

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.

My object now was to look for the curious figures above mentioned. I enquired, but not one of the exceedingly suspicious and fanatic sect of the Metâweli natives, with whom these mountains abound, would know anything of them. I therefore examined, first, the slopes lying right of the road and west of Kânâ (or Âna, as the natives pronounce it), following thus the guidance of Rénan, as given in the "Memoirs" (vol. i), who says: "turning to the right in the valley," &c. ; but I discovered nothing else but cisterns, presses, and round holes in the rocks of the upper slopes which now are used as stone quarries. I also examined the Wâdy Kânâ, north of Kânâ, but without effect. Finally, an old Moslem had an idea that somewhere to the east of the road leading from Henâwei to Kânâ he had seen "tasawîr" (figures) on the rocks, but he was not able to indicate their exact position. I continued nevertheless my researches, and was finally lucky enough to find a large ancient quarry, and below this, along a rock wall bordering the second third of the heights of the steep Wâdy el 'Akkâb, strange figures cut into the rock. The spot where they are found lies, therefore, in following the road from Kânâ to Hanâwei, about one mile north-west of the village of Kânâ, and 200 yards off the road from this spot eastwards down the slope of Wâdy el 'Akkâb.

The vicinity of the antiquities is a very rocky, wild one ; the rock walls are built up in great terraces one above the other. I proceeded without delay to photograph the figures, and succeeded in doing so. The figures are carved on the perpendicular and sloping sides of a worked limestone rock *facing east* ; all look towards the rising sun. The figures are found on two different rock walls ; the first wall above has a length of about 40 yards, along this figures of a very strange appearance are found one by one standing in an upright position ; some are shown to the breast, others show merely the head and a long neck. One figure, probably a chieftain, is stretching out his arms as if he was commanding or uttering a benediction ; two figures are worked in a corner of the rock and stand on a small pedestal ; three others are folding their hands. Every figure, or every group of two or more figures, is surrounded by a round or cornered niche 2 to 3½ inches deep, the relief work on an average projecting 3 inches from the rock. Special attention was paid to a female figure, the only one among all of which the sex can be made out with certainty. It has a female dress falling in folds, the left arm is stretched as if holding a cane, the right arm is hanging down, the head is mutilated as in all the figures. To the left of it, on another portion of rock, there is a probably unfinished figure—perhaps a hieroglyph.

There is another figure, which I hold to be also female. Unfortunately it is worked on a detached piece of rock and is almost entirely weatherworn and broken ; but the contour lines of the left arm seem to show a higher skill and art than some of the remaining figures. Among these figures, generally, as above said, surrounded by a niche, we find others which evidently are unfinished ; such incomplete figures are seen on nearly every photo., especially on Nos. 5 and 6, and on the general view, No. 7. This upper row represents 20 finished figures and 11 un-



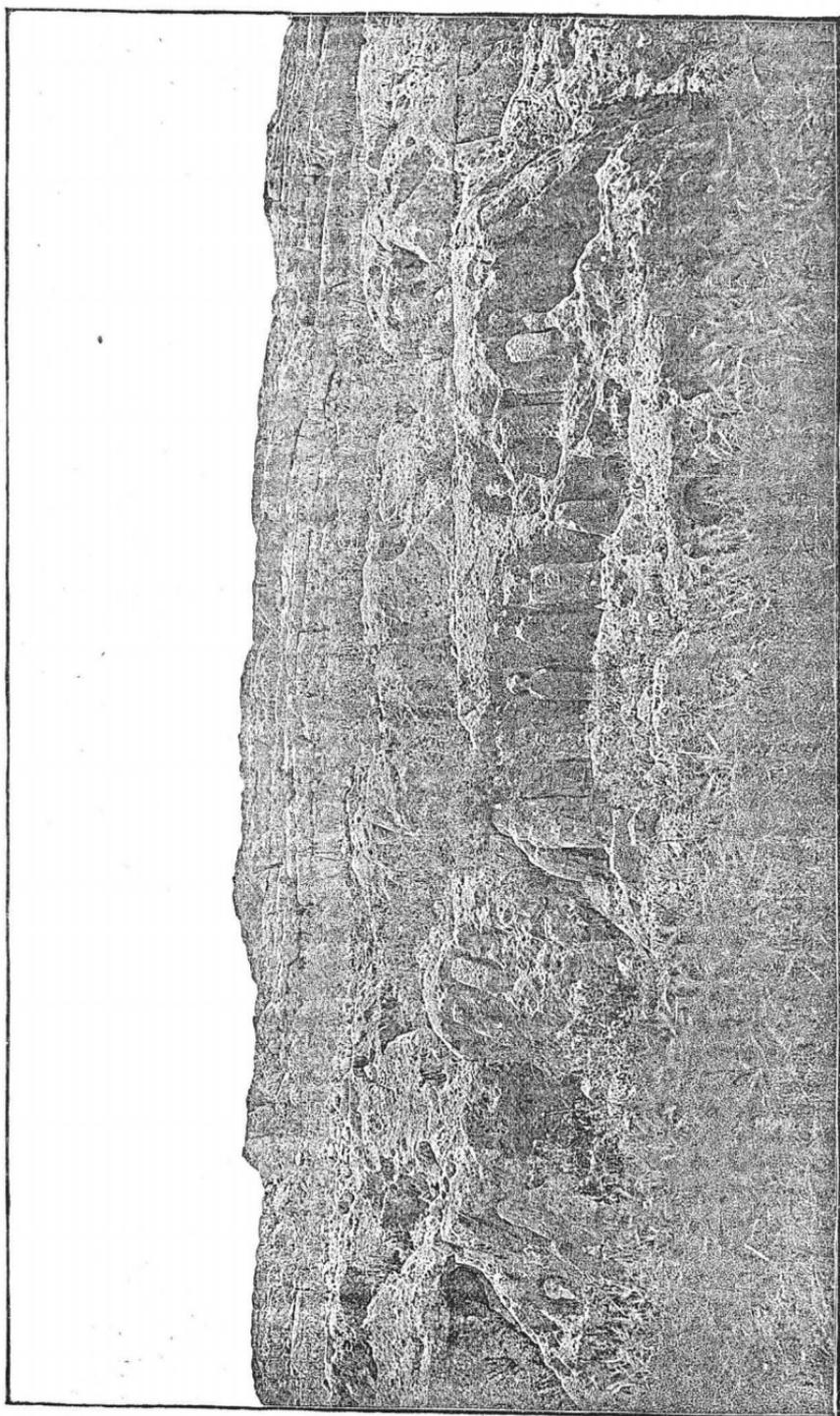
FIGURES CUT IN ROCK NEAR KÂNÂ. (*From a Photograph.*)

finished ones. The figures vary in height from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, most are 2 feet 2 inches high. The work is very rude in general, only two or four figures show a more developed art, but the principal obstacle which prevents a thorough study of these highly interesting figures is the fact that they are without exception almost entirely defaced; the heads, feet, and fingers broken by human hands, and, as the limestone rock is not very compact, also greatly weatherworn. Most of the figures do not show anything more than outlines; no physiognomy whatever is discoverable, therefore my thorough search for inscriptions and hieroglyphs was not rewarded by any favourable result. Above the central part of the upper line of figures I discovered on the rock a smooth portion framed by a simple cornice, which may once have contained inscriptions, but now none are discoverable.

The second series of figures is found on a rock wall 25 yards below the above-mentioned; this rock wall is not straight like the other, but the figures are hewn on the perpendicular sides of a rock of round shape. They face east and south. Whilst we found among the upper row figures showing some skill and art, we could not discover any such art on the figures below; they all without exception show merely a round ball, representing the head, and a long straight neck placed on the remainder of the body formed by a simple quadrangle. This quadrangle often is not broader than the head, and therefore of a very primitive appearance. Most of the figures are in a niche; they are in relief of 2 inches to 3 inches. Most of these lower figures are evidently unfinished, and like the upper ones entirely weatherworn.

On photo. No. 9 we find several figures close to each other; none of them have any peculiarity, only the middle figure is higher than all the rest; it has a height of 4 feet 3 inches, and stands in an own niche. One figure on photo. No. 8 seems to be of the following shape, but I must confess that I could not make out whether it originally was like all the others of the lower row and defaced by the influence of the weather, or whether it really was of a different kind. Photo. No. 10 shows also some figures of the lower row, which contains in all 15 finished and 12 unfinished figures. I venture to think that the figures of the lower row represent a more ancient period than those of the upper, but it is very difficult to state at what epoch they may have been created. I think Guérin is right in calling them anterior to the Greek-Roman epoch, probably Egypto-Phœnician. The bearing of the upper straight wall is due north-south; the spot is, according to the barometer, 70 feet lower than Kânâ.

Réнан speaks of a third series of figures hidden in the bushes. I found, 35 yards below the second row, a large natural cave, with a smoothed rock covering it, but no sign of any sculpture; in fact, I explored the whole vicinity without finding any other works than the above-described. Bushes, in fact, exist no more in this part of the country, the slopes are bare, naked rocks. I also could not find any "sitting divinity," "towards which three men and a woman march in procession," as Guérin



FIGURES CUT IN ROCK NEAR KÂNĀ. (From a Photograph.)

states ("Galilee," ii, p. 402), unless the corner figure (photo. No. 1) with the neighbouring figures with folded hands are meant.

My road homewards by the Wâd er Rasâs, the village el Keneiseh, and Mutniyeh, offered nothing of general interest.

SCHUMACHER.

Haifa, *May 29th*, 1890.

THE FIGURES NEAR KÂNÂ.

It is satisfactory that this point has been cleared up; but the expectations raised by M. Guérin's account have not been fulfilled. I do not think that these figures can be assigned to a very remote period. In size and character, and in their arrangement in niches, they resemble other figures which I have drawn in various parts of Syria.

It is to be observed that they are all full-face, which may be taken as an indication of late date. The Egyptian, Hittite, and Assyrian *bas reliefs*, almost without exception, represent figures in profile.¹ On the other hand, the busts carved on rock of the Greek and Roman period are usually full-faced. If any inscriptions had been found, they would probably have been Greek.

At Abila of Lydanas I copied several such busts over tombs with Greek inscriptions, not earlier than the second century A.D. Near Amman such a bust, but better executed, has been noted in the "Memoirs." The figure from Wâdy et Tin, near Tyre (see "Syrian Stone Lore") is of the same type, but rather better executed. Near Es Salt I found a similar pair of busts inside a tomb which had been used as a Christian chapel. The tomb had *loculi* and not *kokim*. Another bust of the same class was found on a tomb of about the second century A.D., which I discovered at *El Kahf*, in Moab.

I should suppose that these, as well as the figures lately found at Sairs, belong to the Roman period and represent native work. The Palmyrene statues of the second and third centuries A.D., though much more considerable as works of art, are of the same class of rude native attempts to reproduce classic types, and the great figures found at Tell Nemrûd, on the Upper Euphrates, represent the same style, but are more considerable as art productions dating from the century before Christ. The size of the busts above mentioned is about the same as that of the figures. Still rougher examples of this class were sketched in 1877 by Sergeant Malings, R.E., at the *Mughâret esh Shahl*, near 'Almân ("Memoirs" i, p. 108), over a tomb, and at *Khârbet Yârîn* ("Memoirs" i, p. 185), also near a tomb with *loculi*. These busts may have been intended to represent persons buried in the tombs, and they have no connection with Hittite or true Phœnician art. They may even be as late as the Byzantine age. I found a small statue of the same class at Kadesh, on the Orontes.

C. R. CONDER.

¹ Sir C. W. Wilson reminds me that the Niobe of Mount Sipylos is full-faced. So is one face on the Karnak Monument.