

prevailed more or less in Jerusalem, but it has not reached our camp. We have almost always a breeze here, when it is still in town, and when there is a breeze in town, here we have a hurricane.

Our workmen are almost exclusively from Silwan, and when the final whistle is sounded it is a never-failing amusement to watch them plunge down into the valley of Hinnom. The largest number employed any one day was 26, and the smallest 14, the average being about 20. On the whole we got more work out of them than we did out of our Tell-el-Hesi labourers. They manage the mining very cleverly and, on the whole, with courage, although several times they have shown reluctance to continue a hazardous-looking tunnel, until Yusif has himself attended to the propping up and proved to them the safety of the position. Fortunately we have had no accident beyond the bruising of a finger, which did not interfere with its owner's work of the next day.

Ibrahim Pasha continues most friendly, and in Ibrahim Effendi, our Commissioner, the Society has a warm friend. It is largely owing to his presence that the work goes on so smoothly. Landowners do not trouble us; in fact, have hardly been near us since the first novelty wore off. What with the cisterns we have discovered for them and the beautiful stones we have dug up, they may well be pleased that we began work on their ground.

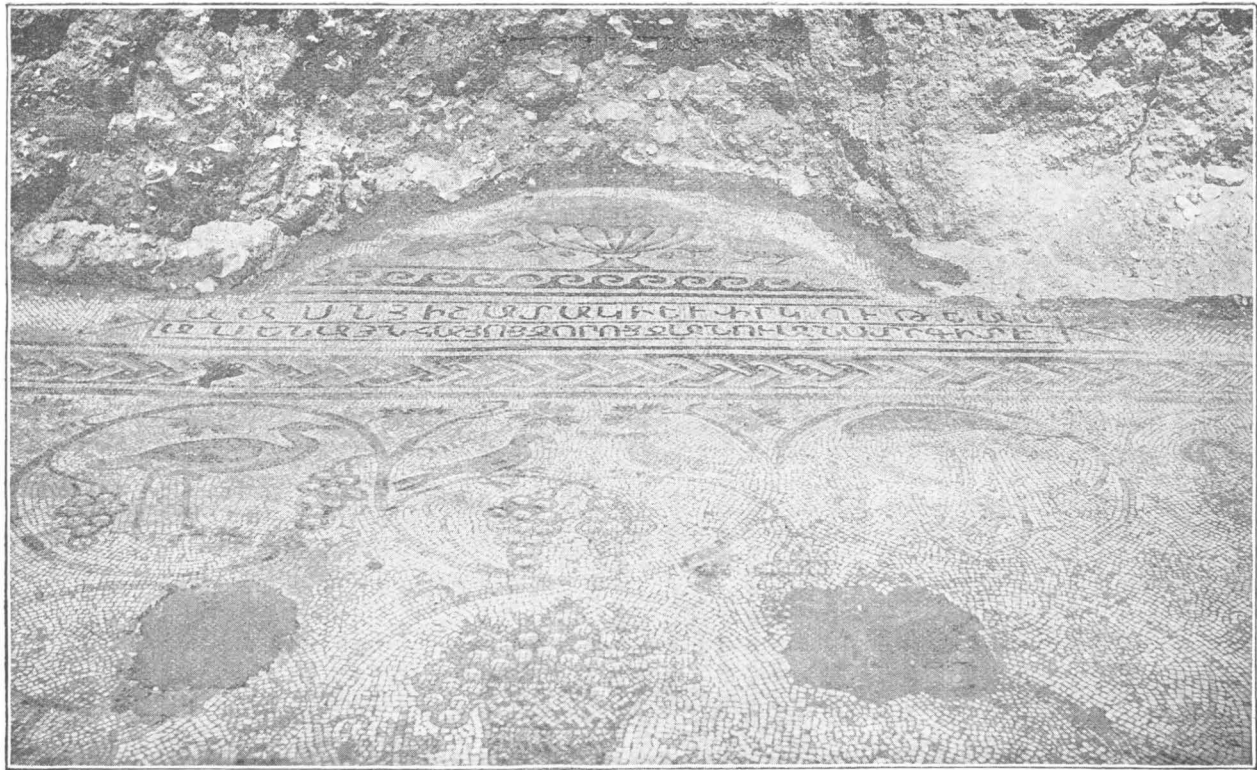
Other visitors, however, are very plentiful. We have had most of the Consuls, the Greek and Armenian Patriarchs, with the Latin Bishop, the Military Pasha, numerous ecclesiastics of all orders, and quite a number of travellers. Our guests have been of varying intelligence, from men who have excavated themselves, to the delightful person who congratulated us upon having come upon these tunnels, all made beforehand, and following along the scarp just where we wanted them to go.

DISCOVERY OF A BEAUTIFUL MOSAIC PAVEMENT WITH ARMENIAN INSCRIPTION, NORTH OF JERU- SALEM.

By BAURATH VON SCHICK and F. J. BLISS, Ph.D.

JERUSALEM, *July 9th*, 1894.

THERE came to me recently the servant of an Effendi, who is the proprietor of the small hill north of Damascus Gate, on which I reported some time ago (*see Quarterly Statement*, 1893, p. 298), telling me that his master had sent him to say that he was about to build another new house on the side of the hill, and in digging for the foundation had found a great many stone boxes of various colours, and wished that I should come and see the place and tell them what they ought to do. So in the afternoon I went there



MOSAIC PAVEMENT NORTH OF JERUSALEM SHOWING THE ARMENIAN INSCRIPTION. *(From a Photograph)*



MOSAIC PAVEMENT NORTH OF JERUSALEM. (From a Photograph.)

and found that a very nice mosaic flooring had been laid bare about 3 feet under the surface of the ground. I told them they should not destroy it, but clear all earth away, so as to show what it might have been and of what size. This they did, and after two days I went again to see what had been done. Three sides of a former room were visible, but the fourth, towards the east, was not yet reached. The room was, inside, about 15 feet wide (length unknown). At my first visit I saw that at the end near the wall there was a kind of scroll, and further in I saw some figures, which I thought to represent burning candles, but now at the second visit I recognised as the tail of a peacock. Of these birds there are several, as well as of another kind, which I thought were intended to represent geese. These two sorts of birds are standing amidst branches. Some said there were also fishes, but these I did not see. I was also shown a stone slab about 12 inches square, with a cross of the Knights of St. John on it, and below some writing in two lines of a language unknown to me. The slab was broken into five or six pieces, but no pieces were lost, so that they can be put together and everything seen. This slab was not found on the pavement, but about 25 feet distant from it, where a new house has been built, and where tombs also are said to have been found. I am sorry that I did not see the latter, as they were soon covered again. When I had seen things so far, I resolved to come the next day and measure everything carefully, as I had not at the time the necessary things with me, nor could I hinder the workmen. Her Majesty's Consul, Mr. Dickson, who came and examined the matter, thought the writing on the slab to be Latin.

The next morning, thinking the whole pavement must now be cleared, I went early there with all that I wanted for measuring, copying, and making squeezes, but on arriving I found many people there—amongst them the Greek Patriarch, and, what surprised me, also a policeman, and the whole floor covered with mats, so that I could do nothing. Asking the servant of the proprietor how it happened that the work was arrested and under police guard, he said: Ibrahim Effendi, who is with Dr. Bliss, and has the duty to inspect and watch all excavations, came to see it, and went to the Pasha and reported thereon, on which the Pasha stopped the work. I cannot say how soon I may gain free access to do my intended work, but as perhaps Dr. Bliss, in company with Ibrahim Effendi, may do it, my efforts may not be needed. I have not yet seen Dr. Bliss to speak with him about it, but will soon do so.

The pavement has since been covered with a new plain room built over it, and so fully protected. It is connected with the other parts of a new dwelling house, but has a separate entrance, and on two sides windows. This work seems to have been done at the expense of the owner of the ground, as the proposed purchase by some other parties was not effected. The new room is considered as a chapel, and shown to visitors. It is now locked up. I have entered the situation of the mosaic on the plan now forwarded.

C. SCHICK.

July 9th, 1894.

I was called away this afternoon for the purpose of photographing a magnificent mosaic a couple of hundred yards west of St. Stephen's, north-west of the Damascus Gate. When the Pasha heard of its discovery by the owner in the course of digging for foundations he arrested the work, and put the matter in our hands. I sent my foreman with labourers to complete the excavation, and on Saturday a photograph was taken, but not satisfactory, so we must try again to-day. Full reports will be given later; here I may say that it is a splendid piece of work, about 21 feet by 13 feet, with a small apse pointing almost exactly east. Within a beautiful border, springing from this base is a vine with ramifying branches, on which hang grape clusters; among the branches are numerous birds, peacocks, ducks, storks, an eagle, a partridge, a parrot in a cage, &c., &c. It is almost perfectly preserved. Near the east end there is an Armenian inscription, to the effect that the place was in memory of the salvation of all those Armenians whose names the Lord knows. It is evidently a mortuary chapel. The *débris* over the walls is hardly more than 3 feet, and the chapel rests on the rock, which doubtless contains tombs and coffins. The mosaic is similar to that found on the Mount of Olives with the Armenian inscription, but is far more elaborate, being the finest work of the kind ever found here. It is clearly Byzantine. The pattern is identical with that found in our mosaic near the counterscarp, and the walls of the two rooms are of the same construction. Hence our mosaic is also doubtless Byzantine.

F. J. BLISS.

JERUSALEM NOTES.

By HERR BAURATH VON SCHICK.

1. *The Muristan*.—In rebuilding the ancient church, St. Maria Major, the foundations of the old building—not only of the piers of which I have already reported, but also of the walls—were found so defective that the remaining parts of the walls had to be taken down. The foundations go down only from 8 to 10 feet below the surface and rest on rubble, small stones, and earth of no solidity. The north wall has already been taken down, together with the entrance arch, with the figures of the months of the year, but the stones will be preserved, and put up again as they were before.

This state of things delays the advance of the building and adds greatly to the expense.

The German Emperor has ordered this new church to be called "Erlöserkirche," or Church of the Redeemer. Nothing of interest was found in the rubbish, except the proofs that here was once an important