

That Isaiah is here mentioned is rather unexpected. The place where the prophet was killed, under Manasseh, is shown more to the south, and on the opposite side of the valley. His tomb for a time was shown in the same neighbourhood; but the ancient pilgrims speak in such a manner that it is difficult to comprehend where they mean; so, after all, Isaiah's tomb may be somewhere in the village of Silwān, and perhaps under this his chapel. As will be seen in the drawings, there is a cave under the rocky court containing much earth. I hope that by digging there an entrance to rock-cut tombs may be found.

The proprietor of the place tells me, that the adjoining rooms, on the north and south of these chapels, have each such an apse, and also that the rooms, &c., are hewn in the rock, like those belonging to him. They belong to neighbours who were not at home, so that I could not measure or examine them.

That these rock-cut chambers were once used by Christians as chapels is beyond all question; and as the rooms are double, I think some anchorite lived in the outer ones, the inner ones forming the chapels, and the wall between them, with its three openings, representing the wall in front of the choir or altar of Greek churches.

Dr. Papadopoulos thinks the form of the letters of the inscription supports the suggestion that it belongs to the eighth century. But one may doubt whether Christians under Mohammedan rule were in a condition to cut out such rock chambers, and I should think they were made before the invasion of the Arabs. Probably they were Jewish rock-cut tombs before the Christian era, which afterwards were modified by the Christians, and used again for their purposes. According to Matthew, xxiii, 29, and Luke, i, 47, the Jews made monumental tombs for the Prophets, who were killed by their fathers. So we may suppose that these rooms were made by the Jews in the time of Christ, and that afterwards the Christians made apses in them, converting them into chapels. However, more learned men may judge on this matter; my duty is simply to report on them.



C. SCHICK.

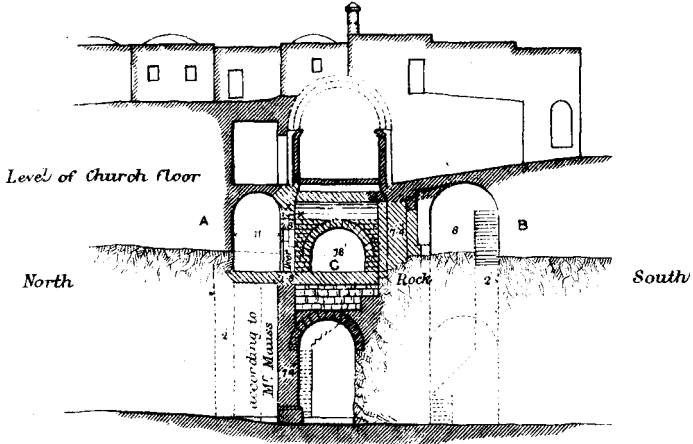
FURTHER REPORT ON THE POOL OF BETHESDA.

THE Reis, or Head, of the Algerian Mission Brethren at St. Anne, has returned from his journey, so I called upon him, and was received very kindly. He showed me everything on the establishment, including their collections for a museum. Besides lamps and other pottery they have not much, but a good number of coins, Roman, Greek, Arabic, and Jewish.

With regard to excavations and clearing the place, I found they have removed all the earth down to the top of the pool, by which it was discovered that the five little rooms, or porches, just over the pool were



SECTION ON LINE A.B. OF PLAN

Dark Shading represents old discoveries 
 Light " " " new " 



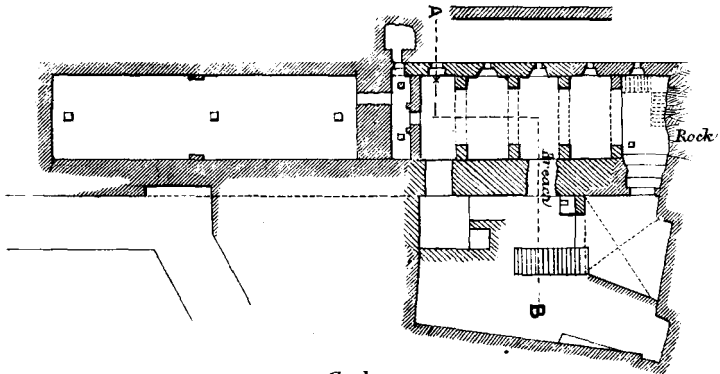
PLAN SHOWING

NEW DISCOVERIES AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA

Dark Shading represents old discoveries 
 Light " " " new " 

* Place of the fresco

See Quarterly Statement 1868 P. 123.



Scale



all connected one with the other by an open arch, as I endeavour to show in the enclosed drawings. It is easy to see that these arches, and the five rooms or porches, did not belong to the original building, but were put in afterwards, and very likely the Reis is quite right in suggesting that as the original five porches were destroyed, the Crusaders, in order again to have some sort of porches, made these five *liwans*, or open rooms, as a special storey over the pool, as the accumulation of *debris* was great, and the surface of the ground already at their time at a much higher level.

It is now quite clear that the old (or original) church stood immediately on the pool, *i.e.*, the top of the latter formed the flooring of the church; the northern wall of it still stands to a good height, and has four windows (which I mentioned in a former letter, see *Quarterly Statement*, 1888, p. 119). At the north-west corner is a door, and over it the wall is not pierced by a window, but is flat, and on it was painted the now celebrated *fresco*. The picture I found just as it is described by Professor Harris in the "British Weekly," No. 142, p. 192, very indistinct. One can only recognise parts of the wings, the nimbus round the head, which latter has been expressly destroyed. Of a hand I could see nothing, but round about the figure, which is without legs, or at least with none that are visible, the waves of the water, given with a brown colour, and not blue, as one would expect. But as these brown lines are at some distance one from the other, it may be that the finer colour of the water has disappeared, and now only parts of the waves remain, which, as, according to our old writers, the water was reddish, would also have that colour.

According to what can still be seen, the figure was the size of a young man, not a child. In a few other places are also little pieces of *fresco* visible. So it seems the old church, before these five arches, or "crypts," were built, had everywhere on the walls *fresco* paintings.

Opposite the *fresco* of the Angel there is, in the southern wall of the church, a wide opening leading into a chamber, which had formerly towards the east, some more rooms, which are now destroyed. The church wall is very thick, and a hole is broken through it. Outside of it are the remains of a strong square pier, and the Reis expressed the opinion that once a pillar may have stood on it, parts of such a pillar, especially the capital, having been found. South of this pier a flight of steps was found but it is not easy to decide whether they were old or of later, perhaps Mohammedan, work. One would think the latter, but the steps are so much trodden as to prove that they had been for a long time in use. My first idea was that this is the upper branch of the regular stairs leading down to the water, but as northwards of it the rock rises even higher it cannot be, and very likely it is the stair to another similar pool south of the other, which further excavations will prove. In the enclosed section (No. 3) I explain this in dotted lines.

To the large tank or cistern on the west, which I reported on last year (*Quarterly Statement*, p. 123), nothing more has since been done, but the

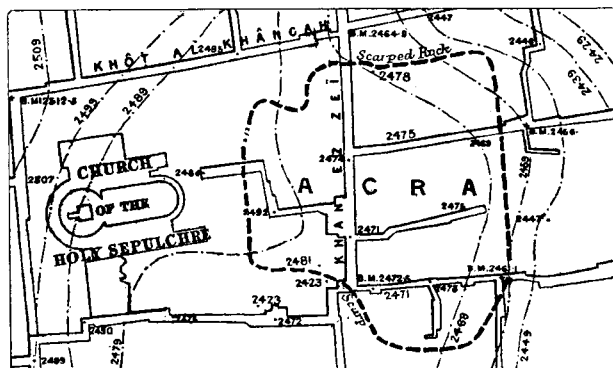
Reis told me that they have now bought all the little houses as far as this tank extends and north of the pool, and will, in course of time, thoroughly examine the locality.

In case there should be found a similar pool to the south, then the rock wall between the two would be thick enough (about 15 feet) to have carried the middle (or fifth) porch, and this would explain how different kinds of water could be in two pools so near together; the one would get water simply from the rain falling on the top and the roofs round about; the other would be fed by conduits bringing rain water from a distance. Such water from outside the town always becomes reddish when it first falls, and afterwards becomes clear.

C. SCHICK.

ROCK LEVELS IN JERUSALEM.

THE better paving of the streets is still going on, although very slowly. It is not in every street that anything of interest is found, but in some this is the case, as I have reported from time to time. To-day I have to say that the so-called "Akkabat al Takiyeh" (going eastward from the Church of the Sepulchre) was recently done. Now, in the Ordnance Survey Plan, scale $\frac{1}{2500}$, stands in about the middle of its length, on the south side, a bench mark, a few feet above the ground, with the height 2,456 feet above the Mediterranean; 45 feet west of this, near the arch going over the street, the scarp of the rock was found, going south and north, facing east, the height or top of the rock there being 2,462 feet above the sea, *i.e.*, 6 feet higher than the bench mark, so that when grading the surface they had to cut the road through the rock.



West of it, about 190 feet distant, the rock crops out from the ground to a height of 2,477 feet.

This new discovery proves that I was right in stating in one of my reports in 1887 that here, east of the Church of the Sepulchre, is a rock terrace, which is surrounded, or nearly surrounded, by scarps to a con-