia Priscilla." "*Ἄλυπε*, "unsuffering one," is an adjective of two terminations; hence the masculine form of the vocative.

The potter's stamp shows that the maker's name was Paramonos.

The Phœnician inscription is a forgery. The Phœnician letters in it belong to different epochs, and are mixed with Greek characters, as well as with wholly imaginary ones.

The inscription on the gem seems to be Gnostic, and may be read *ω "Οραρε*.

I have unfortunately mislaid the Egyptian text, and owing to the want of books of reference can make no annotations on the names mentioned in the Greek inscriptions.

Syût, 4th January, 1886.

A. H. SAYCE.

II.

I WISH to emphasise a remark which I made in my last report, and which appears on the top of p. 24, January *Statement*, namely, that I did not attempt to represent any of the older ruins found in excavating the place marked "open field." The field is now quite enclosed by the fine and substantial walls of the first story of the large building which is designed to occupy that ground. The work on this building has ceased during the rainy season.

A number of relics of the Tenth Legion were found deeply buried under the accumulations here, and I present herewith a description of one of the most interesting of these. The column was found 10 or more feet below the surface of the ground, and about 7 yards directly west of the northern end of the red line which in the plan is shown opposite Fruteger's bank.

M'IVNIO·
 MAXIMO·
 LEG'AVGG·
 LEG'X'FR·
 C'DOM'SERG·
 IVL'HONORATVS·
 STR^{AE}EIV

This inscription was found on a marble column about 15 feet below the surface of the ground. The column was lying among *débris*, and the dimensions are as follows: length 40 inches, diameter 21 inches, length of space occupied by inscription 26 inches; inscription in seven lines, length of ordinary lines 16 inches, length of longest line 25 inches.

I wish to add that I have measured again the ground beneath which, during last summer, the second wall was exposed, and find that the portion exposed was 120 feet in length; about 30 yards only had been uncovered when I made my last report.

Jerusalem, January, 1886.

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NEW DISCOVERIES.

BY LAURENCE OLIPHANT.

As upon the occasion of my last visit a year ago to the north-eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee I had heard of certain ruins which I was then prevented from visiting, I determined to take advantage of the month of December, which, on account of the absence of vegetation at that season, is the best time for investigation, to return to that district. On arriving at Mohammed Said Pasha's Hasil at El 'Aráj, on the north shore of the lake east of the mouth of the Jordan, I was so fortunate as to find his Vakeel, who informed me that the natives had been getting out more stone at El Hasaniyeh, and had found two on which were carved the figures of lions.

I accordingly proceeded thither, and perceived the aspect of the ruins some-

FIG 1

