



## DISCOVERIES NORTH OF DAMASCUS GATE.

SOME time ago Mr. Schick reported a further examination of the Dominican ground north-west of Jeremiah's Grotto, and believes that indications of a second church—older, and also larger, than that previously known—have been discovered. He wrote: "The diameter of the pieces of the shaft of a column, which were found built into the wall of the pool formerly described (*Quarterly Statement*, 1889, p. 116), is considerably over 4 feet. They may have once stood on the pedestal now standing in the centre of what I consider to be the apse of a former church (*see Plan, A*). This pedestal is formed of one stone of hard 'mizzeh,' roughly dressed, and was certainly intended to be under the flooring of the church and not seen. It is probably *in situ*, as the measurements from its centre in all directions indicate. Round this pedestal, especially towards the east, many good hewn stones were lying; westward, on a higher level, some Crusading masonry was found, especially a strong wall running north and south, resting on the rock of the eastern side of the pool. North of it was a kind of thin wall of polished stones, forming two steps (B); and further to the north, on a lower level, a flooring of well executed mosaic, forming geometrical figures in different colours, but with no inscriptions or figures of plants or animals. The shaft of a pillar of white marble, a foot in diameter, was also found here, and the pedestal of masonry on which it had once stood. Still farther in the same direction, 16 feet from the long steps and parallel with them, is a rock scarp (C). As this scarp is exactly in a line with the Byzantine remains—namely, a pedestal and threshold—shown on the plan (D) it is clear that these once formed part of the northern wall of a large church. Further west, a Byzantine threshold of a door (E) is situated exactly at a right angle to the said wall, and appears to have been a door in the western wall of the church. To the south of the pool, and of a Crusading wall which exists there, a kind of Byzantine threshold (F) was found, situated exactly parallel with the long steps and the northern wall of the church, and this appears to have been a point in the southern wall. As further east there is mosaic in the flooring and a piece of thick plaster standing at right angles to this threshold, and as to the north of it similar plaster, about three-quarters of an inch thick and 4 or 5 feet high, was found standing in the rubbish (the stones on which it had rested having been taken away), and forming a line as shown on the plan (A), it is quite clear we have the *apse of a Byzantine church*. The impression of the stones can still be seen on the plaster, by which it appears that the plaster had been put on the outside of the wall, probably with the object of preventing wet coming through, the ground outside being higher than the flooring of the church. It seems that the walls of this church were only 3 feet thick, so that it must have been covered with a wooden roof, and not arched. Further clearance of the ground may bring more to light. At present we may conclude that there was here a *basilica*, with a

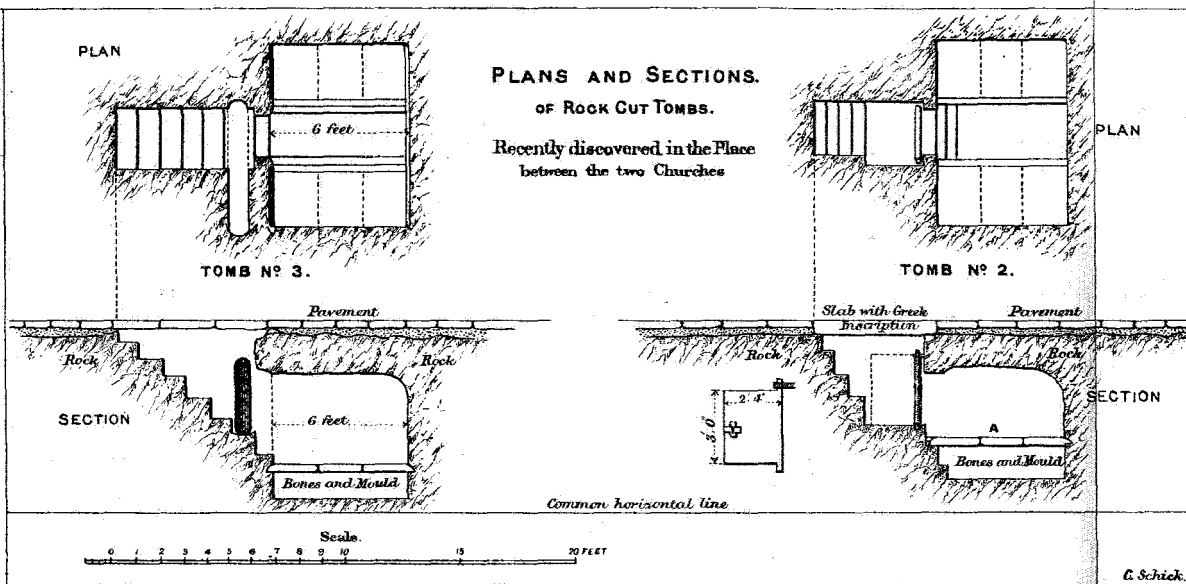
wide nave and narrow side aisles. The monks hope one day to find *the tomb of St. Stephen*, but hitherto nothing of the kind has been discovered.

“It appears to me quite clear that the rock cuttings (*Quarterly Statement*, 1889, p. 116) are the oldest work, and belong to the Jewish period; that in the Byzantine period the pool, &c., were filled up and a church built, about 130 feet long by 73 feet wide, outside measurement, very nearly the same size as the Church of St. Anne; that this original St. Stephen’s Church was destroyed by the Mohammedans, and that subsequently, when the Crusaders came into possession of the place, they used the stones for their new buildings, and erected the smaller church which was found some years ago and described in the Jerusalem Volume of the Survey. As there are mosaic pavements in the eastern part of the two side aisles of the church last discovered, and (on the northern side) two steps go up to the nave, it is clear that the flooring of the latter, at least at the eastern end, was on a higher level than the rest of the church. Perhaps under it St. Stephen’s tomb may be found.”

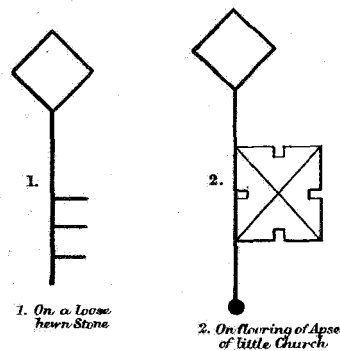
In a subsequent letter Mr. Schick reported that “without entirely clearing the site of the church, the ground had been converted into a garden. In the church they found the places where the pillars had stood, always a large square stone, but nothing else of much interest,” and at a later date he wrote as follows:—

“Having been told that the Dominicans are going on with the work on their property I went there, and they willingly showed me everything. All the earth and remains of Crusading buildings are now removed, and the rock and the flooring of the former Church laid bare. Only in two places one may see that once a pillar stood there—so it seems the church had not many pillars. They found some pieces of hewn stone, and two more rock-hewn tombs, similar to those discovered several years ago. In the pavement was a very large flag-stone, with a Greek inscription. Whilst being raised it fell into many pieces, which they put together again so that the inscription could be copied. I could not myself copy it as they keep the stone in a dark place. They, however, have copied and will soon publish it.

“Under the large slab there were steps, and a perpendicular stone door, which can still be turned on its pivots (*see Drawing, Tomb No. 2*); below, the pivot goes in a hole cut in the rock; on the top it is kept by an iron ring fastened to the rock; it can easily be shut and opened, as it is only 4 inches thick, 3 feet long, and 2 feet 4 inches wide. When opened it can be laid back in a recess cut in the rock, so that the door is flush with the rock-wall of the entrance at the steps. Four high steps lead down to it. The door had formerly an iron lock, cruciform in shape, but this has rusted away, together with the nails by which it was fixed. The keyhole in the stone is well preserved. Just over the door is a Greek inscription, cut in the rock, of which I give a copy. A person entering through the opening (when the door is open and put back into the recess) has to go three steps more downwards, and



**MASONS MARKS.**  
HALF REAL SIZE.  
Found in the little Church.



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ΕΤΙC Y K Ξ  
ΗΑΤΤΙC  
ΜΗΚΝΤC

*Inscription on one of the  
Covering Slabs at A in Tomb N<sup>o</sup> 2.*

ΟΚΑ✝ΤΟΙΚC  
C N ΒΟΙΤΟΥ  
ΥΥ;

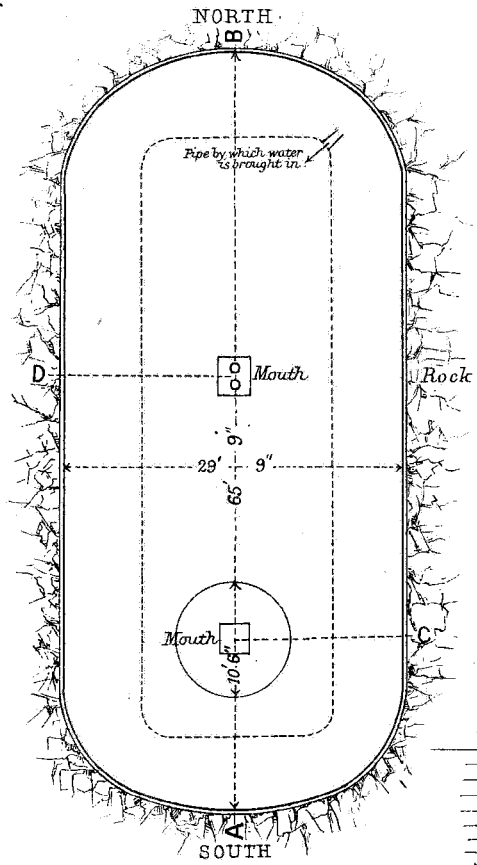
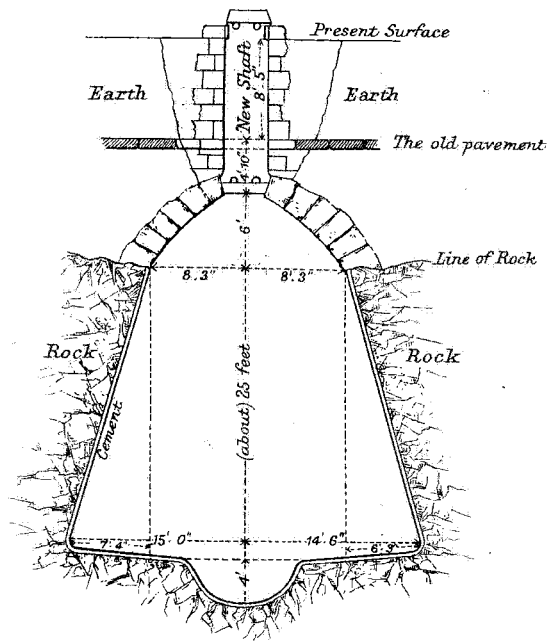
*Inscription on the Rock over the  
Entrance to Tomb N<sup>o</sup> 2 which  
has a Stone Door.*

+ ΘΗΥΙΖΙΑΦΕΡΒCΑ  
ΕΥΘΥΜΙΧΔΥΚΥΠΙΝ  
ΔΓΡΗ+,

*Inscription found in the Caves of the  
many tombs partly under the road which  
leads up to the top of the Hill above  
Jeremiah's Grotto.*

*N.B. This Inscription, the Monks told me is already  
published.*

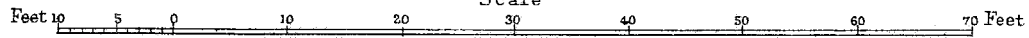
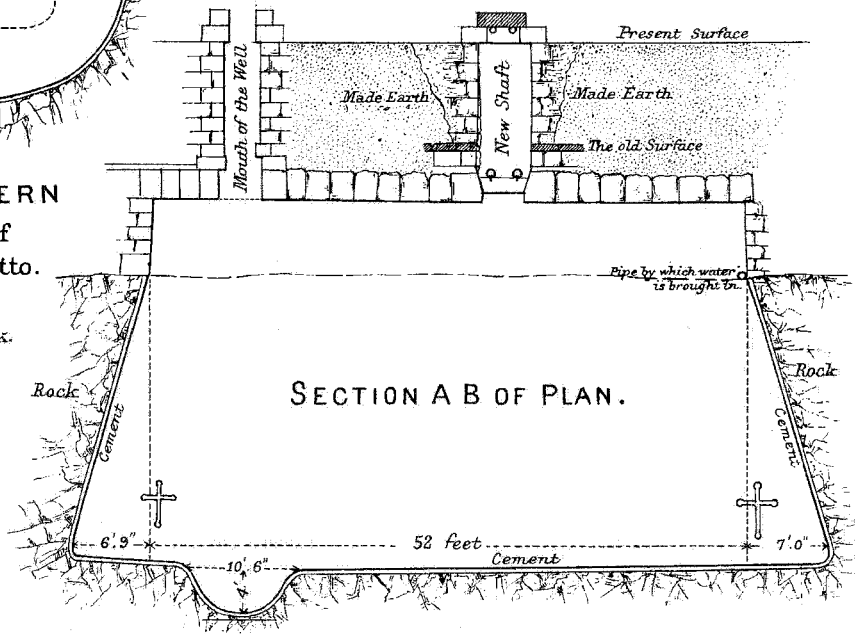
SECTION C D OF PLAN.



PLAN OF CISTERN  
on West side of  
Jeremiah's Grotto.

By Baurath C. Schick.

SECTION A B OF PLAN.



then comes into a kind of passage or empty place less than 6 feet high, to the right and left of which are *loculi*, in which are bones and mould. Each *loculus* was covered with three slabs, nicely smoothed, on one of which is an inscription, which I copied (*see* Drawing), but the Monks removed all the slabs, liking to see the mould and bones.

"A little west of this tomb was found a similar one, but without any inscription, and instead of a door it had a *round stone to be rolled before the opening* (*see* Drawing, Tomb No. 3). It was like that at the Tombs of the Kings, only this stone was somewhat thinner and smaller. The stone was not in its place, but in the rock a narrow and long recess is excavated, into which the stone might be rolled, and so the tomb opened. The adjoining drawings will explain all this; and the exact situation of these newly discovered tombs may be seen on the plan marked 1, 2, 3.

"I give a drawing of three masons' marks, of forms new to me, found at the place.

"The stone forming the well-mouth of the cistern in the yard east of the little church, and south of the recently discovered rock-cut tombs, is octagonal externally, and a curious feature of it is that on four of the eight sides, half-way up, there is a step, on which one might put his foot when drawing water. I think it was originally not intended for a well-mouth, but for a baptismal font. Short people, as boys, might, at this solemn act, have stood on this kind of step. I have never seen anything of the kind before."

C. SCHICK.

## TWO CISTERNS NEAR JEREMIAH'S GROTTA.

I HAD the opportunity of examining two cisterns near Jeremiah's Grotto, and found both interesting. The situation of these cisterns is shown on the tracing from the Ordnance Survey Plan of Jerusalem  $\frac{1}{2500}$  (p. 9), where they are marked 1 and 2.

No. 1 (*see* Plan) is rather a large cistern, the greater part cut in the rock, with its four sides inclining, not perpendicular, so that the space which had to be arched over is much smaller than the bottom of the cistern. The roof is not rock, but a curious tunnel arching, very much pointed, and with sides nearly straight, made of hewn stones. The present surface of the ground is, according to the Ordnance Survey, about 2,515 feet above the sea. The former surface is shown in the shaft of the mouth of this cistern to be 10 feet lower, or 2,505 feet. As the cistern is about 45 feet deep, its bottom is therefore 2,460 feet above the sea. It is damaged and requires some new cementing. The last repairs were done by Christians, as there are on the eastern side, some feet above the bottom, and near both ends, crosses 4 feet 6 inches high and 3 feet wide, made in plaster, of the form shown in the section. In the bottom there is, just under the mouth, a round bowl-shaped pit, 4 feet deep and 10 feet 6 inches in diameter. The cistern is covered with a pavement of