

## RECENT DISCOVERIES IN JERUSALEM.

## AN ANCIENT CHURCH IN TARIK SITTI MARYAM.

THERE was until recently east of the Sisters of Zion, and west of the premises of the Church of the Flagellation (*see* Wilson's Plan 33), an empty or waste place—*débris* covering ruins and walled up on the side next the street "Tarik Bab Sitti Maryam," opposite the stairs leading up into the barracks. Grass was growing there every year, but 51 feet backwards (north) from the street, Mohammedan houses, of comparatively modern date, are standing.

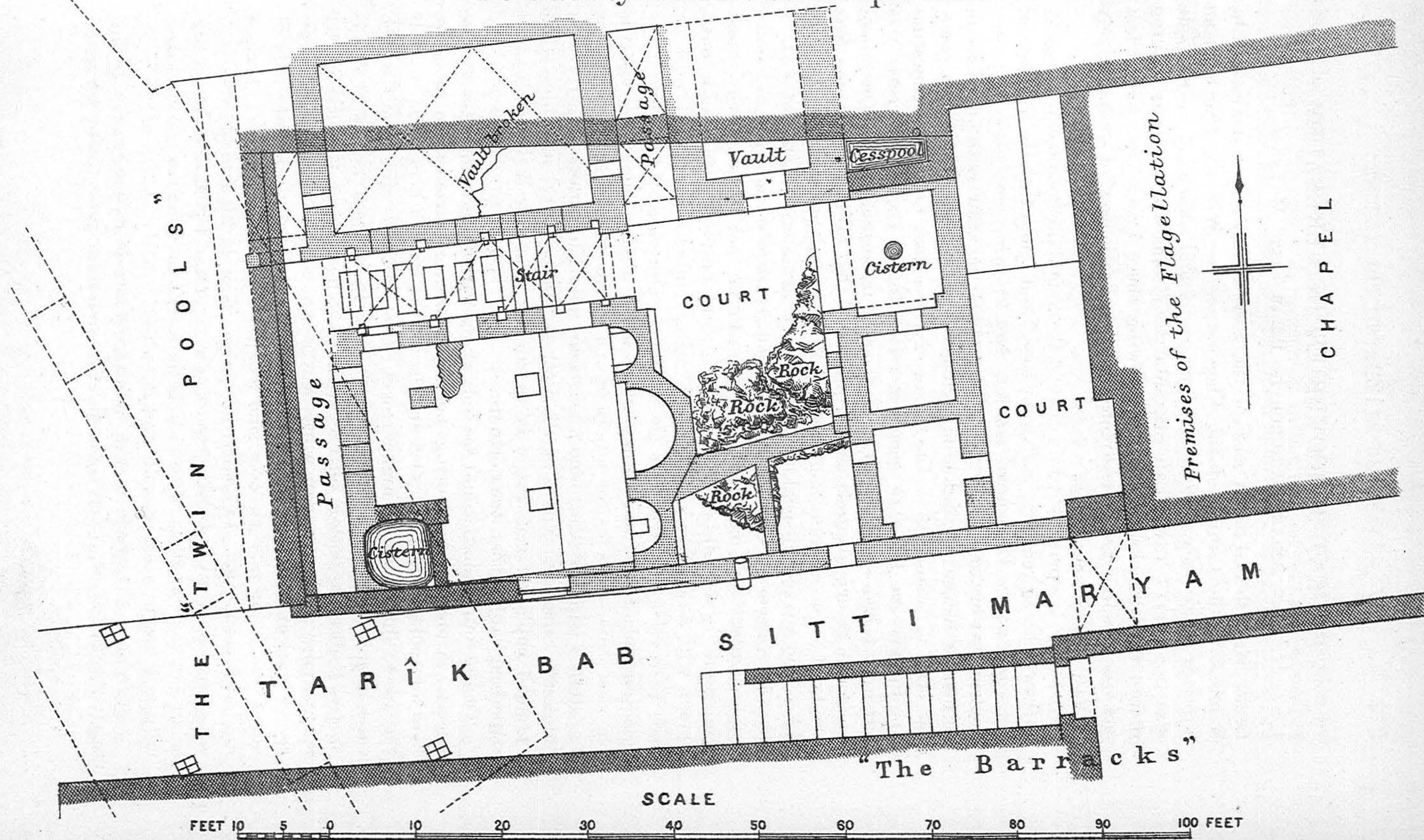
One day in April I was told that in the neighbourhood of the barracks earth was being removed, so I went there, and found that the overseer of the work was a Franciscan monk. Not knowing me, he looked very suspicious at my going over the place, giving no answers to questions in German or Arabic, but asked my guide who I was. So I left the place, and sent my man to the Dragoman of the Latin Convent, requesting him to give me leave to measure and examine thoroughly what was found, as I had seen that it was of some importance. The Dragoman sent me in return his greeting, let me know that he had to ask the *Reis* (the head of the convent), and requested me to apply the next day. We did so, and a German-speaking monk and a cavass were then sent with us that the overseer or workpeople might not create any hindrance, or behave unpleasantly. So I had full leisure to examine and measure everything. The result is as follows:—There were laid open the walls of a small church with adjoining buildings, the latter embracing a small court on which the rock looks out from the bottom. The walls of the church are still standing, 5 feet, and in some places more, high. There were towards the east three apses (as the adjoining plan will show). In the northern an altar is still existing, and the others also had altars formerly. In the southern apse the slabs of the altar are taken away, and only a kind of small cupboard remains. It is curious that the southern apse is something larger than the northern.

Of the four piers I could see only the north-western one, of very fine stones. A piece of the flooring has been uncovered, consisting of large, hard and polished stones; such are also on the strip of flooring in front of the apses, on a slightly higher level. The rest was still covered with earth, and in the south-western corner of the church is now a round-shaped cistern, its bottom on a level with the flooring of the church. It is apparently Mohammedan work of a much later date. The west wall shows marks of some alterations; one can observe two different kinds of stone, and so it is with door and windows. All of them were blocked up, but it seems that originally there was a door in the middle, over it a window of some arched-shape, and to the right and left also windows, but small and right-angled. Later on both doors and windows were blocked up, and a larger window made and left.

In front of this western wall was once a street or passage open to the sky. Further north it was covered over, and from the present spring of

# PLAN OF OLD CHURCH RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN JERUSALEM

Measured by Baurath C. Schick April 1889.



"TWIN POOLS"

THE

TARĪK BAB

SITTI MARYAM

"The Barracks"

SCALE

FEET 10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 FEET

CHAPPEL

Premises of the Flagellation

the arch one can find the breadth of the passage as shown on the plan by a dotted line. The present passage is rather narrow, as the new wall of the building of the Sisters of Zion projects upon it. The north wall of the church has at the north-west corner a door, and it had originally three windows also, but later on was altered. Along the outside of this wall also there was originally an uncovered passage, 8 feet wide, and the opposite wall had door and windows, most of which were subsequently shut up and the passage vaulted over by four small cross vaults, their feet resting on corbel-stones inserted (new) into the wall, as shown in the plan. On account of the former windows in both walls, these corbels or brackets are not always at equal distances or exactly opposite one another, but placed on the masonry already existing.

On the flooring of the passage are lying across, at nearly equal distances from one another, six large stone slabs, which I think are tombstones. I found no inscription or marks on them. In later times this passage was used as a cesspool, so that all was very dirty when I examined it. Towards the east a flight of five steps nearly 2 feet wide leads up to a court where the rock is visible, on a level about 5 feet higher than the general level of the flooring of the church and the passage—so it is clear three or four steps are now missing.

Of the southern wall of the church I could see only a piece at the corner of the southern apse, the door where the donkeys were coming in and going out with their load of earth was there; the earth was not yet removed. Probably a door may be found in it and indications of windows. The latter is more doubtful, as the flooring of the church is only 6 feet 4 inches lower than the present surface of the street; the level of the floorings of the passages in west and north is about 10 inches higher, nearly the same as in the apses.

East of the church adjoining the street are two underground chambers. Their vaults are destroyed, and on their floor the rock rises up. Possibly other rooms may have stood on these underground chambers; but I doubt it, as there is lying in the modern wall the shaft of a pillar and the opening of a former gate, which very likely led immediately from the street to the court inside. East of this and of the court there are two rooms whose vaults have also fallen down, and north of them is an open space (formerly covered) with the mouth of a rock-hewn cistern full of water, further north of which is a modern cesspool for the neighbouring house. East of all this a kind of court has been cleared, and towards the north a great many stones are piled up. Then comes the wall of the premises of the Flagellation Church belonging also to the Franciscan brethren.

North of all this there were two larger rooms, the vaults of which are in great part fallen, but as a passage between is preserved one can measure how far these rooms went northwards, and observe that they are now half under the modern Mohammedan houses.

Although this newly-discovered church is only a very little one, still its existence, situation, and surroundings are of interest in many ways. It is interesting that a church was built so very near to that of the

Flagellation, midway between the latter and the Ecce Homo arch. What event of our Lord's sufferings or deeds may the builders have fixed here? I have no answer! It is also interesting, that this little church stands partly on the eastern of the Twin pools; and that just there was made later on a cistern *over* it, although a mouth of the pool below was near at hand. It is further interesting that now it is confirmed that east of the Twin pools there is no ditch or pool, and that the rock rather rises towards the east.

Several questions may be settled whilst the work of clearing the place is going on. But on the very day when I made the measurements, the 13th April, the work was stopped, and it has not since been resumed.

I had to give a copy of the plan to the Superior of the Convents, and when anything new is discovered he will allow me to examine and measure it, and so improve the plan. This is the reason why I could not send it earlier.

C. SCHICK.

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### THE MOUNT OF OLIVES.

Whilst the topography of the Holy City is in so many points doubtful, and a good deal of controversy on the real sites of places, walls, &c., has arisen, "Mount Olivet" alone is an exception. Everyone agrees that the Mount of Olives of Scripture is identical with the present "Jebel Tôr," east of Jerusalem, beyond the Kedron Valley, overlooking the City. The only question that can arise is, whether the whole range of the hills or only a part of them is included under the name? To make this question clearer a plan is appended of the whole ridge, which is commonly understood when the expression "Mount of Olives" is used, because it is *one* mountain.

If one looks to the mountain ridge itself, or examines this plan, it will be observed that the ridge is divided into *three* parts—*a.* *Mount Scopus*, on the north (I); *b.* The real *Mount of Olives*, in a stricter sense in the middle (II); *c.* The *Mount of Offence*, on the south (III). But the *centre-piece*, marked II, is also divided into *three* heads. The middle one, marked 1, has a double top; the eastern, which is the highest, now bearing a Russian Church and Convent, with a very high belfry, besides a Mohammedan Dome or Wely; and the western top, bearing the Village "Et Tôr" and the Church of the Ascension. The southern head, 2, is occupied by a French lady, who has built the Church of the Credo, a convent, and the "Pater noster," which is a kind of "campo santo," having cloisters surrounding an inner court. The northern top, 3, is called "Kurm es Saiad" = Vineyard of the Hunter, a modern name, but the old traditional name is "Viri Galilææ." It has been recently bought by the Greek Bishop Epiphanius, who has made some excavations and found things of which I will report in due course. In every age, even from very ancient times, the Mount of Olives was always more or