

## NOTES FROM JERUSALEM.

## I.

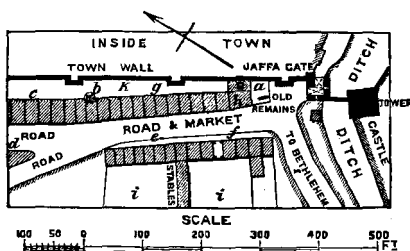
*Jerusalem, June 8th, 1887.*

1. *Tomb in Wady Yasûl.*—Referring to my first report on this tomb and the plan and drawings of it (*Quarterly Statement*, p. 112), I have to report that, according to order, all the chambers (except the one in which the sarcophagus stands) were cleared out, and not any *opening* found nor anything of interest. But as it was in the rainy season, the cistern has been full of water, so it could not be examined. Now it is nearly empty, and when fully dry I will examine it. In the meantime, the little hole in the rock wall, through which the stone box could be seen, was enlarged by chiselling, with the intention of making it so large that a man might go in. But by so doing, knocking much on the rock, a large piece of rock gave way inside the room, from its top, and fell down just on the sarcophagus and in front of the opening; so going on further in this way is useless, but it wants some digging from above, only I have not yet decided the spot where to do it.

2. *Second Wall*—All my endeavours to get permission to dig for, anywhere in the street or inside houses, are hitherto without result, but I hope the time will also one day come. So I have nothing to report on this matter.

3. *Old Remains, &c., outside Jaffa Gate.*—(See sketch p. 214.) Outside the gate, but attached to the town wall, there was hitherto an open court fenced up. The ground belongs to the Greek Convent, so the Archimandit Eflhymias (or Ephthyinus), who built the large new building near this gate inside the town is now busy building some shops, &c., also in this little court marked in the plan with *a*. By digging the foundations, old masonry of large stones with bevells (or margins round about) were found, but for a short piece only; finding it strong, further diggings were given up, and building was commenced on the old masonry. The old masonry was found only a few feet under the surface of the ground. As they were not allowed to attach the new building to the town wall, they were obliged to make a *new* wall, leaving a space of 6 inches between the two (the new and the town wall). By digging foundations for it, it proved that the town wall does not stand on the rock, but on earth. Going down only a few feet under the surface of the ground in front of the gate, they dug down about 8 feet deep and found no rock, but built also on the earth; further away from the gate, some years ago, new shops were built (*c*), and thus were found the ruins of an old strong tower (6 in plan). So it is now proved that the ancient wall stood about 26 feet further out, *i.e.*, lower down on the slope of the hill, and, as it seems, in a line with the north-western tower of the present castle—standing very likely on the site of the old Hippicus.

## PLAN OF JAFFA GATE AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Scale,  $\frac{1}{1250}$ .

Sketched by C. SCHICK, June, 1887.

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| <p><i>a.</i> Hitherto a court, now shops.</p> <p><i>b.</i> Some years ago found ruins of old Tower.</p> <p><i>c, d, e, f.</i> New shops.</p> | <p><i>g.</i> Older shops.</p> <p><i>h.</i> Custom House.</p> <p><i>i.</i> New Khan.</p> |
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It is now proved that the Mohammedans, when building the present wall, not only put it more inside (as it is also, be it observed, on the northern side of the town), but put it simply on the earth, without any foundations. At *k* the earth became also removed to the level of the road or market in front of the shops; and there the wall is built of rubble about 9 feet high, where the layers of hewn stones began.

*d, e, f.* New shops have been built in the last years; also at *i* a new khan made. Also a great many new houses built outside the town. It would be well to enter all this in the Ordnance Survey Plan of Jerusalem.

4. *Triple Gate at Haram Esh Sherif.*—In the wall at the so-called stables of Solomon, especially in the region of the Triple Gate, openings were made, so that these substructures are now lighted—wanting no more candles when going there. This has the advantage of enabling one to see the state of things much better—every stone can be examined. A good deal of the accumulated earth there has also been removed, but it is not yet ended.

5. *Large Caves near Ramleh.*—Having reported on them, I have got a letter from the Secretary, saying that the Society wishes to know if they are artificial, and their extent. This letter I handed over to H.B.M. Consul, in order to get the Government's permission to undertake the work of a thorough examination of these caves. The result will afterwards be reported on.

6. *Mr. Luncz's Book.*—There is a Jew here, Mr. Luncz, by a very great deal of study day and night—having become nearly blind—issues every year a little book on Palestine matters, with the title "Jerusalem." The second has been recently finished, and he brought me a copy to send it to the English Palestine Exploration Fund, which I hope you will soon receive.

I wish also to express my humble and hearty thanks for sending me

Captain Conder's "Syrian Stone Lore"—which I have duly received, and am now about reading it. What an amount of learned information it contains! Accept my best thanks, and be kind enough to convey my thanks also to the Committee.

There is now a new plan and proposal to make a railway from here to Jaffa, and, as it was explained to me, the undertaking will bring much profit, and pay the interest of the outlay. The amount, or estimate, is grounded on the income the present carriage road brings in. It is now rented for 1,025 Turkish liras—not quite £1,000 English; they have many expenses yet, still they make a profit—it is reckoned 2,000 liras annually.

The Russian tower on the top of Mount Olivet becomes higher and higher; it is hoped to see from its top both seas (the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean), but it is not certain, only hoped for. On the west of the town two large buildings are now erected—Rothschild's Hospital and a Russian Pilgrim-house. The latter is very well built, and will become one of the finest buildings here. The hospital is carried out in a monumental shape, the lower part in a Cyclopean style. The Russian Church, near the Garden Gethsemane, is also near its completion as far as the shell—not the inside finishing—is concerned. Jerusalem loses more and more its old grand appearance, and acquires a modern look round about; inside it remains the same old city, except that the streets become better paved and graded.

Baron Rothschild, from Paris, who has been lately here, wishes to buy all the small buildings in the Mograbbim quarter and to pull them down, in order to make a large free place for the Jews, and so enlarge greatly their wailing place. He has thus to build new houses for the people losing theirs, in a better position of the town. I had to make an estimate of the probable expense, but the sum is so high that I think the idea will be given up and not carried out, at least not on such a grand scale. For his lady I had also to make an estimate to provide Jerusalem with water from a spring. I proposed Bireh; if this should be carried out, then we shall find the traces of the old aqueduct.

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## II.

*Jerusalem, July, 1887.*

DURING the last quarter I have sent you several communications, as I think it is better to send things as soon as possible, and not to wait to the end of the quarter.

But now I wish to give a general report on the various subjects.

1. *The Tomb in Wady Yasul with the Sarcophagus.*—Several months ago we tried to make the small hole in the rock larger by chiselling, so as to enable a youth to go in for ascertaining the inside, and the situation of the entrance, so to be enabled to open it. But, unhappily, by the outside knocking, inside a large piece of rock gave way and fell down just on the sarcophagus and in front of the hole, so we were obliged to give the work up as it was impossible to remove the large piece.

By carefully examining everything, it was found that in the well, or cistern (so called), there seemed to be on one of its sides a kind of *door*, but as it was full of water we could do nothing but wait till it became empty, which is now the case; but I found the excavation was originally no well but a *tomb chamber*; it has on the west wall three loculi, and very likely it was intended also to make such on the three other sides, but the intention was never carried out. From this chamber there is no communication with the one in which the sarcophagus stands. That the inner chamber, full of "bones and mould," from which I hoped to find a passage, was cleared out by my men and no communication found, I have reported to you in one of my former letters. (P. 112, April *Quarterly Statement*.)

So the matter is rather difficult, and wants digging on a larger scale, but this will cost a good deal of money, which I am afraid to lay out, and also without leave from the Governor I can hardly carry on the work without falling in with difficulties; so, as I have waited long enough and chance has not led me into any other way, I will beg leave from the Pasha to let me dig there.

2. *Old Channel near Jeremiah's Grotto*.—In my Notes (p. 160, July *Quarterly Statement*), I wrote that the principal man of the place not being here but in France, the man in charge of the place will not give the permission to excavate there, so I waited till the "Reis"—the Captain—returned from France, which happened a few weeks after Easter. As he was busy with the French caravans of pilgrims I was told to wait till the pilgrims had gone; then the man fell ill and finally died; so matters stand as before. I am told the new "Reis" (Captain) will come in a few weeks, and then the work may be done.

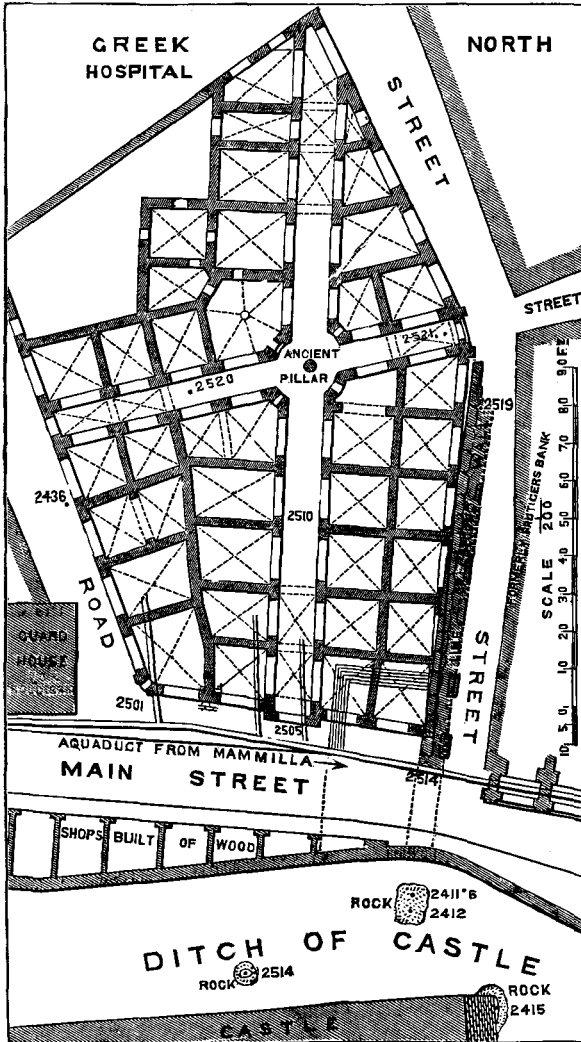
3 During the three last months the Municipality has gone on with their work of making sewers under the streets; they did it in the small square south of the Damascus Gate, and are now under the road "Tarik Bab el Amud"<sup>1</sup> (see Ordnance Survey, plan  $\frac{1}{2500}$ ). At the square, about 6 feet under the surface, they found troughs, or smaller basins, of very smooth stones, and at its eastern end a cistern, which they will restore, and make of them a "Sabil" (or drinking place) there. On the old pavement of the square and further on under the street, about 8 and 9 feet under the surface (the old pavement) was found, consisting of smooth and large flat stones, about 1 foot thick, and from 3 to 6 feet long and 3 to 4 feet broad. The new sewer is to be laid deeper, so they are obliged to remove or to break these pavement stones. This pavement has a slope towards the south, similar to the street above it.

Under the street, going from the "Suk" (market) northwards in a straight line to the before-mentioned square, an old sewer was found, and simply cleared, which trended eastwards about 25 feet south of the square, and went a short distance on in a south-easterly direction under the eastern street, where it ended. I think it became destroyed when the present

<sup>1</sup> The eastern one, running down in the Wady.

houses were built. This part of the old sewer, now going from west to east under the houses, proves that in ancient times the houses did not go so far north as now, and thus the square there was at that time much larger.

No. 1. PLAN OF NEW BUILDING AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD, SHOWING LINE OF SECOND WALL.



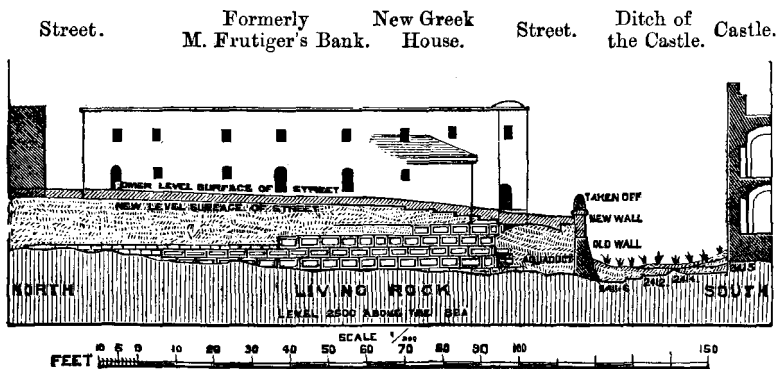
Drawn by C. SCHICK.

4. The building of a new Moslem school at el Manninjeh (No. 42, Ordnance Survey Plan) has gone on very slowly, and nothing of importance has been found up till now, except that there are arches below, the entrances blocked up and partly full of earth. When cleared I will inspect them.

5. *Khankeh*.—I have sent you plan and sections of the quarter north of the Church of the Sepulchre (generally called "Hareth el Khankeh"), showing and explaining the features of the rock as laid bare when the sewer was made in the centre under the street. (See Notes on Jerusalem, p. 154.) During the work heaps of earth were put on the sides of the street; this, when cleared away, and just at the Khankeh Minaret, the new surface of the street was laid about 2 feet deeper, I found that the *rock is creeping out* on a place not observed before, on account of what I just now said. The rock can now be seen for a length of about 8 feet, 34 to 42 feet east from the middle of the entrance hall and door of the Khankeh building (close west of the minaret). At the place in my drawing (the section, p. 154) you will see a little door or the end of an old sewer; this is just on the western scarp of this part of the rock, in which is now cut one step to go up into the shop there; the third door east from Khankeh entrance.

6. Your letter, respecting the large cave near Ramleh, I have communicated to Mr. Moore, the English Consul. He thinks I must get permission from the Government for exploring; this he will procure when I want to go down; but for the present I cannot do it, as it is too warm and I am myself not quite well. However, I will keep your wishes in mind.

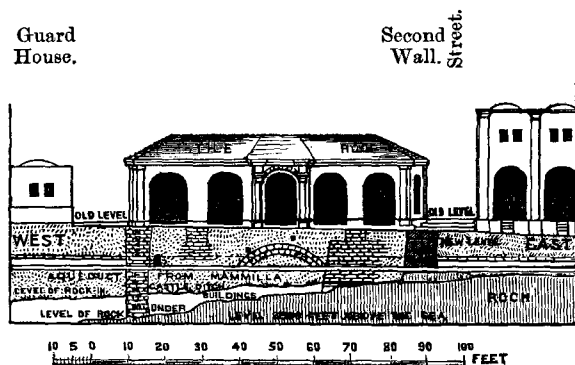
No. 2. ELEVATION, ACCORDING TO A LINE ALONG EAST SIDE OF NEW GREEK BUILDING AND TO CASTLE IN SOUTH, SHOWING THE REMAINING PORTION OF THE SECOND WALL.



Drawn by U. SCHICK.

7. *The Second Wall*.—This is my chief endeavour, but am sorry to say hitherto I have made very little progress, nor have I much hope for the future. Enclosed I send you some drawings connected with the matter. The continuation of the piece found when the Greek building was erected can,

No. 3. ELEVATION, SHOWING ALSO FOUNDATIONS OF NEW GREEK BUILDING.



Drawn by C. SCHICK.

without excavations, hardly be verified;<sup>1</sup> and excavations are almost impossible, as the proprietors of the houses will not allow it, so we must wait for an opportunity. I went in all the houses so far as it seemed to me of any use, in order to see the masonry in cellars, &c., but found nothing of interest or any indications pointing to the said wall. What may be considered of the kind is at the sharp corner in the "Harat a Mawazine," where the number 2,532 stands (Ordnance Survey Plan  $\frac{1}{2500}$  scale). There are large stones on the outside of the walls, which I consider as remains of the "corner gate," but it wants excavating, which will be done when the sewer is made.

In thinking the matter over I came to the conclusion that some diggings should be made in the ditch of the castle, in order to find out in what manner the second wall joined the castle wall; probably at the same time also to find the gate Gennath. This certainly I could not do without consent of the authorities. It was a long negotiation, sending me from Pilate to Herod, and from the latter to the first, or to a third. Finally I found it to be a matter for the *military* pasha; he consented, but with the understanding that the officers received a backsheesh, which I promised, and so I commenced the work. I had an idea that we had to go down 10 to 15 feet, and was astonished at finding the rock so near the surface, and in consequence of this no remains of the second wall were found, which must have been removed when the ditch was made. In three different places I found the rock very near the same level, or even a few feet higher, than it was found under the new Greek building. Of all this the adjoining plan, &c., will give full explanation.

\* In regard to the "Scarp," Dr. Merrill has, it appears, written what he

<sup>1</sup> The more so as not knowing the direction.

was told by the masons. I found out there is, except a few feet high, no escarpment. The chief mason who worked there told me also there is a scarp of rock about 12 feet high, but he could not explain to me how he came to this knowledge, and once he said, "Oh, only half a metre high." So it seems he told Dr. Merrill, telling him what he wished to hear. But the architect of the building and many other labourers told me there is no scarp of rock, but the rock surface slanting or shelving downwards towards west, so that it is clear the wall stood on the highest ridge. I wished also to examine the present aqueduct bringing the water from Mammilla Pool to that of Birket Hammán, inside the town, but it is choked with earth, and only a few inches left for the running of the water in winter, so that without cleaning it properly nothing could be done. I wished to ascertain throughout if it is masonry or partly hewn through rock; but I am convinced the latter is not the case, but it is all built *above* the rock, as I have shown in Nos. 2 and 3; its line is given in No. 1.

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#### EXPLANATIONS TO THE DRAWINGS.

No. 1 is a plan of the new Greek building, with the second wall, as also other former buildings round about. When the house was built old masonry was found of small stones, built up in a *shop*, forming an angle, which is also shown, and three channels or conduits, which were found at different levels. The plan shows also the line of the aqueduct coming from Mammilla Pool; the main street and new-built shops of wood; then comes the ditch of the castle, showing the three places where, by digging under the surface, I found the rock. In numbers I give the height of the levels of the rock above the sea in many places. Those under the new building I was told (the depth of rubbish in each place) by the chief architect, and the mason I asked afterwards gave the same statements. The thickness of the second wall could not be properly ascertained, but so far as I myself have seen things and can judge, it was about 7 feet, perhaps more. All the workmen and the architect say something above two metres, which comes to the same measure.

No. 2 is an elevation, showing the lie of the rock with the pieces of the second wall. Also the present level of the surface of the street, and also the former level; the shading between the two lines show what has been removed from the ground, and the parapet wall of the ditch. The height of the neighbouring buildings of the castle wall and the new Greek house is also shown.

No. 3, an elevation from west towards east, showing all what is said under 2, the former level of the street, the new or present one, and the foundations of the new Greek building. In the west they sunk a shaft down to the rock, and filled it with masonry; for the next pier they did not go so deep, but found old masonry of some sort a few feet from the



surface and built on it, then for the two middle piers they put wood on the ground and built a flat arch over it, and on the arch the wall and piers ; the next pier they putt on the old slanting masonry, and the last on the eastern corner on the remains of the second wall. There are four layers of old stones, the one at the bottom lying on a small rock scarp. The aqueduct coming from the Mammilla Pool is also shown, and then the rock as it is under the new building, and also at the castle ditch. Both elevations are put on a level at 2,500 feet above the sea.

C. SCHICK.

## RECENT DISCOVERIES.—NOTES AND NEWS FROM GALILEE.

By G. SCHUMACHER.

1. *Zimmârn*.—At the flourishing colony of Roumanian Jews, founded and maintained by the Baron Edmond de Rothschild, of Paris (situate at the ancient site of Zimmârn, and now called Zicron-Jacob), antiquities of interest are daily brought to light by the remarkable and warm attention which is paid to their discovery by its President, Professor Wormser. On the slope between the actual Khirbet Zimmârn (Palestine Map, Sheet VIII) and the south-western summit (marked 554 feet on the map), a large building, with remains of arcades, small and large rooms, partly paved with Mosaic, partly with marble-plates, was discovered. The walls built of large hewn stones of 2 feet and 2 feet 5 inches in length are set in mortar ; now and then a red brick piece masoned between the blocks is discovered. The mortar is good and contains lime and sifted parts of the local Maleki-rock, but no sea sand. A southern small room of about 6 by 4 feet was laid a foot lower than its neighbouring rooms, was carefully plastered, and contained, as mentioned, a marble floor ; the other divisions are not yet entirely opened, but also show a cover of solid plaster and side-openings near the floor similar to water conduits. The upper part or roofing, entirely destroyed, lies from 2 to 3 feet below the present surface of the ground, which consists of an alluvial brown earth. No marks or signs have been as yet discovered. To judge from the general divisions, we here have a bath, which by its position may have been supplied by a near spring, which may be hidden below the "Ulleik" bushes (raspberry) of the slope, and which, according to native views, are a true sign of live water. Continued excavations will soon enable me to furnish a plan of it.

Near by this bath several column capitals were found ; they are of a Corinthian and an Ionic style, with rough sculpturings. The Corinthian capitals are of marble, much defaced, but the acanthus-leaf ornament can still be sufficiently distinguished ; the Ionic specimens are of limestone, very primitive, and have the shape figured ; from which it is seen that the volutes end in a cross of Byzantine-

