

VI.

JERASH TEXTS.

HAVING had occasion to refer again to the longest of the texts in hexameter at Jerash (P. E. F. *Quarterly Statement*, 1870, September), it appears to me that the writer refers not to a slaughter house, but to the Pagan temple, beside which the church rose.

As churches were not built before the reign of Constantine (at least not such buildings as that at Jerash), the text is probably not older than the 4th century. I did not see this longer text, but copied the shorter one, also in hexameter, concerning a wrestler named Theodorus, whose body is in earth, and his soul in the wide heaven. The forms of the letters on this latter agree with the Greek cross in giving a date not earlier than 330 A.D. I attach a hexameter translation of the longer text in support of my view as to its meaning.

Wonder and awe together the passer by have encountered
 Clouds of error are gone and now in place of the darkness
 Which was aforetime here the Grace of God is around me.
 And when the sound of the groans of the four-footed victims is
 silenced

Formerly falling here—and dire was the stench that arose :
 So that the way faring man must stop his nostrils in passing
 Yea and strive to escape the evil smell on the breezes.
 Now on the sweet-smelling plain the wandering travellers journey
 Lifting up as they go the palm of the right to their faces
 Making the honoured sign of the cross as a deed that is holy.

And if you further would ask this also that you may know it
 Æneas¹ to me has given this excellent glory
 Æneas the all-wise priest well instructed in worship.

C. R. C.

VII.

THE TELL AMARNA TABLETS.

THE recent find of Babylonian Cuneiform tablets between Memphis and Thebes, in Egypt, appears likely to be important in reference to Palestine. The date is believed to be about 1430 B.C., which, according to Usher's "Chronology," would represent the time of Joshua, but perhaps more probably preceded the Hebrew conquest of Palestine. It is not our oldest monumental information, since we have much information about Palestine in the days of Thothmes III, a century and a half earlier, but it is a century

¹ Æneas is a name which occurs in Palestine in the time of Herod as that of a Nabathean ruler in Petra.