

## A SUPPOSED DRUIDICAL STONE.

THERE are on the plain, south of Jerusalem, near the village Beit Sūfāfa on the large map, some points with the name "Es Seba Rujum," and in the "Memoirs," Vol. III, page 157, it is said: "Large stone heaps, apparently formed by clearing the surrounding land of stones for cultivation." This is the first and general impression one gets when seeing them, but looking closer there are several remarkable points, which lead to the supposition that these heaps may have had some other origin. These are, first, their largeness; second, their regular situation; and third, their number seven.

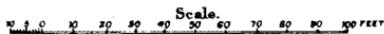
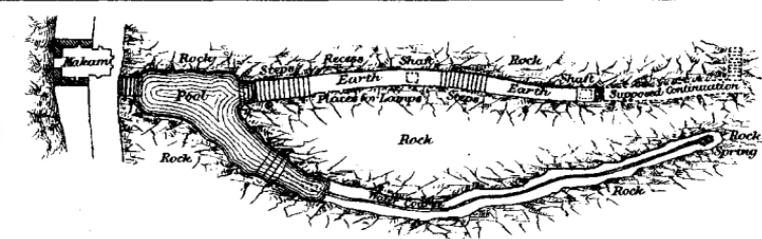
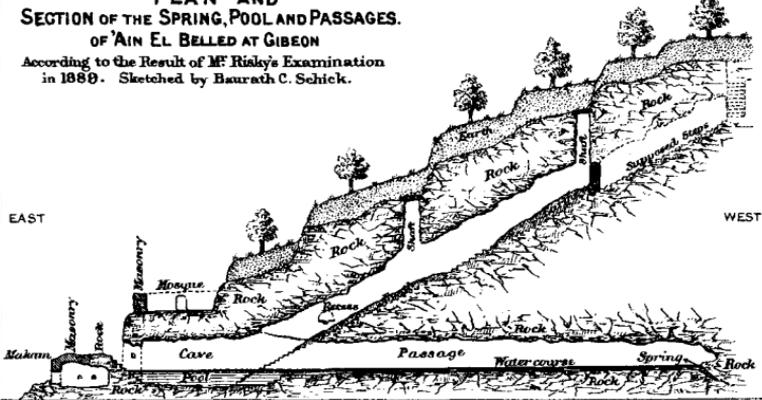
Everywhere in the mountain may be seen heaps of stones, made by clearing the land, but in general they are not so large as these nor similar in form, and may be of any number. On many parts of this plain there are at present not more stones in the field than on that part surrounding these mounds, and there are no other such heaps, only smaller ones of irregular form, spread over the land without any plan—here there is a regular plan on which the heaps are arranged. Excavation might lead to some result, and throw light on their origin. Besides the seven large heaps, there are several others of much smaller size, and irregularly situated. They seem to have once been buildings, now entirely fallen into shapeless ruins, and I should think are of a later period than the large heaps.

From one or two of these smaller heaps stones were recently taken away for the Bethlehem road or new buildings. One day I heard that a marvellous stone had been found, so I went there, and found a stone still standing exactly upright, so that I judged it may be *in situ*, and by closer examination became convinced it had been once a Druidical stone. I send plan and view of its four sides. It is 2 feet 6 inches wide, and on an average 13 inches thick, and crops out 3 feet from the ground. The top surface slants a little towards the sides, especially towards the west, where there is in the middle a shallow depression. The north and south sides are nearly straight, but not very smooth, and each has a hole going in for 9 and  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches, the outer opening having the figure of a human mouth, 5 to 6 inches wide, and about 1 inch high in the middle, so that one can put his hand a few inches into it. Towards the interior these holes are gradually narrowed to a kind of point. That on the south side is a little higher than the other, and goes a little downwards; the northern one, which is somewhat lower, goes a little upwards. One might think these holes to be natural clefts in the stone, but they are, especially at the lower part, smoothed and polished by frequent handling. On the eastern side there is a round hole at the same height, also going in 9 inches. This eastern side has another peculiarity, viz., at the same level as the holes above-mentioned, a projecting ledge, so cut that one-half of the breadth of the projection is about 5 inches higher than the other half.

The opposite or western side of the stone is still more remarkable.

**PLAN AND SECTION OF THE SPRING, POOL AND PASSAGES.**  
**OF 'AIN EL BELLED AT GIBEON**

According to the Result of M<sup>r</sup> Risky's Examination  
 in 1889. Sketched by Baurath C. Schick.

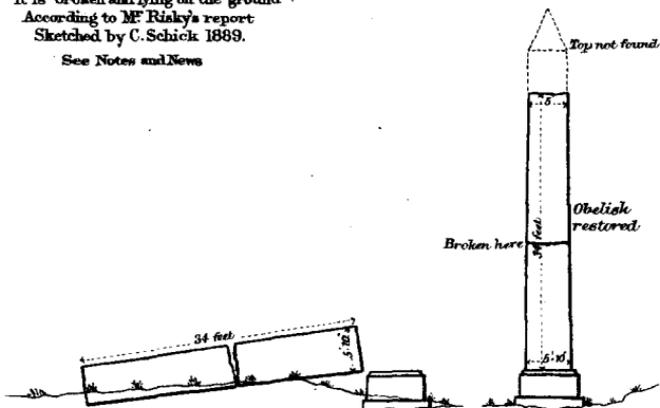


**OBELISK, FOUND IN THEATRE CAESAREA**

It is broken and lying on the ground.

According to M<sup>r</sup> Risky's report  
 Sketched by C. Schick 1889.

See Notes and News



At first sight it appears to be covered with cracks, which on examination are found to be regular grooves, each about  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch deep and about  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch wide, made by a tool of that breadth, as its marks can still be recognised. These furrows run obliquely downwards towards the centre of the stone. About half-way down is a natural curved cleft *across*; the others, or at least the greater part, are artificial. On another day I excavated the spot and found that the stone ended about 20 inches below, and that it stands on a layer of roughly-hewn stones, and is not *in situ*. It was used as a door-post to a room which was built here, the threshold of which is still on the ground, and a stone found against it in a slanting situation appears to have been the lintel. The bearings of the stone were north  $33^\circ$  west, the line just going to the Minaret on the Neby Dâûd buildings; but of course as the stone is no more *in situ* the bearings are of no value.

After reading Captain Conder's report on these old stone monuments (*Quarterly Statement*, 1882, p. 69), I became the more convinced that we have here a stone, belonging once to a Canaanitic altar of offerings, which may perhaps have stood in connection with the Seba Rujum, or seven large stone heaps.

C. SCHICK.

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### THE WATERS OF GIBEON.

I SEND drawings, plan, and section of the well or spring at El Jib, the ancient Gibeon. Respecting this the Memoir to the Survey, vol. iii., p. 94, says:—"There are eight springs, which issue from the sides of the hill, the most important being 'Ain el Belled ("Spring of the Village"). This is on the south-east, at the foot of the steep hill-side, and issues in a rock chamber, about 30 feet long, 7 feet wide, and 7 feet high. The water is clear and abundant in a pool within the cave, said to be 3 or 4 feet deep. On the right, at the back, a passage is said to exist, and on the left steps leading to the surface of the hill above. These cannot now be seen, and the passage is blocked up. . . . The cave is reached by a descent of several steps. . . . There is a recess at the mouth of the cave, as if for a bar, probably showing that the spring was once closed with a door, when it could no doubt be reached from above within the city (as at Jerusalem)." A few months ago a Russian gentleman carefully examined the locality, and according to the statements and descriptions which he gave me I have made these drawings. He went up the steps and incline until he came to a place where the passage is walled up. He found two shafts, the openings of which are covered with flat stones. He also went to the source of the spring, taking off his garments and walking through the water, and measured the length of the passage. The measurements may be right, but I doubt the correctness of the bearings. These observations are important. The arrangement resembles that of the Siloah spring at Jerusalem.

C. SCHICK.