

HERR SCHICK'S REPORTS.

I

CHRISTIAN TOMBS IN JERUSALEM.

INSIDE the town, east of the new gate of Jerusalem, the Franciscan Convent is again clearing a place for new buildings. On removing the earth, two large tombstones were found, of which I enclose drawings. They were not *in situ*, but lying without order in the earth or rubbish. One has a prismatic form, is 5 feet 2 inches long and 1 foot 6 inches high; on the base is a border 2 inches high, so that each of the sloping sides measures 1 foot 8 inches. On these sloping sides are crosses (one on each side) near the same end. They are not exactly of the same form, so I give the picture of both. They are in slight relief, indicating probably the order of the knight buried underneath.

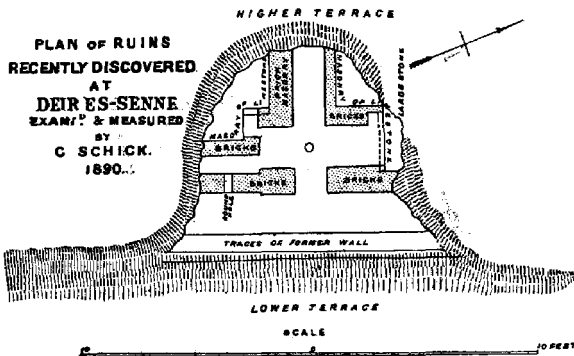
The other stone has a square or cubic form. It is 5 feet 11 inches long, 1 foot 7 inches wide, and 1 foot 2 inches high. On the top face, the edges round about have a slant of $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. On this upper surface there is a plain cross in slight relief. I found no writing nor any other marks on these two stones, they are worked nicely, and are soft *mezzeh*. They were found south of the pieces of old wall discovered some time ago.

II

ANCIENT BATH AND CISTERN NEAR BETHANY.

A fellah of the Village of Silwân came and told me that he had made some excavations in his vineyard, and found remarkable remains of brick masonry. So I went with him, and he took me towards Bethany; but on the height between Jebel el Tur and Baten el Hawa, where the Bethany road bends eastwards, we went straight on (*see* Ordnance Survey Plan of Jerusalem, scale $\frac{1}{100000}$), and on the east slope of the Mount of Offence, downwards, for the most part, in a southerly direction, as far as the Contour 2,129, where, a little more to the south and further down, I observed a pool hewn in the rock, which is shown on the map but the word "pool" omitted. Further down, at the Contour 2,019, we came to the vineyard of the man. Near the cistern there he had his hut, lodging in it during the summer months; and on the side of it, towards a declivity, he had made some excavations in search of hewn stones, which are found everywhere about in the soil. There are on the top or brow of

the present declivity the remains of a former wall made of hewn stones; west of this an empty space or path, about 2 feet wide; and west of the latter some curious masonry made of bricks, &c., of which I enclose plan. These brick walls are 2 feet 6 inches high, the bricks are of rather small size, hard—not brittle—and without any mark. Before the bricks were used there was some masonry of hewn limestone, and everywhere the stones, which are of rather small size, were cased with bricks. This seems to indicate that the fabric was intended for fire and was probably meant for a bath—the fire to be made in the most spacious part, the fuel being put in by the door, the round hole regulating the draught. The whole was covered with flagging stones, which had become burned by the fire just as the hot Turkish baths do to-day in this country. But it puzzled me to find an indication that ever fire was used.



The brick masonry looks rather new and unused. On the north side there is a large hewn stone, no more *in situ*, but lying there where the brickwork was done, not blackened in the least. In the centre point they found a piece of a slender marble pillar, 4 inches in diameter and 1 foot long, without any base. This place and the vineyards round about is called *Deir Essenna*, which may perhaps be translated *Convent of the Year*; but this implies no meaning, so I rather think, it has to be translated—the “Convent (or lodging-place) of the Essenes,” the Jewish sect of which Josephus speaks, “Bello,” 2, 8, 2-13. My guide (the proprietor of the ground) told me there was formerly here a village, perhaps as large as Silwân at this day, but there came a plague amongst its inhabitants, so that they all died out, and this ground was then allotted to the people of Silwân. During my examinations and measurings another fellah came from the neighbouring vineyard, telling me the same thing, and stating that wherever they dig they find masonry or hewn stones. He led me a few minutes eastwards, where on the Ordnance Survey Plan stands the word “Cave,” and here I found a remarkable cistern. The external opening looks like that of one of the caves of which there are so many in this district; but if one goes in he passes downwards from

one to another, and finally reaches a very large cistern, of which I give plan and section. It is entirely hewn into the rock, but for keeping water and holding the cement laid out round about with masonry of a few feet thick, as shown in the plan and section.

This wall casing or lining does not go up to the rock roof, but only to some height about 10 feet lower than the rock ceiling, so that a man can walk on the top of the wall round about. In the roof are two mouths cut in the rock, but on the top, covered up, and not observable in the vineyard. The size and form of the cistern is rectangular, 73 feet long, 49 feet wide. The height I could not exactly ascertain, as there is on the bottom a great accumulation of stones, earth, and dung. The cistern is very often the resort of cattle, sheep, and goat herds, and this accumulation is certainly 8 or 10 feet thick, so that the entire height would be about 55 feet, taking 45 feet of water, if restored again. In the southern wall there is a breach, by which men and animals can go down to the bottom of the cistern. In the masonry of the east and north walls are several holes broken, on a level with the present bottom of the cistern, so that one may see the rock behind. These seem to have been made and used as fire-places, as they are so blackened by smoke, and the man said: the shepherds also put sick animals there, in order that they may not be molested by the others; even the shepherd himself does so sometimes.

This cistern is called "Boberich," which may be translated "large" or "grand." If the Essenes lived round about here they had water enough for their many washings.

III.

MORE DISCOVERIES AT SILWÂN.

When watching the excavation work at the so-called "second" aqueduct people told me there was discovered on the ground of the Russians some interesting writing, so I went there.

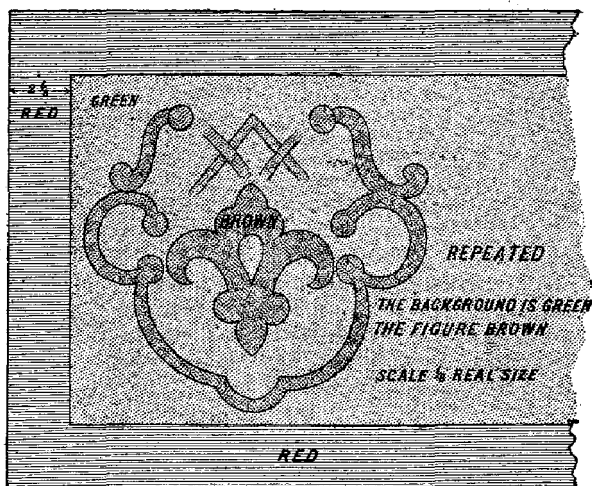
It is on the Scarped Rocks, at the north end of the village, on the spot where Sir Charles Wilson's map of Jerusalem, $\frac{1}{25000}$, mentions ancient tombs. Where the letter C stands the rock is projecting. This projecting part is of considerable height, and at the upper part a room is excavated in it, having a window on the north side. This window served also as the door, and to get up to it a ladder is required. Below, near the surface of the ground, is a passage of about a man's height, formed by two recesses, one from the east side and one from the north side, meeting inside. They are hewn in rock, only the corner being left for support. In the floor of this short passage is the mouth of a small cistern.

Opposite this rock projection, 20 feet distant, is another, not so high. The space between has a rock flooring, which apparently once formed a

room or chapel. The north wall, which was of masonry, has now disappeared; the three other sides are rock scarps, in which are small holes, for the poles of the roofing. In the south-eastern corner there still stands a piece of masonry, which once supported the roof.

Some months ago the ground in front of this rock was bought by the Russian Archimandrite, who erected a boundary wall, and then made some excavations, especially between the two projecting parts. On the east wall of the room or chapel described three recesses were found. One is small and of no importance; another, which is opposite, is a semi-circular excavation in the rock, like a Moslem "Mihrab," and the one in the middle is square in form, 2 feet 8 inches high, 1 foot 3 inches wide, and about 10 inches deep. At the middle of the height are grooves on each side, as if for a shelf. This wall had been painted over in "fresco." Between the centre recess and the semi-circular one the painting represents a square frame in deep red, the space enclosed is dark blue, and on it are seven lines of fine writing, done in white paint. The lines are not in a horizontal but a vertical position, the greater part no longer legible, but some are still clear, and of these I made a copy, which I now forward. The letters resemble Hebrew, although the whole arrangement seems to be Christian.

South of the centre recess, and in the same line with the inscription frame, that frame is continued. It is red, and on the enclosed surface, which is green, figures are painted in brown, one of which I copied. I could not find any cross here, but high up on the rock,



on the west side of the above-mentioned window or door, a plain cross of two strokes, without any ornamentation, about 8 inches high, is hewn into the rock. I could find no opening of a tomb, but there may be such in the middle of the flooring where a heap of earth is lying.

2. When leaving this place I was taken to a house in the upper part of the village, and shown an inscription engraved slightly in the stone

201
Reduced from a Squeeze
of an inscription on a
house in the village
of SILOAH

IN·H·II
E·NI·HI
H·Π·C·NEOI
KWJ·O·YE·H
Y·I·UN·O·O
I·X·I·M·I·F·I

on the side of a window. They had before brought me a squeeze of this; very imperfectly done, as it seemed to me, and I now compared the squeeze with the stone, going on letter by letter, and made it distinct and corrected it with a brush in black water-paint. It was too high to make a better squeeze, as I had no ladder, and there was nobody on the spot. Also I supposed it probable that Monsieur Ganneau may have long ago copied the inscription, and that hence it is not necessary to take much pains about it. However, I enclose here

the squeeze-copy, such as it is, and hope it will be good enough for judging whether Mons. Ganneau has copied it already or not, and also whether it is of any value or not. To me it seemed to have been once a tombstone.¹

IV.

THE "SECOND" SILOAH AQUEDUCT.

September 29th, 1890. In April and May last, I made three shafts in search of the second aqueduct with comparatively negative results, which I fully reported in the first week of June (see *Quarterly Statement*, 1890, p. 257). Since then I have made three more shafts with better results.

In order to go on more safely, I first opened again the shaft C, which was made four years ago (see *Quarterly Statement*, 1886, p. 197). This shaft was then marked "C." In the accompanying plan and section I now mark it "4," as it is the fourth made this year.

When coming down again to the rock-cut aqueduct (the "second"), my intention was to clear it out northwards (towards the Virgin's Spring) and follow wherever it may go. As it had no covering stones the earth was so hard that the workmen could clear it out without frames. When it was cleared for a length of 23 feet it became difficult to go on further, and so I made another shaft (the fifth) marked 5 on the plan, and on

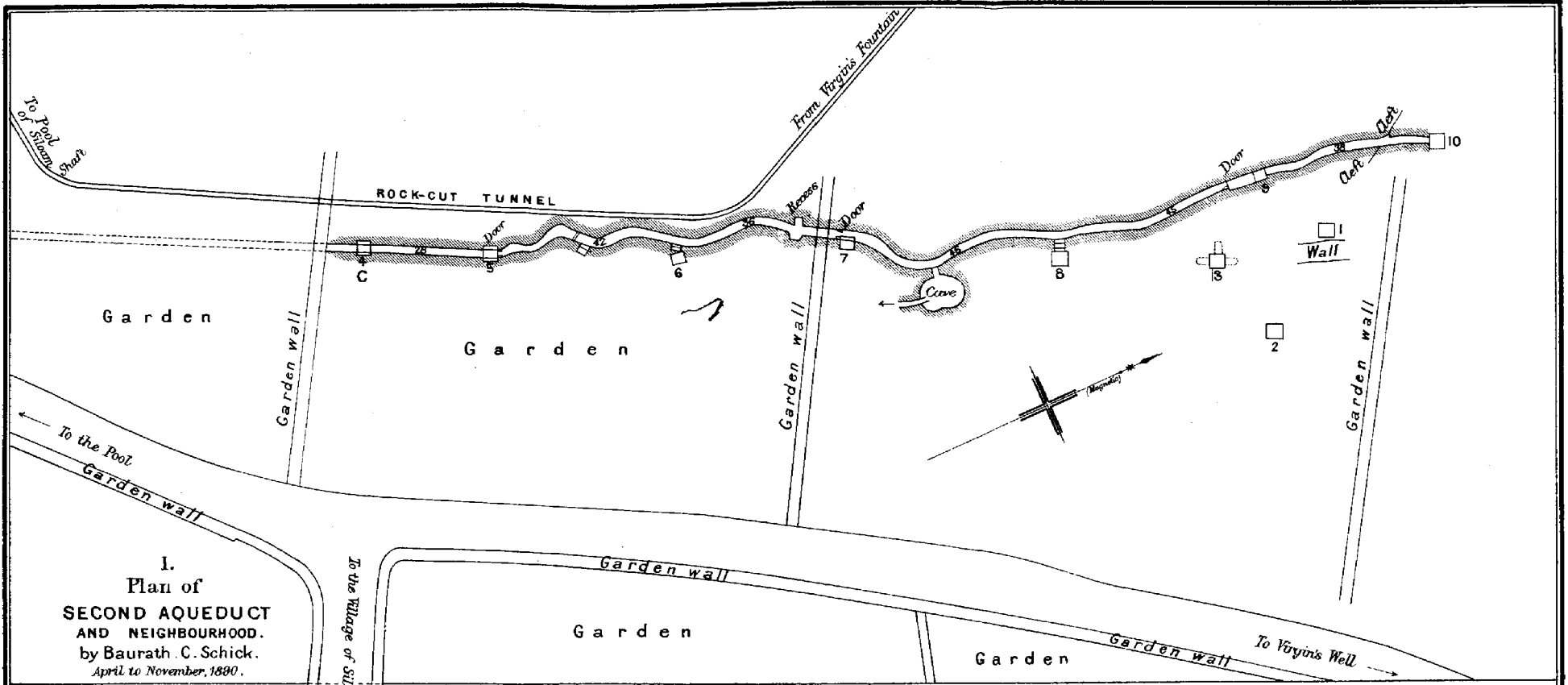
¹ This appears to be the writing I described in 1872 which is written in vertical lines and seems to be 6th century Syriac.—C. R. C.

coming down into the rock-cut channel it was found that there was a door, and that the channel was covered with rock, *i.e.*, from this point it was seen to be a rock-cut tunnel $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet high (in parts even more), at the bottom only from 8 inches to 15 inches wide, at or near the top always about 2 feet wide, in several parts more, so that the sides are slanting. The direction is rather in a crooked line, as the adjoining plan will show.

When cleared out for 17 feet a rock ledge was met, 2 feet high and 7 inches thick, standing across the channel, in order, apparently, to enable the water to be stored when necessary. There is a round hole in the ledge near the bottom, and when this was opened the water would run out. A few feet further north there is, on the east side, a door-like opening, and rock-cut steps lead down to the channel, or the water. About 20 feet further north is a similar door and steps, also on the eastern side. As it was difficult to go further on with the clearing, we opened another shaft over these last steps, marked in plan "6" (being the sixth). As according to the drawing in Sir Charles Wilson's plan of Jerusalem ($\frac{1}{3500}$), the present aqueduct (now in use) must be very near to this "second" one.

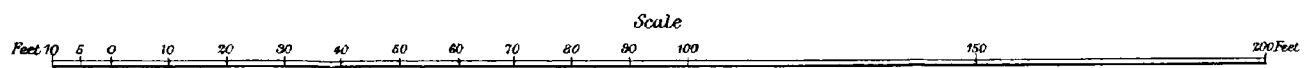
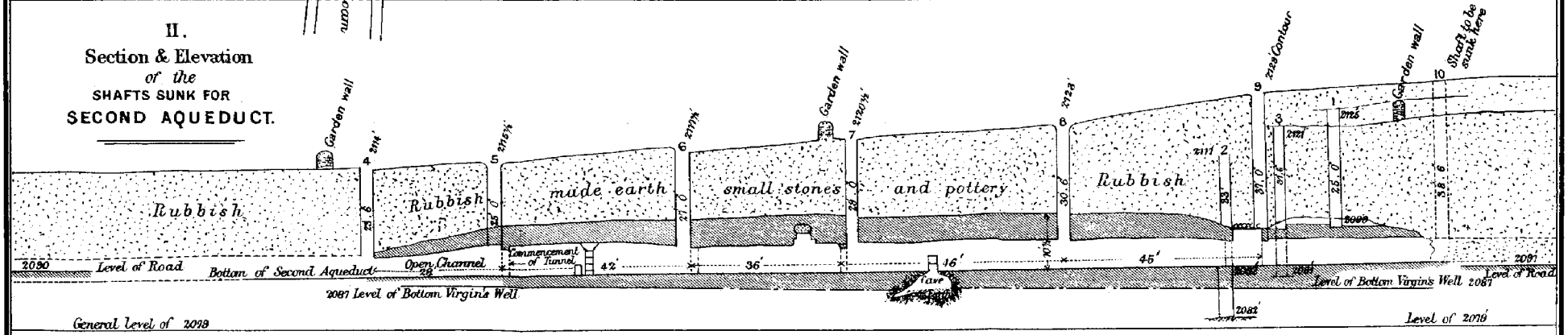
I hoped we might come to it, *i.e.*, to a masonry wall, which, when broken through, would bring us to the present aqueduct, and my original idea was that this "second" one is simply the original continuation of the real one, the lower part of which latter was afterwards hewn westward through the mountains, and this lower piece abandoned. But it is now clear that this was not the case. The level of the "second" is already here a few feet higher than the other; and having passed the "bend" without meeting the aqueduct, and still going northward, it is evident that the "second" is entirely another one! About 25 feet from the last steps there appears to be a door in the western side, and over it a kind of shaft, shut up with a large stone. The rock having here also some clefts, we intended to make a shaft here, but as I had no time for fixing the exact site over it, the workpeople went farther on, and thus found the passage shut up by a wall, consisting of square hewn stones laid dry, without mortar, so that this being removed it was found that here also the passage has a door, behind which (north) the rock roofing had an end. So I resolved to make here a shaft, being already in the ground of the neighbour who does not make so much difficulty as the proprietor of the ground in which we made the shafts 4, 5, 6. By guidance of the bearings with the compass in the passage, and then on the surface, I fixed the point, and people are now digging the shaft. Of the further results I will report in due time.

At shaft 6, over the lower steps, there is laid a very large covering stone on the rock shoulders, as shown in the section. It is most remarkable that two aqueducts were made so near to one another, running parallel, and at no great difference of levels. Both cannot have been made at one and the same time, and the question may be asked which is the older one? To me it seems the so-called "second" one is the oldest, which brought the water only to the lower or large pool, the present



I.
Plan of
SECOND AQUEDUCT
AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.
by Baurath C. Schick.
April to November, 1890.

II.
Section & Elevation
of the
SHAFTS SUNK FOR
SECOND AQUEDUCT.



C. Schick

"Birket Hamra"—"Old Pool" on Sir Charles Wilson's map. It is remarkable that the present one comes so much eastward out from the mountains, running parallel with the "second" in this region and then going again westwards through the mountain. What may have been the reason? These (seemingly) unnecessary bendings made the aqueduct 225 feet longer, and hence caused much more labour and expense, so it must have had a reason. Further, the decline of the "second" one is rather large, whereas the present one is nearly level, with a very slight descent, so that if the decline should be found further on, as it has been found in the part already excavated, it will come out only a few feet below the present surface, round the entrance to the Virgin's Spring, at a level of about 2,116, whereas the bed of the spring is 29 feet below.¹

From the translation of the inscription found near its lower end it is always believed that two parties of workmen have done the present aqueduct, beginning at the same time at both ends, and meeting in the middle. If this was so, then during that time the water must have had another outflow, and been brought up probably by wallings to a higher level, for running off; otherwise the water would have followed the workpeople and drowned them.

I may also notice that the part of this "second" aqueduct, now excavated, is very similar to that near Bir Eyûb, excavated by Sir Charles Warren.

On the levels mentioned in this report, and entered in the adjoining plan and section, I have to remark that only to a certain degree can they be depended upon, as at my levellings I had not a fixed and sure starting-point. I wished to take the bench-mark on one of the lowest houses in the village of Silwân as the starting-point, but unhappily this bench-mark is no longer visible, as the wall of a new house has been built in front of it.

So, as I did not know the level of the bench-mark, I took as a starting-point the inserted level, 2,078, in the road going over from the aqueduct side to the village. But always in winter the surface, even in the street or road, becomes altered by the heavy rains, so my starting-point with the level, 2,079, is only approximate. I think in future to take the bed of the Virgin's Spring as the starting-point, and, if necessary, correct the others accordingly. Finally, I have to remark that the part of the present or "famous" aqueduct, running parallel with the part of the "second" now excavated, is given in Lieutenant Conder's drawing quite straight, as I have entered it in my plan; but in Sir Charles Warren's Map of Jerusalem the lines form a slight bow, as I have shown by dotted lines in my plan. It is now quite clear that the water of the

¹ This aqueduct appears already to have been traced to a level which precludes the idea that it came from the Virgin's Spring. I expect it was connected with the surface channels on Ophel which I described in 1872, but which were afterwards quarried away. Possibly it was a drain. It is, however, interesting to follow out. I see no reason why it should be older than the Siloam aqueduct to the Virgin's Pool.—C. R. C.

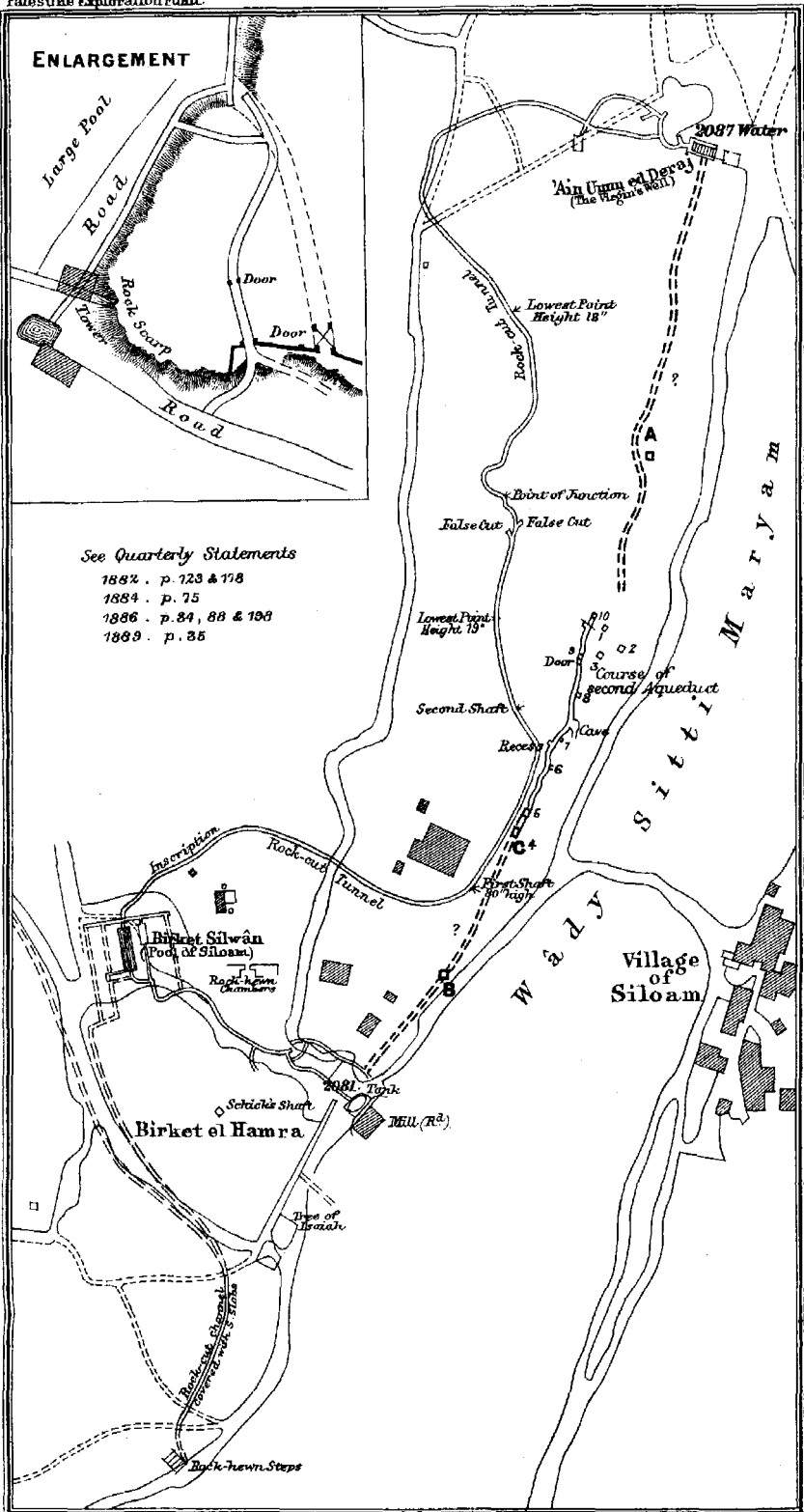
spring came out originally on a higher level, so that the "second" aqueduct could carry it off, and that when the present aqueduct was made it was found necessary, in order that it might be hidden, to lay it lower, and hence the necessity for a new canal. But the whole was shut and filled up so that no enemy could see or find either spring or aqueduct.

November 18th, 1890.—At the end of September I reported on the excavations at the "second" Siloah aqueduct, done by order of the Committee. To-day I have the honour to report on the further progress of this work, illustrating it by the accompanying complete plan and section. The drawings sent with the first report only show the state of things so far as known at that time, and hence are incomplete. Those I send now represent the whole work done during this year, and the result thereof.

Explanation :—The shafts which were made I numbered 1 to 10 according as they were made one after the other. Nos. 1, 2, and 3 were made in April, as I fully reported at the time. Then 4, 5, and 6 were made successively, and reported in my last, with what had been found up to that time—*i.e.*, that the aqueduct was already cleared to the end of the piece of ground, and shaft 7 had to be opened in order that we might be enabled to go on with the work. This shaft was made beyond the boundary wall, being already on the ground of the neighbour, who had no objection if six or eight francs backsheesh were paid for each. The shaft 7 was 29 feet deep, coming only a little on the side (as the plan shows). The aqueduct has here a kind of door, and runs more and more away from the present or acting one; so all hope that it afterwards enters it has faded. Also the door towards west, of which I spoke in my last, proved to be no arm or branch of a tunnel, but simply a recess like the one opposite. When the passage was cleared northwards for about 20 feet from the middle of the shaft on the eastern side, a hole was found, which led downwards to a sort of cave with a good deal of earth in it. It was cleared to some depth, when seeing a cleft like a channel running from it southwards (*see* drawings), we discontinued the work in it. This cave is partly natural and partly artificial. From its lower position it can never have been a tributary to the aqueduct, but rather have been a ventilator or water distributor, when there was a great stream. As the opening to it is several inches above the bottom of the aqueduct, when the stream of water was low none would go through it (*see* section). Here the aqueduct makes a bend, taking a direct northerly course, its previous direction being north-easterly. At 46 feet from the last shaft (7) another shaft or hole in the rock on the top of the aqueduct appeared, and I resolved to open it, in order that the work might go on better, as when bringing all *débris* and stones out by shaft 7 the advance was very slow. Not being quite well, I was not inclined to take the risk of going down, so my substitute took the bearing and fixed the point on the surface where the shaft had to be made. It proved afterwards to come some feet too much east, which had, however, some advantage, namely, to enable the steps

PLAN OF THE AQUEDUCTS AND CONNECTIONS
RECENTLY DISCOVERED AND SUPPOSED CONTINUATION OF COURSE.

Palestine Exploration Fund.



See Quarterly Statements
1882 . p. 123 & 178
1884 . p. 75
1886 . p. 84, 88 & 193
1889 . p. 35

Detail from O.S. Plan of Jerusalem & A.

100 Feet 0 100 200 300 400 500

SCALE

Stanford's Geogr. Estab^t

going down from the surface of the rock to be cleared, and anything falling down the shaft would not fall on the heads of the workers below. Also, the height of the rock could be measured; it is here $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the floor of the aqueduct, and up to the surface is $30\frac{1}{2}$ feet. A little north of it stands a fine pomegranate tree, and I thought the tunnel would go just under it, but it proved to be a few feet more west. A little further, and the tunnel was filled with stones rather than with earth as hitherto; sometimes large ones, so that they had to be broken in pieces before they could be brought in the baskets up through the shaft No. 8 to the surface. Thus the advance in a day was not great. At 35 feet from shaft No. 8 the tunnel became suddenly much wider, viz., 2 feet 8 inches instead of 1 foot 6 inches to 2 feet; and also much higher, namely, 7 feet instead of $5\frac{1}{2}$ or 6 feet (as the height is varying—in the so-called door only 4 feet or a little more). The top or ceiling of this wider and higher part for a distance of 6 feet was not rock, but six stones, rough and unhewn, each on an average 1 foot broad and 4 feet long, were put across. I now pointed out the place where a new shaft (No. 9) had to be made, a little more north, so that the shaft may come partly on the top of the rock, and thus the men be enabled to remove one or two of the covering stones. It turned out that when one was removed there was opening enough to go on with the work. This latter shaft is 37 feet deep; it is situated on the contour line 2,129 feet above the Mediterranean; the floor of the aqueduct is therefore 2,092 feet, or 5 feet *above* the floor of the Virgin's Well. It is clear that when this second aqueduct was abolished, the hitherto oblong or squared opening (or shaft) was shut up by putting the six stones across it, after a good many stones and earth were cast down, which we had now removed again. East of it I had opened the shafts Nos. 1, 2, and 3, in April, without result.

From shaft No. 9 the aqueduct was cleared for 38 feet further north. At 27 feet the rock has a cleft on the top, and partly also on both sides (*see plan*). North of the cleft the rock is *nahry* and brittle, whereas till here it had been of a harder nature. The thickness of the covering part is here less than hitherto, and at the point mentioned, 38 feet from shaft 9 the cover having been thin, had fallen down. So another shaft can be made here. But as the days have now become short, and the rains will soon set in, I have resolved to give up the work. If it is wished to continue the work, it can any day be taken up again, as I fixed the point where the next, or shaft 10, will have to be made. It is on the ground of another man, now planted with nice cauliflowers.

As regards the sinking of the shafts, the soil was for the greater part hard-made earth, but in each were also layers of small stones and chippings, which rendered necessary some propping and scaffolding, although not regular casing. I am thankful to God to be able to say that no accident happened, either to myself, my men, or the general labourers.

The result of these excavations brings the full and unquestionable proofs that *there was in ancient time a "second" Siloah aqueduct*, of which

I laid bare, several years ago, a length of about 125 feet, and now its continuance of 245 feet. The piece between, of about 200 feet, not yet excavated, can hardly be a matter of question, as quite the half of its length is fully proved.

With regard to the level, the excavations prove that the starting point at the Virgin's Well was higher situated than now. In my former report I spoke of a calculation to come out nearly on the surface there, but as in the portions afterwards cleared out the decline is much less, and not everywhere the same, the decline is, on an average, as far as I can now reckon, only $1\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., and the aqueduct will accordingly come out at the Virgin's Well, on the flooring on which the upper stair ends, or at the foot of the upper stair, very likely where now the Moslem *Mikrab* is situated.

V.

THE HEIGHT OF THE SILOAH AQUEDUCT.

All explorers who have undertaken the task of going through the whole aqueduct hewn in the rock from the Virgin's Well to the Pool of Siloah say that about the middle there is a long piece very *low*—so low, that one must creep on the belly, and that if the stream should be strong, the explorer might be drowned. (See "Jerusalem Vol.," page 355, and elsewhere.)

From the south end northwards the height goes down from 16 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in a length of 350 feet, for 450 feet further the height on an average is $3\frac{3}{4}$ feet, and there was a shaft up to the surface, now covered and unknown on the surface; from this shaft further northwards in 600 feet the canal lowers to $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, then becoming still lower, 150 feet further it is only 1 foot 10 inches; but, adding the mud silt of 1 foot 5 inches, the whole height is 3 feet 3 inches.

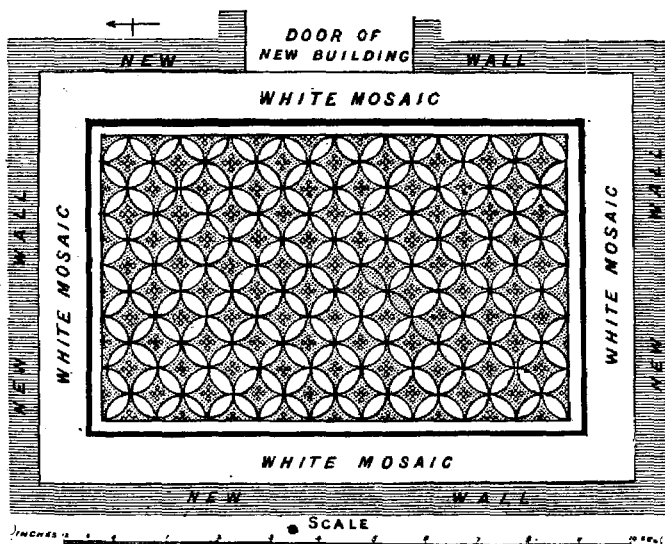
As the low part is near the surface of the brow of the hill, I had an idea that the channel might originally have been open on the top, then covered with flagging, which, having since been encrusted with lime by the water deposit, can no more be seen, but appears as rock. How could men have cut the aqueduct in a height of about 2 feet? It seems impossible, although Captain Conder (page 362) says: "the excavators were under the average size of the modern peasantry in Palestine," *i.e.*, *boys*. It is remarkable that Sir C. Warren had already spoken of some height of "mud silt," which I learned only now when reading his report, and finding in my second tunnel the floor of the channel, not level, but sometimes lower, sometimes a little higher, I thought it might be so in the other one; and as this latter is now dry I sent in my men with the necessary tools and the order to examine the floor at the place where the aqueduct is so low, and to dig down to the bottom, *i.e.*, to the *rock*; the result was—there is first some mud and a crust, and under this a deposit

of sand, so that the whole height is there 3 feet 8 inches, a height in which a man of ordinary stature might easily work. In the accompanying drawing I have tried to illustrate this. It is clear that originally there was water in all the depressions, that in course of time these became filled with sand and other deposit, and that what more came of such stuff was floated down to the pool, together with the water, as there was no more room for settling down, so that in course of a long time a crust was formed, over which the water ran, washing uneven particles off.

VI.

SEARCHING FOR THE ST. PETER'S (OR COCK-CROW) CHURCH ON ZION.

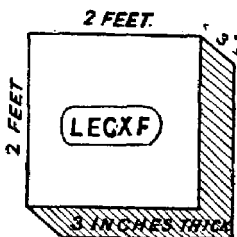
The excavating work by the Augustine Brethren went on during the summer months, but only in a small way. Walls of no special interest were laid bare, especially masonry made from bricks, which were apparently Roman baths. Better materials had been taken away long ago, but a water channel was found bringing the water downwards from a higher point, very likely from the aqueduct coming from Solomon's Pools. This channel is of poor workmanship, and not ancient. Also



MOSAIC FLOORING LAID BARE BY THE AUGUSTINE MONKS ON EAST SLOPE OF MOUNT ZION, 1890.

there was found a Mosaic flooring, perfectly preserved, of which I send the pattern. In order to preserve it, the Brethren built a room over it.

Some of the bricks, especially the larger ones, have *stamps*, of which also I give a pattern. We learn from them that these baths were made in midst of the ruins by the Roman soldiers of the 10th Legion. As such are found elsewhere also, as I have reported from time to time, it would seem that this legion was stationed for a long time in Jerusalem, and



ROMAN TILE FOUND ON EASTERN SLOPE OF MOUNT ZION.

perhaps that their tools for brickmaking may have been used afterwards by others, possibly even by the natives.

VII.

PROCEEDINGS IN SEARCHING FOR WATER.

As all places hitherto tried had failed, they made a shaft on the north side (inside the pool) of the southern wall of the Sultan's Pool in Wady Rahab, in the valley west of the Protestant (Bishop Gobat's) School, and *found some water*, but no conduit. The water simply came out from the moist deposit there, and when they had taken out this water it ended; there was neither spring nor drainage. Some digging in the street of Deir Addas, north of the Haram Area, had the same result: no spring was found, only a very little water, coming out from an unsound cistern.

NARRATIVE OF A TRIP TO PALMYRA IN APRIL, 1890.

By Rev. GEORGE E. POST, M.A., M.D., F.L.S., Beirût, Syria.

WE chose Damascus as our starting point, for several reasons—(1) its accessibility from Beirût, a matter of importance, as we had but a fortnight for the journey; (2) The ease with which we were able to get animals and supplies in that city; (3) The desire to observe the physical geography and botany of the spurs of Antilebanon, and the outlying