

large flagstones. Fourteen feet north of the mouth is a second one, covered with a large stone, having two iron rings on its upper surface; but this mouth had no shaft up to the present surface of the ground. That represented in the drawing has been made recently. The cistern is 65 feet 9 inches long in the middle at the bottom, and 29 feet 6 inches wide; it has rounded corners. It may take water up to 25 feet, a quantity equal to about 20,000 skins.

Its northern end comes to within a few feet of the rock scarp, in which are rock-cut tombs, thought by General Gordon to be the Sepulchre of Christ. This remarkable cistern is certainly not of Mohammedan or Christian origin, but apparently Canaanitic, its form being like so many made by Canaanites in the rock; but I have never before seen one so large. The arching and the slab with two iron rings is very likely Crusading.

Cistern No. 2 is 250 feet south of the former, towards the Damascus Gate. It is very much smaller than the former, but may contain 3,000 skins of water. It is entirely hewn in the rock, and before it was made into a cistern was rock-cut Jewish tombs. In the rock ceiling is a square, 13 feet by 13 feet, very nicely worked, with a kind of cornice round it, exactly as in the Tombs of the Kings. The floor below this is smooth, but the rest of the flooring is rough, just as it was left when the tombs were broken away to get more room. As it is plastered all round, the door to the former square chamber cannot be ascertained, but it is supposed to have been in the north-western wall. For the same reason it cannot be ascertained whether the pillar or support is of living rock or masonry. Near it the rock at the bottom is left rough, and now forms two long steps. The mouth is over a kind of recess, and goes up through the rock, over which a square shaft is built. The cistern is nearly square, about 24 feet in each direction, and has an average height of 15 feet. The ceiling is very uneven, except that of the former tomb-chamber.

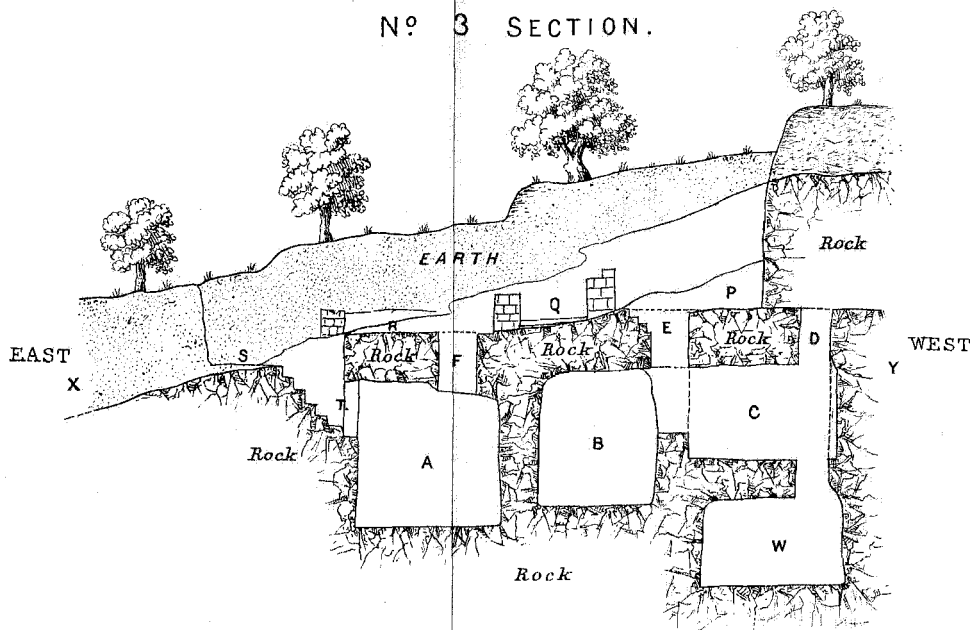
There was an idea that between the present town wall and the scarp of Jeremiah's Grotto on the north, there was nothing else than a quarry; but this cistern proves that there were rock-cut tombs, as in the Jeremiah's Grotto hill itself. In regard to the rock levels I will add that recently in digging outside the Damascus Gate, 26 feet north of the north-east corner of the eastern tower of that gate, the rock was found at a level of 2,474½ feet; 6 feet 2 inches higher than the sill of Damascus Gate.

C. SCHICK.

EXCAVATIONS ON THE EASTERN BROW OF "ZION."

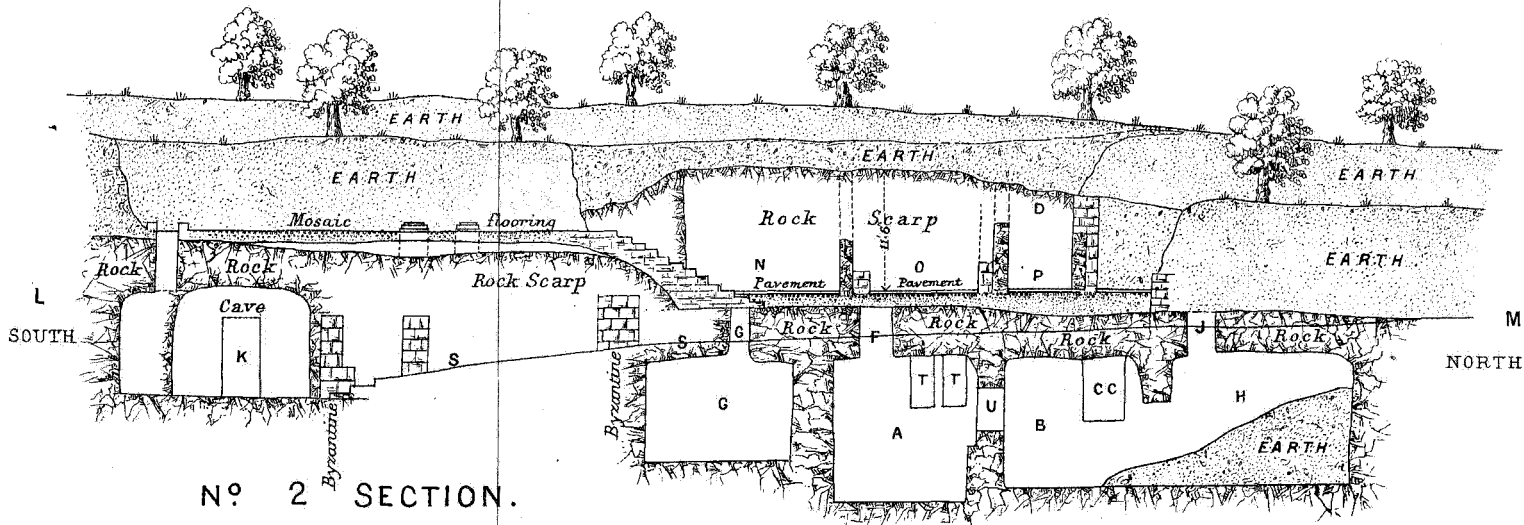
A FEW years ago a French gentleman, Count Piello, bought a piece of ground on the eastern slope of the western hill of Jerusalem, generally called Zion, about half way down between the buildings of Neby Dâûd and the Pool of Siloam. A little watch-house was then built, and a

N^o 3 SECTION.

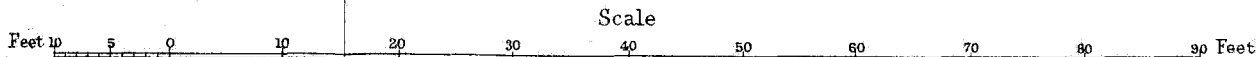


Sections of
EXCAVATIONS
ON EAST SLOPE OF ZION,
immediately North of the Cistern
midway between David's Tomb
and Pool of Siloam.

See Plan of Jerusalem, April Quarterly Statement 1889.



N^o 2 SECTION.



black man put in as guardian. About six months ago a priest came and began to excavate there; the work is going on slowly, and many things have been found, of which I will now report.

The overseer of the work, a Roman Catholic monk, speaks English, and must have been once in England. He showed me everything; the owner of the property required that I should give him a copy of any drawings or plans I might make, which I promised to do.

There is first a layer of earth from 5 to 8 feet thick, on which olive trees are growing, then are appearing masonry, rockcarps, well-mouths, and many hewn and sculptured stones; also pavements, mosaics, &c., were found.

I give a plan of walls, caves, cisterns, rockcarps, holes, earth, trees, &c.; also a Section and elevation from north to south (No. 2), and a Section and elevation from west to east (No. 3). In the drawings the same letter (capitals) shows always the same thing. It is found here, as in so many other places, both inside and outside the city, that *there were in ancient times caves and dwellings excavated in the rock*, which excavations were in later times converted into cisterns. Here, as the sections will show, are nearly throughout two stories of excavations; the upper ones certainly were originally used for human dwellings, or as cellars, magazines, stables, &c. The walls are everywhere cut nearly perpendicular, the floorings horizontal, and the top or covering (of rock) has always a thickness of 4 feet, whereas the walls were sometimes rather thinner, and in the upper storey very thin, only 12 inches as shown in Section No. 2. On Ophel, and in the city, I found such rock partition walls also cut thicker, and sometimes there are windows in them as here (T T). Further, there is nearly always a smaller or larger rounded hole in the roofing as here (D E F G J). In February, 1869, Sir Charles Warren found similar caves 200 feet south of the Triple Gate, and I am fully convinced that wherever one will dig deep enough in the ground formerly occupied by ancient Jerusalem, he will find such excavations. These newly-discovered ones I will now describe more fully.

The monks first made a trench or kind of road from south towards north, and from it branches eastwards towards the hillside, and they found the following:—In the south (or to the left-hand of the Section No. 2, a cave (K) entirely hewn in the rock, with an opening towards the east, 8 feet wide and 9 feet high, so that people could go in from the court (or rather what was at that time the road or street of the city) on level ground. This was a cave to be inhabited, as it is now again. Inside there is a round niche towards the south, with a round opening in the roof; this, I think, had been originally a round cistern, and in later time the thin rock wall between it and the cave was broken away. Opposite this cave (K) are found two similar holes, from which the earth has not been removed. In the large opening is now put a new wall with a door, and the overseer uses the place to keep things; it is also his office and dining-room. If one goes now from the front of the cave northwards, there is a thin wall, of very inferior workmanship, but towards the west the remains are higher and better, and, as it seems to

me, Byzantine. After 5 feet one has to cross another and a stronger wall, which stands at right angles to a wall put up in front of a rock-scarp, going from south towards north, and so covering the rock face for 24 feet, and forming a terrace about 12 feet high. On this terrace, which is horizontal and smooth, is a large piece of mosaic flooring; west of it are three basements of pillars, the largest one *in situ*. Whether the two others are *in situ* or not I cannot speak positively. From this terrace a flight of steps leads northward 7 feet down to a level flooring in which are two round openings (G and F) like well-mouths; the cave (G) is still full of earth, but (A) is cleared out so that I could measure it; but before going down we will first examine what is above. West of this flooring (R, No. 3) a wall runs from south towards north, 1 foot 10 inches thick. This wall had a few doors which led westwards to another flooring a little more elevated (Q), with a good pavement. Toward the west is another and thicker wall. This flooring (Q) is only 6 feet wide, and was once the corridor or passage between rooms on the east and west. On the west two of these rooms are preserved (N and O, No. 2). Their west wall was a rock scarp, which also extended further south, and between them there was originally a thin rock wall, which afterwards was strengthened by adding masonry to it, as shown in Section No. 2.

The flooring is also rock, and in it (in O) is a large oval-shaped hole (E), with some steps in it downward hewn in the rock. North of these two rooms the earth has not been cleared away enough, and I could only see a recess with a hole on the bottom; but eastward, where the place has been more cleared, there are the traces of a room (R) made of masonry, the flooring of which is on a level with the trench or road. A little to the south one comes to a flight of steps hewn in the rock, going down westwards to a couple of windows (TT). The wall between is also rock, and the narrower window to the right hand had evidently been used as a door, as it has a further step which the other has not. A little lower, I think, was once a flooring of wood, and so a habitable room, and under it a magazine; from this supposed flooring a door (U) went northwards into other chambers (BH). A wall of masonry, which is still standing, was very likely put in when the rooms over it were built; also towards the south between the rock walls, there is masonry, and in it a square window (CC) forms an opening to another excavation (C) under the room (O), which has on its further side a hole leading down into a cistern (W) (see Section No. 3). From (B) an opening northward, leads to a long cave (H), which is not yet fully cleared out, but has two round holes (J) in the roofing—one the light-and-airhole for the cave, the other, very likely, is over the mouth of a well or cistern situated under the cave (H). All this will be found out later on.

The height of these caves can be seen from the sections; it is from 8 feet to 12 feet 6 inches. If some were originally intended for dwellings, stables, magazines, or cellars, in later times, when walled houses were erected over them, they were converted into cisterns, especially, as it seems, in the period when Jerusalem became a Christian city, as

there are many crosses found. In the hole (F), for instance, are three crosses hewn in the rock—one towards the south, one towards the north, and one towards the west. The latter is a double one, thus †. On the east side there is none. That the chambers were used at this period for cisterns is proved by the cement, which in many places is still firm. If all the rubbish, buildings, &c., could be removed wherever the old city extended, the site would then present a marvellous appearance; all would appear honey-combed, so that one would need great care in walking about not to fall down through a hole or over a scarp.

It is not yet seen what the monks intend to erect here, but certainly some sanctuary in commemoration of some event in the life of our Lord or his Apostles. As far as I understand, they were in hopes of finding the traces of a church once erected over the spot where Peter wept bitterly (Matt. xxvi. 75). When the mosaic and the bases of pillars were discovered, they thought they had found what they looked for, but hitherto no proof of there having once been a church here has been brought to light. To me it seems as if the Crusaders have not done much here, but that the ruins are Jewish, and from the earliest Christian time; the caves and excavations are certainly Jewish. South of the ground on which these remains are, and south of the road, a Moslem has a large piece of ground, where he found the same state of things; and I hope in future to get opportunity to examine and measure there also.

We know that in this neighbourhood was a church of St. Peter called "The Cry of the Cock." Bernard, A.D. 865, tells us that this church was towards the east from the Church of Simeon on Mount Zion, at the place of Peter's denial of Christ.

Fifty years later this was repeated, but the word "church" used perhaps meant simply "sanctuary." In 1450 the place was called Galilee. It had a deep cave in the rock, and was 170 paces east of the house of Caiaphas (Neby Dâûd). If one pace is taken to equal 3 feet, this will be 510 feet east of Neby Dâûd, which brings us to a little building on the Ordnance Survey Plan, which I knew very well, but which was taken away within the last ten years, the stones being used for building new houses near Neby Dâûd, but not to the recently excavated place, which is 350 feet further east.

In 1483 the church had almost totally disappeared, only some walls being visible; but the Pilgrims went to a cave, and in the 16th century a high rock with a deep cistern was said to be the place where Peter denied Christ. It was situated about 150 paces from the tower of the town wall, as one went down from Zion into the Kidron Valley, not far from the Dung Gate and the Bethlehem Aqueduct.

In 1674 we are told that the cave was walled up. In later times the real place was lost, and sought for in this neighbourhood, as is the case now, but hitherto not with the desired result. This ancient church may be found some day in this neighbourhood, and I should think a little higher up the hill, nearer the aqueduct.