

I drew up suggestions to these gentlemen for selecting and photographing groups of natives, classified according to the ancient race types in such a way as to get statistical percentages of the different types in each place, and made six copies of the paper to go with the photographs. If this succeeds we may learn a great deal as to the distribution of the Amorite, Hittite, Hyksos, and other races in Palestine.

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## HERR SCHICK'S REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM.

### I.

#### THE NEW ROAD NORTH OF THE CITY.

In one of my reports made during last year, I spoke of some discoveries made when the new carriage road along the northern wall of the City of Jerusalem was constructed. This report was published in the *Quarterly Statement*, 1889, page 63. It comprised the *western* part, and now I have to report on the *eastern* part—namely, from Damascus Gate to the north-east corner of the city.

The sill of the Damascus Gate is 2,471 feet above the Mediterranean, and 200 feet north of it the ground on the Ordnance Survey Map, scale  $\frac{1}{25000}$ , is 2,481 feet, giving a slope of 5 per cent. This slope is now greater, as the crossing-point of the new road is made about 5 feet higher, or 2,486 feet above the Mediterranean. It was made higher in order that the new carriage road coming from the west should not descend so much and ascend so much again. On both sides the hills of rubbish were cut through, so that the carriage road is much more level than the former road. South of Jeremiah's Grotto it was raised about 6 feet by filling up the depression, and at the south-eastern foot of the Jeremiah's Grotto Hill, where there is a little "tomb" building, lowered and cut through the rubbish, so that at the crossing-point, where the road comes out from Herod's Gate, or Bab ez Zahiré, and goes northwards on the eastern slope of Jeremiah's Grotto Hill, the level of the new road is about 6 feet deeper than that of the old one. By this it was seen that there is no "Roman road," as Dr. Merrill supposes in his little pamphlet, "The Site of Calvary." If such had been here, it would have been cut through; but no traces of such a road were met with. Further east, in the depression of the ground, the new road was elevated by filling up, forming a dam or causeway, with a small bridge for the water to go through under it. Then, further east, in the fosse, it was lowered, by which means it was shown that there is much earth in the trench, which originally was much deeper. The real bottom was not seen in any place, so the exact depth cannot be stated. By this lowering of the road, the wall, and especially the rock scarp, was laid more bare, and it was

seen that at the eastern part the ancient wall formerly stood several feet further out, and ran more straight; and the same is the case for 240 feet along the eastern wall. There are also some indications that the ancient corner tower was somewhat longer and wider than the present one. It seems also that before the fosse was made there had been a pool sunk into the rock, which became destroyed when the fosse was excavated. This pool had sides of unequal length and unequal angles, like the pool of "Sitti Maryam," on the east side of the tower; the latter is somewhat larger than the former one had been. I always had an idea that if excavations were made at the angle of the fosse, a door or outlet for the water accumulating in the fosse might be discovered; but unhappily in making the road the neck of the rock had to be cut through, and a bridge built over it for the road on a higher level which crossed it, so that no excavations were possible. East of the said neck is a continuation of the trench, the bottom of which forms the bed of the new road for about 100 feet, and at the end, on the northern side, is some masonry on the top and edge of the cliffs, which I consider to be the remains of an ancient gate (*see* Ordnance Survey Map,  $\frac{1}{2500}$ ).

Here the new road makes a bend and runs south and south-east on a course where much filling up was necessary. Lower down, in widening the old road, rock-cut tombs were laid bare, and partly destroyed. They are the usual smaller kind of Jewish rock-cut tombs, and of no particular interest. I counted five small chambers. So far the road was finished at my last visit. In my next I will report what has been done further. The level is, at the corner tower, 2,456 feet, and at its lower part, where it meets the old road coming down from Stephen's Gate, or "Bab Sitti Maryam," 2,351 feet—hence a difference of 105 feet in 1,400, or  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

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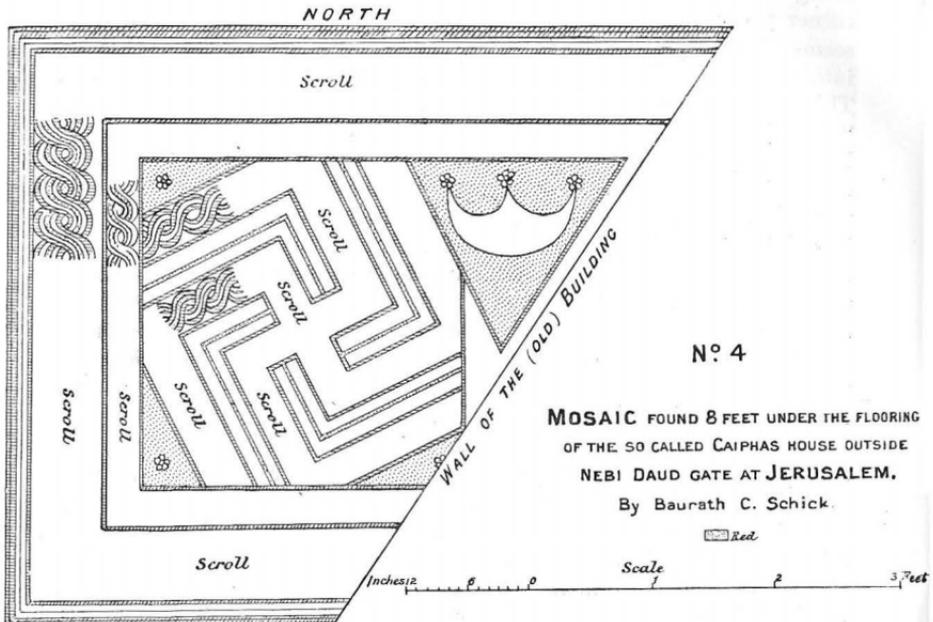
## II.

### NEW DISCOVERIES AT THE HOUSE OF CAIAPHAS, ON THE SO-CALLED MOUNT ZION.

The so-called "House of Caiaphas," outside the southern part of the city wall, and 150 feet distant from it, belongs to the Armenians. It consists of a little church, a small convent, and rooms embracing a small court, the whole being enclosed by a high wall, without any windows or openings, except a little entrance door on the north side. This wall had been for a long time defective, and one day the eastern and part of the southern side fell down.

In digging foundations for a new wall and other additional buildings, an underground passage was found, and in the court under an arch, which is also to some degree unsound, there was found, 5 feet deep under the present floor, an older floor, laid throughout with fine Mosaics, of which

I give a pattern, as I could not find time to draw out the whole. The Mosaic cubes are of three colours—white, black, and red. At other



points, also on the same level, similar Mosaics were found, proving that some building of importance once stood here.

### III.

#### A NEWLY-DISCOVERED ROCK-CUT TOMB AT ACELDAMA.

In one of my former reports I spoke of a newly-discovered rock-cut tomb near Aceldama, at a place called Es-Shamma. It was illustrated by a plan and section, and a copy of the inscription found there. The piece of ground in which this tomb and some other things (which I reported at the time) were found was soon afterwards sold to the Latin Convent, and is now their property. They went on excavating the ground and found some more rock-cut tombs, of which I send plans and section.

The newly-discovered one was certainly made in a quite different time from that in which the others were made. The workmanship is rather rough, and the floors and ceilings are slanting down, according to the decline of the strata. Some of the *kokim* are rather wide and high, especially one, which is also unusually long (8 feet), so that one gets the

impression they were not intended to be for one corpse only, but for several. At the door was found a very large stone with broken corners, so that it might be rolled more easily when the tomb was to be opened or shut, but it was far from being circular.

Another tomb, a short distance east of the former, has rather a large court hewn out in front, with an elevated table of rock. This, and also the inside, gives the appearance of being unfinished. The door is a usual one, but the room is in every respect irregular. The inner room is only 7 feet 6 inches by 7 feet wide, and about 6 feet 6 inches high, without any mark of *kokim* or bench, but has in the floor a kind of pool, 3 feet wide each way and 2 feet deep. This tomb also seems to be unfinished, and was very likely used as a collective tomb, dead bodies being put one upon the other. I saw no bones in it.

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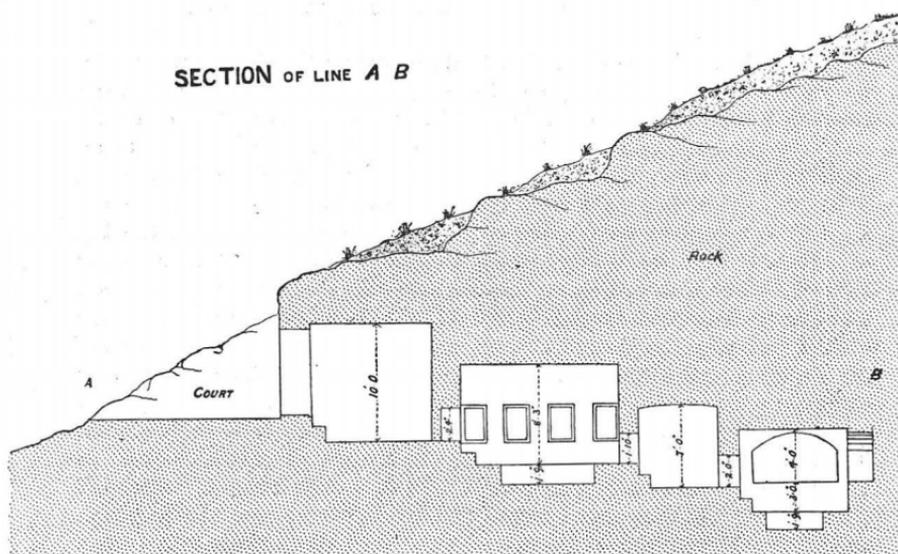
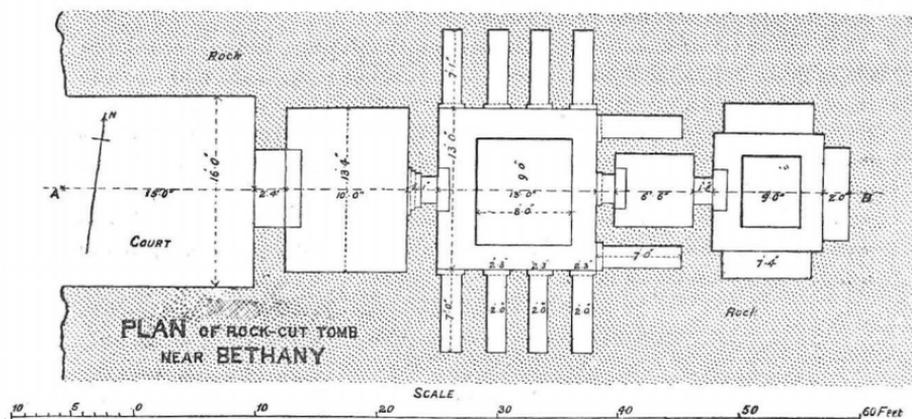
#### IV.

##### NEWLY-DISCOVERED ROCK-CUT TOMB NEAR BETHANY.

When the road from Jerusalem to Bethany and the Jordan was made, people had to gather not only small stones, but also material for covering them—"hower," as it is called in Arabic. "Hower" is a kind of chalk, and very good for roads. When digging to find such they came to an opening, and on going in, found several chambers, all hewn in the rock. When I heard of it I went there, examined and measured, and made the adjoining plan. The tomb is in the valley which runs from near the top of Mount Olivet southwards down to the Wâdy en Nâr, or Lower Kedron. The road to Bethany crosses this valley, making a large bend. The newly-discovered tomb is south of the road on the eastern slope of the valley, just opposite the lower quarry where stones are broken for buildings in Jerusalem. All this neighbourhood is of a soft or chalky limestone, and in this the tomb is hewn very exactly and regularly, the lines being straight with exact angles, as is seldom seen. First, on the decline of the hill, the rock is cut down perpendicularly so as to form a court 16 feet wide and long. On the eastern side of this court a doorway, 6 feet wide and 7 feet high, is hewn in the rock, the partition wall being 2 feet 4 inches thick, and two steps downwards lead into a square chamber, 13 feet 4 inches wide and 10 feet deep and high. Flooring and ceiling horizontal. On the eastern side, and close to the bottom, is a doorway 2 feet square in a wall 2 feet and a few inches thick. Towards the west, or outside, the door is widened by three rebates, the outer one forming a kind of cornice and arch over the entrance.

Creeping through this doorway and downwards two steps, one comes into a similar, but larger room, exactly square, 13 feet by 13 feet, and more than 8 feet high; looking round one sees on three sides exactly equal-sized *kokim* in the walls, and at the same height as the doorway.

There are four in the northern and four in the southern wall, each 7 feet deep, and three in the eastern wall. Of the latter the one to the right and

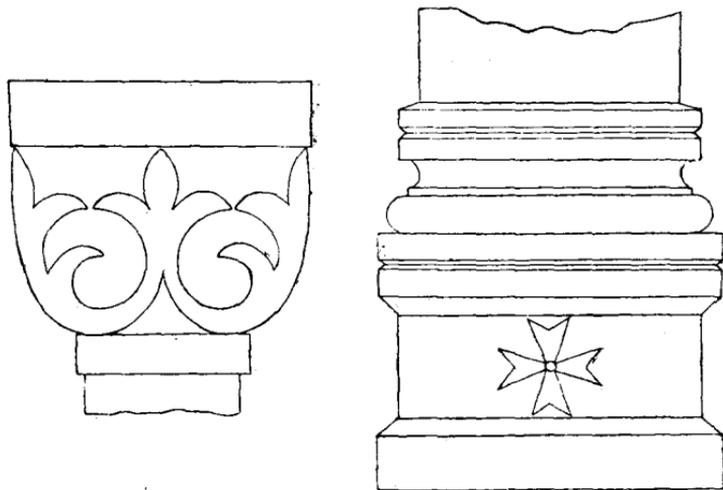


to the left are similar to the others and of the same dimensions, but the middle one is a doorway (opposite the former) in a wall only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  foot thick. Each of the ten *kokim* has on its outer end a cutting or fold around it into which a stone slab was fitted, and so the hole shut up. I found these slabs no more before the holes, but lying about, showing that the tombs had been rifled; also I could not see any bones, or inscription, or marks. On the floor of the room there is sunk a pool about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep, and 9 feet by 8 feet wide

Passing through the last-mentioned doorway, and also two steps downwards, one comes to a small and lower room, a kind of ante-chamber, without any receptacle for dead bodies,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep and 6 feet 2 inches wide. Seeing on the eastern wall an opening, the explorer gets the impression that there will be no end of rooms, one behind the other, but on creeping in, and also two steps downwards, he finds himself to be in the last, which is a regular tomb-chamber with three alcoves or niches for dead bodies, on each side one, except the door side. These niches are benches, covered with an arch of rock, as shown in the section. The rest of the ceiling is exactly horizontal. On the bottom there is a pool about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet by 6 feet wide. The room itself, without the recesses, is 10 feet by 9 feet wide, and 7 feet high. It is remarkable that the floor of each room is about 20 inches lower than that of the one before it, for which there must be some reason. All the rooms could have been made on one level, and with the same effect if the doors had been put 20 inches higher, except perhaps for one thing: in the afternoon the sun's rays can fall even in the innermost chamber as it is now, but if all were on one level this could not be, or at least only at sunset.

*Note.*—When reporting on the eastern part of the north wall of the city and the new road going down to Gethsemane, I omitted to mention that the rock on which the north-east tower once stood was laid bare. It extends as far west as the bend-point of the modern wall. The present tower, or Burj Lac Lac, is only 37 feet wide, whereas the old one was about 76 feet, or nearly the same size as "David's Tower" and the one found by M. Maus east of the Church of St. Anne. These observations are against the idea that the old city did not extend so much to the north-east, but that the Moslems added this quarter to the old city.

In building shops outside the Jaffa Gate the foundation of the present



town wall was laid bare at another point, and shown also here to stand on

earth and not on the rock, as I reported in a former communication. I observed also a capital and a pillar base which had been found at this spot, built into the modern building, of which I give sketches one-tenth of the real size. The pedestal is of red mizzy stone, but the capital of a whiter and better sort of stone.

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## V.

### ANOTHER ROCK-CUT CHAPEL AT SILWÂN.

About ten days ago I was told that more rock-cut chambers had been found in Silwân, the walls of one being covered with old inscriptions. As soon as possible I went down with two of my men, in order to see and examine them. But it was a harder task than we expected. The people told us no such things had been found, or, at least, that they had not heard of it. Going through the village and inquiring, we had already come without result to its other end, and I had become convinced that the chambers which I some time ago examined and reported upon must be meant. However, a man, very likely hoping to get *bakshesh*, at last said he would show us such a place, and so our examination began, and I will now describe the results.

Below the Tomb of Zacharias, in the Kidron valley, the road divides, one branch going down the valley to the Virgin's Fountain, &c., the other eastward and upwards, to the threshing-floor of the village. This is an even horizontal terrace of some size, situated between the lower or western cliff and the eastern and higher one. At its southern end the main road or street of the village begins, having houses on both sides. On the second house on the eastern side there was pointed out to me a depression or niche in the wall, caused by cutting out a large piece of stone bearing an inscription, which had been sold by the proprietor. As the spot is so exposed, that any explorer visiting the village must have seen it, it is probably one already known, and perhaps published. The man went with us a little further, and then in a lane branching off eastwards from the main road, and near its end, showed us a door in the southern wall, passing through which we came into a court, having on its eastern wall, which was formed of the upper rock cliff, a door, which stood open. A child was crying inside, and the mother, appearing at the door, allowed us to enter and see the caves. The child became quiet when taken up, and so we could examine the cave at leisure. It is a double room, one part behind the other, of no special interest. The rooms were never tombs, but chambers for habitation; as people now live in them, so it was from the beginning. They are entirely cut in the rock; the outer 12 feet by 10 feet wide and 8 feet high, the partition wall about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick, with a door in the centre. As there was much "nettish," or brushwood for fuel in it, I could not get its dimensions exactly.

In order that this and my further explanations and descriptions

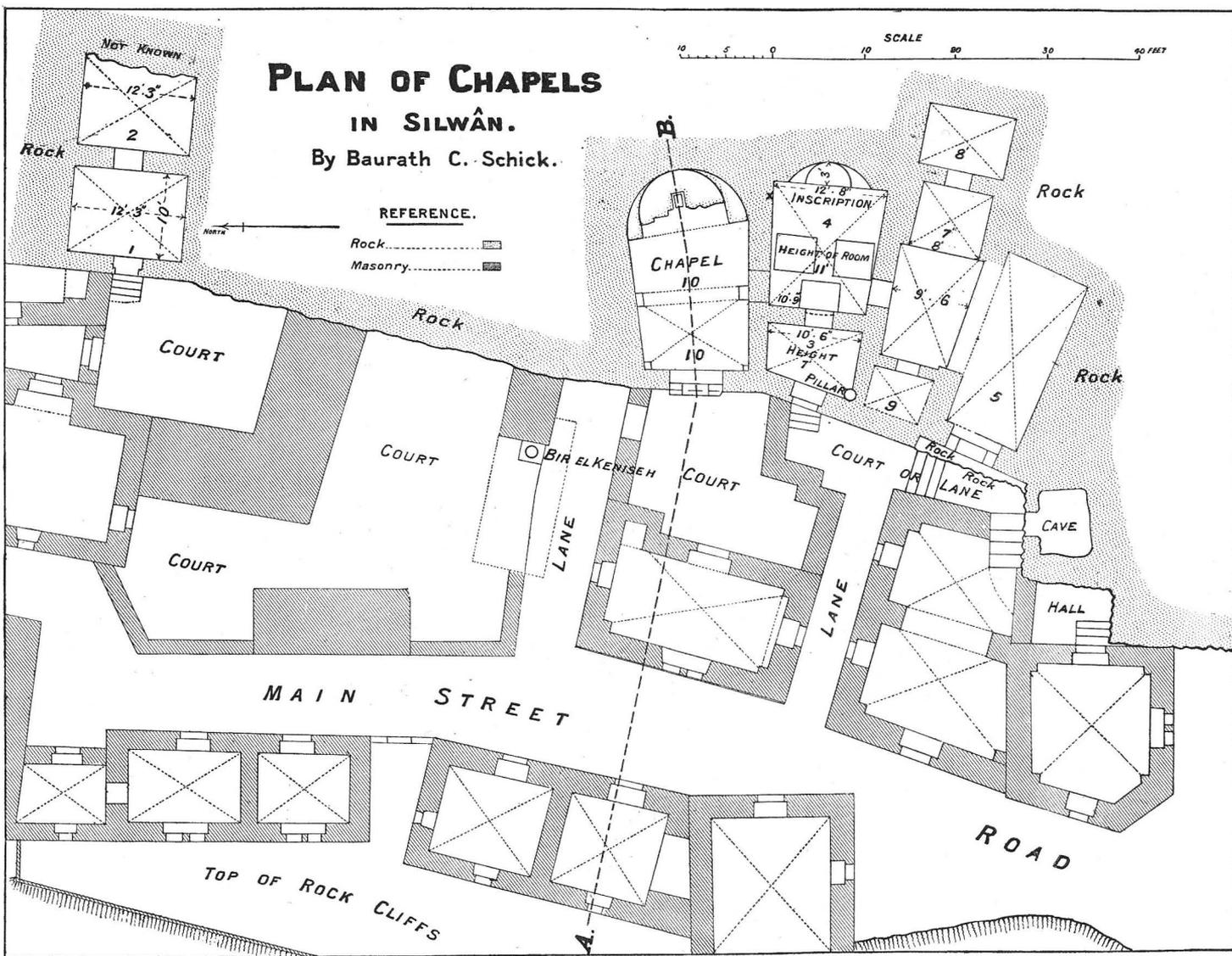
# PLAN OF CHAPELS

IN SILWÂN.

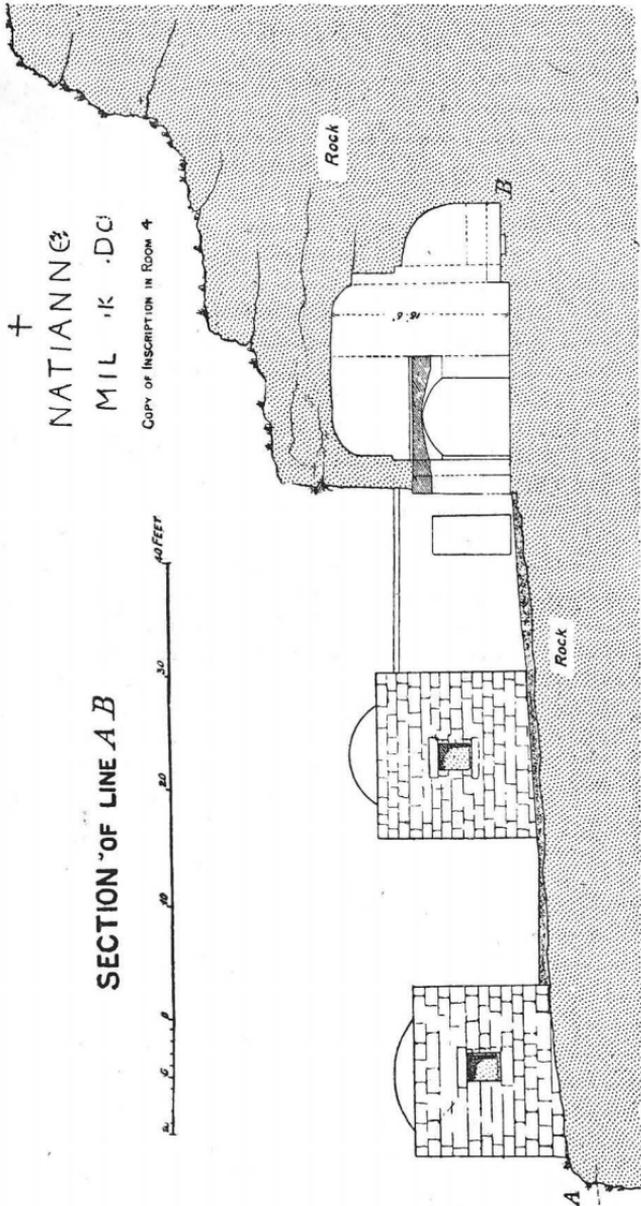
By Baurath C. Schick.

## REFERENCE.

Rock .....  
Masonry .....



may be better understood, I prepared the adjoining plan of the caves and surrounding houses, also a section and view of one part of



them. As I told the old man this was not what I wanted to see, he said there are some others, not recently discovered ones, but

inhabited, and one of them with an inscription. So we went back into the main road, and about 70 feet southward, in another lane which branches up eastward, we found near the end in its southern wall a door leading into a similar court, and with an opening in the cliff, or eastern wall of the court. This door was locked, so we went back to the main road, and in it, 25 feet further south, came to another lane which branched off eastward (the fourth when counting from the north). This lane ends at the cliff, or high scarp of the rock, in which several doors or openings were visible. Along the cliff is a kind of passage, in the northern corner a few steps lead up to the door of a room, inhabited by a fellah family. On entering, we found this to be a double chamber, entirely cut in the rock, but the outer part arched or vaulted by masonry. The reason of this I could not learn, but very likely it was because of unsoundness of the rock ceiling, for I found this room only a little more than 7 feet high, whereas the inner is much higher. The vault rests for the greater part on the rock walls, but at the south-western corner, on a piece of a granite pillar-shaft. This room is rather small, averaging about 10 feet by 7 feet, of an irregular shape; very likely it had once a door near the pillar leading to the adjoining room, but as the wall is plastered I could not ascertain whether this was so. In the centre of its eastern (the partition) wall is a door like all the inner doors, and the curiosity is that immediately inside the door there is on the floor a pit, 4 feet by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide and 3 feet deep, and close to it further in two similar ones, as will be seen in the Plan. The purpose of these pits is not clear. They were not tombs or graves, being too short and too wide. They were either for keeping water, or storing other things, when the rooms were used as lodging-places, or, perhaps, when for a time this inner one was used as a chapel, bones—not corpses—might be placed there. When the rooms were inhabited these pits required coverings, which must have been of wood, as I found no indication of their having been of stone. The inner room is (without the apse) 14 feet long,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide in the west and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  feet in the east, and about 10 feet high. The eastern wall had a regular half-circled apse of 3 feet radius, which at a later time has been much damaged by rock being broken off in the north and south, as shown in the Plan. The floor of the apse is smooth, and about 8 inches above the main floor of the room. The rock looks rather unsound, and is full of small cracks, and, it having been recently white-washed, these cracks and marks of the chisel, or other unevenness, being dark, give the appearance of *writing*. I explained to the proprietor the real state of things, but he still believes the marks to be writing, which only I do not understand. On the north wall, near its eastern end and 7 feet above the ground, there is really a small Latin inscription, which I copied (*see* section), as it was impossible to make a squeeze, owing to the unevenness of the surface.

On the southern wall I could see that there was once a door communicating with the next room, No. 6. The question arises whether this room

has once been a special Christian chapel, as the apse seems to indicate? One is inclined to say, yes! although it cannot be definitely proved, as even a dwelling, or a place where bones were stored, might have a shrine. To me it seems that in the middle ages, or even later, a Convent or Laura of Monks or Anchores may have been here, using already existing Jewish and Canaanite rock-cut chambers.

When we came out I was told that the key for the southern door had been brought, so we went to it and found the door itself and surrounding masonry to be quite new. A few rock-cut steps lead up from it to a higher ledge, while the way goes horizontally into the room No. 5, which is on an average 9 feet wide, 20 feet long, and about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. It is connected with another room, No. 6, which is on an average 13 feet long, 9 feet wide, and about 9 feet high—a good deal higher than the former. The partition between is only observable on the ceiling; there is not an arch but a kind of ledge projecting a little downwards, and immediately under the ceilings of both rooms there is a cornice all round, the workmanship of which is excellent. On the north wall there is a door, now walled up, which led to No. 4, and also one in its western wall, once leading to No. 9. As I could not go into the latter I give its size on suggestion. On the eastern side of room No. 6 there is a large recess, No. 7, about 8 feet wide, 7 feet deep, and 8 feet high, somewhat lower than No. 6, also this recess has a cornice all round under the ceiling. On its eastern wall is a door leading into another room, No. 8, done in the same way, and 10 feet by 8 feet wide, and about 8 feet high, without any apse or recess. That all these rooms were once human dwellings is without question, and that Christians once lived in them is shown not only by the Latin inscription with a cross over it, but also by a larger cross chiselled into the rock, over the door of chamber No. 5. The cross is that of the Knights of St. John, with 8 sharp points, standing in a double ring, the largest nearly 2 feet in diameter. Over it, on the top of the scarp, there is another room, made of masonry in a partly natural cave. To climb up to it was dangerous for me, and it seemed to be without further interest.

South of room No. 5 the cliff (or scarp) forms a kind of projecting angle and here also a chamber of minor interest and smaller form is cut into the rock. A few steps lead up to another corner now used as a kind of hall or ante-chamber for the next house (*see* Plan). When leaving this place and coming into the main road, followed by a number of people, I was told that the door of No 10 was now open; so we went there. On the north side of the lane and partly under it, there is a cistern, called—as the people told me—Bir el-Keniseh, *i.e.*, the “Well of the Church;” it is cut into the rock or built into a cleft, and the arching stones project above the surface of the road. East of its mouth there is a block of masonry of considerable height, its purpose I could not learn, but think it is the covering of a stair leading down into the cistern. Opposite the latter is a door leading to the court already mentioned. Its level is nearly the same as that of the threshold of the door in the cliff leading to No. 10.

This door was also made lower and narrower by masonry. On entering one finds himself in a room 12 feet wide and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, vaulted by masonry, its four legs or resting points on small pieces of masonry, but further in there is a part much higher,  $15\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and at the same time also wider, the east wall rounded as a large and regular apse; but in some degree slanting. The floor of the apse is 8 inches higher than the floor of the room, but it is partly broken away now. It had in the centre a square hole about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, 10 inches wide, and 8 inches deep, with groove all round for letting in the cover, which is gone. The apse has on the ground a diameter of 10 feet, but about 1 foot higher, 13 feet 6 inches, with a radius of 6 feet 9 inches, an arrangement which I observed here for the first time. Also its ceiling is unusual, as will be seen from the Section. I found no inscription; perhaps, if the room were whitewashed, some might appear. The people told me there was, formerly, also a communication between these rooms and the others, the whole forming a "Monasterion," as they said. It may be so, but I observed no indications of a door. That this chamber, No. 10, was a chapel, is quite clear.

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## VI.

### SOME EXCAVATIONS ON MOUNT OF OLIVET.

An English gentleman, Mr. Gray Hill, has recently bought a piece of ground on the northern top of Mount of Olivet, or perhaps already belonging to the Scopus. He intends to make a cistern and to build a house there, also to make a wall round about the land; stone quarrying and excavations are, therefore, going on, and some old remains have been found. First, a small square pool, only 5 feet by 5 feet wide, and about 4 feet deep, hewn in the rock, with its "musfaih," or filter, at the side; further, two caves, hewn in the rock, which were originally Troglodite dwellings; the northern one is a square room, 7 feet 3 inches by 8 feet 6 inches wide, and somewhat over 7 feet high; the roofing no more exists, and its northern wall, in which was the door, is also for the greater part destroyed; in the western and eastern walls are small recesses. The southern chamber is about 105 feet distant from the latter, the pool mentioned above being between them. It is not so regular as the other, is rather larger and of a rounder form; there are also two recesses in the wall, but much larger, and of irregular form; one of these formed the fire-place, as there is a chimney. A stair, forming a kind of trench, led downwards to a square door, nearly 5 feet high, and 2 feet 4 inches wide; three of the steps are preserved. On the western side of this trench, which is about 4 feet 6 inches wide, is a ledge of rock, in which is cut a small channel to carry the surface-water to a small pool 2 feet 10 inches by nearly 2 feet wide, and about the same deep, situated partly

on the side, partly over the room close to the door. These arrangements were made to avoid the surface-water running down into the room, and at the same time to gather it as a supply. The greater part of the roof being gone, the room became in course of time full of earth and *débris*. When this was cleared there were found a pillar-shaft, 13 inches in diameter, and 2 feet  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, and many hewn stones of peculiar shape. Further were found pieces of Mosaic flooring, the tesserae being of white stones, and still holding together; also jar handles and many pieces of pottery, a small metal vessel, some old coins, &c.

## VII.

### RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT SILOAH.

#### 1.—*Searching for a second Aqueduct.*

The idea of a "second" aqueduct from the Virgin's Fountain to the Pool of Siloah met with several opponents, although I had found such a one, or at least the southern part of such a one, for a length of about 400 feet, which I reported at the time and referred to on several subsequent occasions (*see especially Quarterly Statement, 1886, page 197, illustrated with plan and sections*). As it was desirable to look for traces of this more to the north, and the Secretary wrote to me: "the Committee hope that you will do something in the way of excavation," I made the necessary arrangements and started work in the middle of April, although with only a small number of men, in order to keep down the expenses. As the Committee had not fixed the actual points where I had to dig, I chose them to the best of my judgment, commencing high up on the slope of the Ophel-hill, where I might be in some degree sure to find the rock on a level a few feet above the bottom of the famous aqueduct of the Virgin's Fountain. The point fixed upon is about 190 feet north of my former shaft, C (*see Quarterly Statement, 1886, page 198, and plan*), and at the contour of the present ground, 2,125 feet above the Mediterranean (*see Sir C. Wilson's Plan of Jerusalem, scale  $\frac{1}{28800}$ ; or Sir C. Warren's portfolio, plate iii*).

On sinking a shaft there was found earth for 4 feet, then for about 4 or 5 feet small stones and small stone chippings, so that it was necessary to put in wooden cases; after this, at a depth of 8 or 9 feet, the earth was hard, and we could go down to any depth, the earth being mingled sometimes with stones and boulders. At 27 feet the rock was found at a level of 2,098 feet, falling towards the east, with a decline of  $12^{\circ}$ , but on the north-west corner of the shaft a scarp was visible 2 feet 6 inches high, and opposite there was masonry, so one might think there had been here an open channel from 2 feet 6 inches to 3 feet wide; but seeing no traces

of any cementing, and at the same time the level being too high, I decided to fill up the shaft, and to make another one 23 feet lower down, as we could not drive a gallery. This second shaft, on a level 2,117 feet, is a little more south, and only 55 feet west of the road in the valley. The nature of the ground was similar to that at the first shaft, and the rock was struck at 35 feet deep, level 2,082. It had a decline towards the east of  $25^{\circ}$ , which seems to be the average decline of the eastern slope of Ophel-hill. The earth being hard, the workmen undertook to make a gallery towards the site of the first shaft, but as the rock rises rapidly, they had to make the gallery higher and higher, and so gradually filled the shaft again for about 8 feet. Having worked westwards for about 10 feet they came to a rock scarp, on the bottom of the gallery, so the latter was driven further on the surface of the rock to a distance of 16 feet, where a massive wall was met with which the workpeople, without having cased the gallery, would not try to break through. If it is the same which was met in the first shaft it must have a thickness of 5 or 6 feet. I wished now to descend on the scarp, which was rather a difficult work, going on very slowly, and when at 6 feet deep small boulders appeared I had to give up the work. As in this ground, from level 2,082 to 2,094 feet, no trace of an aqueduct was found, I thought very likely the wall above-mentioned, which is situated at the desired height, might be the very aqueduct, and that the scarp might be the wall of a pool, into which the water from the Virgin's Well came; so I thought it best to make a third shaft, south of both, in the position where the wall would be if it went straight, and so come upon the wall, and find the aqueduct, if really there is one. Unhappily no wall was found, nor any aqueduct, but at 30 feet 6 inches deep, on a level 2,091, the rock was met horizontal! Disappointed, I made short galleries on three sides of the shaft, but without success. Convinced that what I looked for was not to be found here I gave up the work, and filled the shafts again.

### 2.—*Searching for Gate of City of David.*

During the time these three shafts were being made, four others were also sunk, much more to the north, and not in connection with the aqueduct, but rather with a view to find out the old gate of the city of Jebus, the gate at the end of the road coming up from the Virgin's Fountain to the fortress of the Jebusites and the City of David. As in the *débris* on the eastern slope of Ophel many pieces of old pottery are found, the fellaheen sometimes dig in the ground in order to find them for making "hamra" (pounded bricks), which is used for cementing cisterns. Whilst doing this they came to a place where there were walls on two sides, and having observed that further up the hill traces of walls were seen in the same line, I thought that probably this once formed a kind of tunnel, with door at each end, and forming an underground access to the City of David. I wished, therefore, to find out (1) if there were on the bottom steps hewn into the rock; and (2) if there were openings in both

end walls. Shafts were therefore sunk, and the locality carefully examined, but neither steps nor doors were found.

The tunnel is situated just where we should look for one, and runs in the desired direction. It very likely formed an underground approach to the city, which became destroyed, and was not properly restored in later times, but became converted into a pair of rather poor cisterns, which in turn got out of repair and fell to ruins.

C. SCHICK.

### SCULPTURED FIGURES NEAR KÂNÂ.

LAST Saturday (24th) I returned from my trip to near Tyre, where, in accordance with the desire of the Committee, I had proceeded to photograph the ancient figures mentioned by Guérin and Rénan.

I started at six in the morning from the new Khân Skanderûna, a tolerably clean native inn built close to the sea shore on the site of ancient Alexandroschene, near Râs el Bayâda, and proceeded to the white "ladder of Tyre." This narrow defile, above the steep rocks of Râs el Bayâda, is becoming a rather dangerous path on account of the crumbling rock, masses of which roll down to the road from the overhanging cliffs above and partly narrow the path, partly in their fall ruin its borders on the sea side. It is, too, becoming again a hiding place for highwaymen, who, as I hear, lately committed several crimes here; unfortunately the new "chaussée," which would avoid the Bayâda road entirely and cross the mountain higher up, is not yet finished. I continued the usual road to Tyre along the sea coast, and arrived at Râs el 'Ain at 8 o'clock in the morning. From here I took a directly eastward course, passed the column 'Amud el Atrash, followed the wâdy up to the brackish 'Ain Furâwiyat, left the small village Beit Hûlêi to my right, and arrived in a terrible sirocco heat at the "Kabir Hirâm" at about 9.30. This ancient monument has not been in any way destroyed; the proprietor of it and of the surrounding ground has excavated on the north of the Kabir, and opened a rock-hewn tomb-cave, but the Governor of Tyre stopped his work, so that nothing as yet can be said of the interior disposition of the cave. It seems as if it had a communication with the monument, its entrance not being more than about 3 yards to the north of the Kabir Hirâm. I encouraged the proprietor to continue excavating, but he declared he was not able to do so without a firman. A few minutes later I passed the well-built and populous village of Henâweh, leaving it on the right hand, and continued my road in a south-easterly direction across the rocky shoulder lying between Henâwei and Kânâ, on which here and there remains of wine or olive presses, basins and cisterns, are found. The ride along the rocky road from Henâweh to Kânâ took me 50 minutes.