

part of Jerusalem described as the city of David must be that which was afterwards called the Acra.

As I stated in *Quarterly Statement*, 1888, 108, the City-of-David question is really as clear as a sunny noon, and as easy as A B C, until Josephus' guesses at truth are weakly taken to be truth. It is certainly remarkable that generations of writers should, in this one instance in the "Wars," accept Josephus as infallible, and shut eyes and ears alike to all the counter evidence in the "Antiquities," 1 Maccab., and the Bible. Surely it is time to cease doting over one casual observation, and to take in the new idea that Josephus could change his view as well as his side.

W. F. BIRCH.

GIHON.

REFERRING to the Rev. W. F. Birch's remarks on my paper respecting Gihon: (1) I cannot share his view that it is "most unsatisfactory to have to take 1 Kings i, 33, 45, as speaking proleptically." Such prolepsis in connection with names of places is repeatedly met with in the Old Testament. Thus, in Gen. xii, 8, we read that Abraham "pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west and Hai on the east;" although from Gen. xxviii, 19, we learn that the place got its name of Bethel from his grandson a century and a half later. Unless, indeed, there were two Bethels. In 1 Sam. iv, 1, we read that the Israelites "pitched beside Ebenezer;" whilst from 1 Sam. vii, 12, it appears that the place was not so named until many years later. Unless, indeed, there were two Ebenzers. (2) The date of the construction of the tunnel is a point upon which I did not venture to speculate, there being so few data from which to form an opinion. That such "a gigantic work," as Mr. Birch justly calls it, should have been constructed in haste I find it hard to believe, as for the greater part of its extent only two men could have worked at the same time, namely, one at each end. And if relays of labourers were employed so that the work might go on without intermission, a very long time must still have been consumed in completing the task. I am rather inclined to think that Hezekiah's work of stopping the upper outflow and bringing down the water to the west side of the City of David only involved the short side tunnel and Warren's shaft. Perhaps the same king may have excavated the whole canal in the peaceful days, which preceded and followed Sennacherib's invasion. (Ecclesiasticus xlvi, 17.)

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