

FOURTH REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS AT JERUSALEM.

By F. J. BLISS, Ph.D.

THE present report must be necessarily a short one as my last brought up the account of the work to December 12th, and we closed the excavations for the winter on December 31st. Between those dates the rain and storms were so severe that the actual number of working days was only eight. But fortunately these eight days were full of interest and resulted in discoveries of importance.

My last report closed with the annoying fact, that the wall, traced up to that time for over 1,000 feet, had entered the great Jewish Cemetery which extends along the slopes to the south of Jerusalem. A break in the tracing of the wall was unavoidable, but how long that break was to be it was impossible to tell, as the cemetery occupies the critical ground to the west of Siloam, at any point of which the wall might turn to the north-east to make the bend around the Pool to its north, a course which many archæologists believe in, thus interpreting Josephus' statement that the first wall at the Gate of the Essenes "turned and advanced with a southern aspect above the Fountain of Siloam, where it again inclined, facing the east." The maximum break, thus, might be 700 feet, as a glance at the map will show, and the minimum about 275 feet, according to the direction the wall might take. I knew that by making a trench outside the cemetery to the east at right angles to the direction of the wall as it enters the cemetery, we must eventually strike it again, unless, indeed, the wall happened to be entirely ruined at that point. But such a trench would have to be 450 feet long and might pass through the lands of a dozen different proprietors, all of whom must be arranged with. Accordingly I decided to work on the first and simplest assumption, namely, that the wall did *not* change its direction, but came out of the cemetery on the same line in which it entered. This line was almost on the line of the minimum distance across the cemetery. So I made a trench across the desired spot, in the field below the high terrace, which is the south limit of the cemetery, 350 feet beyond the spot where the wall was last seen at its entrance. I also placed another gang of labourers some 150 feet to the east, where a scarp was visible forming an angle which I thought might be the base of a tower. Our first gang deepened their trench to the rock and then extended it 30 feet further north to the limit of the cemetery terrace. And immediately under this terrace masonry was found emerging from the cemetery! So far, so good, but of course the masonry might be anything. Continuation of the work, however, put the matter beyond all doubt. It was our old wall again, with almost exactly the same characteristics it had when last seen above. I had felt sure of meeting the wall again, but to see it at the exact point

where it entered the cemetery and to find it at the exact point where it emerged therefrom was beyond my highest hopes. A slight change in direction had occurred at some point in the cemetery, which accounts for our finding the wall about 30 feet north of the line. When entering it pointed south, $71\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ east; when emerging it pointed south, $86\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ east. We traced it for 14 feet and then temporarily closed up the trench, as the end of the season had come. There it lies, ready for me to trace it further before this report shall have gone to press. I was thus able to take my holiday with a quiet mind, which I would not have had if I felt that the wall was still hiding from me somewhere under that extent of graves.

The wall here is not built directly on a scarp. The rock slopes down irregularly, and between it and the lower course of the wall, rubble, built with mud, has been placed. Four courses are still preserved. The lowest is irregular in base; the other three, beginning from the bottom, measure in height respectively 1 foot $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches, 1 foot $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and 1 foot $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. These are about the same height as the courses of the wall when last seen above, which measure 1 foot 8 inches, 2 feet, and 1 foot $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The wall is here 9 feet thick. At the gate it is 9 feet, and beyond Tower II, 8 feet; there it was not measured at the base, where it may be 9 feet. The stones, like those above, have irregular, projecting bosses, and comb-picked drafts of irregular width. No mortar was observed. The only difference between the masonry here and that of the work above is that the courses are slightly set back one from the other, whereas the face of the wall above is perpendicular, the stones here are not as square as the others, and they have not been at a later time repaired with the surface plaster which covers the drafts above. But in general the appearance is the same and the differences only such as may be observed in different parts of any modern wall. To my statement of the identity of the wall I am glad to add the valued testimony of the learned Dominican Fathers, who paid me a visit before I closed up, and who follow every step of the work with deep interest.

While it is a great relief to have picked up the wall again, its further course is not quite clear. Some bend must come soon, for it is at present pointing along a line which falls outside of a steep scarp, on which, unfortunately, there is no masonry. The Pool of Siloam is now considerably to the north-east of the point to which we have traced the wall. I believe that the wall crosses the southern limit of the Old Pool and then runs up Ophel to join Warren's wall. Against this militates the natural interpretation of the words of Josephus. But I cannot get over my argument that the *raison d'être* of the Siloam Tunnel was to bring water from a point outside the city to a point within the city. Josephus gives a general, not a scientific, description of the appearance of the wall. "Above" does not necessarily mean "to the north." One looking down from the heights of the "Upper City" on to a wall which crossed along the southern end of the Old Pool and then ran up the steep crest of Ophel, might easily have described it as "advancing east above the Fountain of Siloam, where it again inclined to the north," especially if what we call the Old Pool was

then called by the name of Siloam. However, it is a comfort to feel that my business is not to follow theories, but to follow the wall.

One thing seems sure, and that is, that my wall is to join that of Warren, on Ophel. I think that time might be saved next season by picking up his wall, if possible, beyond the point where he found the interruption and work south to join the work, which will still be pursued on my wall.

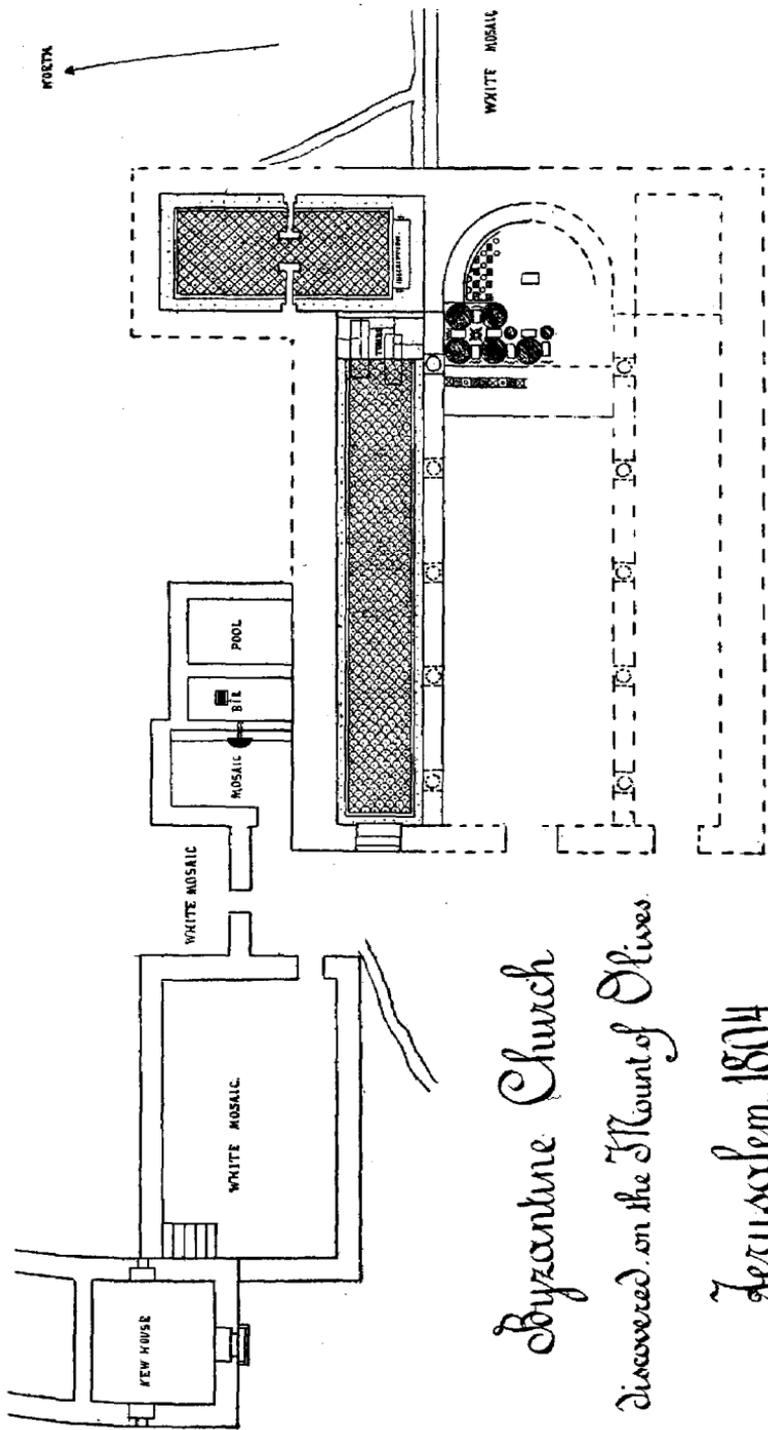
I was much interested in Canon Dalton's notes on my work in the *January Statement*. As his views were based only on my first and second reports, it would not be fair to discuss them, now that more material is before him which might lead him to modify them. For example, the difference between the main masonry of the wall before and after Tower IV; the latter, with all the work east, being more Jewish in appearance, is noteworthy. I am not yet prepared to agree with the *dictum* held by many, that Hadrian's wall followed the line of the present wall. I think that the upper masonry of my wall, up to a point between Towers III and IV, may be the work of either Hadrian or Eudocia on older foundations represented by the lower rough course (or courses at Tower I) and the rubble such as is found in Warren's Ophel wall. I hope to settle later whether Hadrian's wall (if it be his) branched off or not to Burj el Kebrit. The masonry at Tower IV and beyond may have been older work repaired by Eudocia, whose re-building is at these points destroyed. I agree with Canon Dalton that all scarps possible should be studied, but those not in connection with actual walls should be regarded with certain degree of scepticism. For example, the steep west slope of the "Upper City" shows a series of scarps on the various terraces, any one of which resembles the scarp for a wall, but all of which could not have been such wall-bases.

I concluded my report on December 12th with the remark that I hoped that week, at the request of Hamdy Bey, to superintend a small excavation in the Mount of Olives. Accordingly, for five or six days I had a small gang of men at work there. The work might well be called the cream of excavating. Usually, before anything valuable can be found, the excavator has to accomplish the long and weary task of removing the overlying *débris*. In this case almost all this tedious work had been done before, and it was left to me only to carry out the hints which were given by what had already been uncovered. On pp. 32-36 of the *January Statement*, Herr Schick shows how, in digging for foundations for new houses on the slope some 500 feet to the south of the Russian Tower, the owners of the land discovered various chambers, mosaics, and cisterns. His plan represents the condition of things in September. I visited the mosaic inscription and secured a photograph, also in September, but I did not take particular note of the other remains. Comparing his plan with the state of the place as I found it on December 14th, I find that a few changes had taken place, as the owners had somewhat increased their excavating, with the result that some new things had been uncovered and some of the former chambers had been buried again, probably by the

newly removed *débris*. I can make this clearer by comparing my plan with his. To the north of his chamber, at the west of the *Bir*, he marks a flight of steps, this had been buried again when I made my plan. I also saw no trace of the small pool north of the "*Bir*," nor did I observe the large pool to the east of the "*Bir*," though I have taken the liberty of adding this to my plan, as well as the "*New House*," which I did not measure. Further excavations had shown that the chamber with the inscription extended further towards the north, the wall which he naturally took for its north limit being only a thin partition in the middle of the chamber. To the west of this chamber he marks another mosaic "*No. 2*." On my plan this is seen to belong to the north aisle of the church. When I began work, this had already been uncovered west from what Herr Schick calls the "*broad stone bench*" (above the "*tombs*" in my plan) for a distance of some 45 feet, together with the wall to the north between it and the "*Bir*" pool, &c., which, according to my measurements, come somewhat north of the place they occupy in Herr Schick's plan.

Such, then, was the condition of things when I began my work. My primary object was to find the tombs of the men who, according to the inscription (*see January Quarterly*, p. 86) were buried near the spot. At the same time I determined to follow out the suggestions given by the partly excavated walls. I had not then seen Herr Schick on the matter, but it seemed probable to me, as it did to him, that they were to be found under the "*broad stone bench*." We removed one layer of slabs, only to find another layer below. But these turned out to be the covers of two tombs. The one to the south had, I think, been opened before. It was 5 feet 11 inches long and 2 feet broad. It was dug in the clay and lined with slabs which were plastered. The tomb to the north had never been opened. It was of the same width, but longer, being 6 feet 5 inches. In the south-west corner was a vase of glass, slightly broken at the top, owing, probably, to the falling of the plaster. Remains of two skeletons were found. These were very much decayed, but two spinal vertebræ were found, and portions of the finger bones, &c. The heads were evidently to the west. From the narrowness of the tomb it looks as if the bodies had been first buried elsewhere and removed here as skeletons. The proprietors told us that other tombs had been found under what would have been the south aisle of the church.

On the morning that I began work, however, it had not been guessed, either by others or myself, that we were on the site of a large church. The place was puzzling: the inscription suggested a mortuary chapel, but why should it face to the south? But before noon a meaning for the whole thing suddenly flashed upon me. And it turned out, with a few modifications, to be the true meaning. I based my plan of search for this church on four facts: (1) the chamber with the inscription; (2) the long mosaic to the west of it, with its thick wall to the north; (3) the base of the column, still *in situ*, with two similar bases found lying near, but not *in situ*; and (4) the indications, which are described by Herr Schick, of a



Byzantine Church
 Discovered on the Mount of Olives.

Jerusalem, 1894.

Frederick J. Bliss

different sort of pavement, in coloured marbles, to the south of the column-base. With my mind's eye I saw the inscription chamber as the north transept, the long mosaic as the north aisle, the base of the column as one of a series dividing aisle and nave, and the marble pavement, which was 1 foot higher than the aisle-mosaic, as the floor of the chancel.

With this plan in view, I had now definite spots to place my diggers.

First we found the end of the long mosaic with the door in the west wall, with steps leading down into the aisle, and curiously enough a tomb just outside the door. We then found a line of slabs 2 feet 3 inches wide between aisle and the probable nave, upon which the column base rested, and inferred the other columns. In trenching for the apse we found the east wall of the church, and soon the foundation stones of the north part of the apse appeared. We also cleared the marble pavement and found that the pattern followed the circular line of the apse. We thus recovered the central east and west axis of the church. But I was anxious to recover the south wall, for though the plan of the church was now clear I wished for the satisfaction of seeing all the walls that were left. The church, however, was badly situated for the preservation of its south part. Built on the side of the hill, the *débris* in which it was buried formed a slope above it. Above the north end of the inscription chamber the *débris* must be over 15 feet deep, while over the floor of the nave it is only 9 feet, and over the place for the south aisle it is barely 2 feet. In fact the Bethany road probably once ran through the south aisle itself. Moreover, I think it possible that if any indications here remained they were unwittingly destroyed by the previous excavations. However that may be, our trenches failed to reveal any traces of the south part of the church. In my plan the unbroken lines indicate the parts actually seen, and the dotted lines the parts inferred.

In general it may be seen by a look at the plan that we have here a church in the midst of a conventual establishment. I do not need to add anything to Herr Schick's clear description of the buildings to the north. From my plan it will be seen that there was building to the east as well, with a white mosaic. As my time was limited I did not pursue the work at this end any further. At the north of this mosaic with wall may be seen water channels for the roof drainage.

I shall now give details of the church. Its inside length, west and east, measured along the aisle and inscription chamber from west wall to east wall, is 72 feet $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The rectangular distance from the north wall to the central east and west axis, as determined by the apse and marble pattern, is 21 feet 7 inches, giving 43 feet 2 inches as the whole width. The aisles are 9 feet 10 inches broad, the lines of slabs for the columns 2 feet 3 inches, leaving 19 feet 5 inches as the width of the nave. The east and west walls are only 3 feet thick, but the north wall appears to be thicker, though this was difficult to determine owing to the chambers built against it. The walls appeared to me to be of very rude construction, much mud and mortar having been used with the stones and the whole plastered over. I was struck on seeing similar walls

around the Byzantine mosaic near the Damascus Gate by the fact that such a beautiful piece of work should be enclosed by so rude walls. At the Mount of Olives I felt the same wonder.

In the inscription chamber the thin partition is built over the patterned mosaic. The thickness, which I have exaggerated on my plan, is in reality only 4 inches. Hence it could not have reached to the roof. It was apparently once lined with marble slabs. A similar thin partition also separated this chamber from the north aisle. This was probably the sacristy of the church. My reason for not inferring a chamber of equal depth at the south is found in the slope of the hill which does not allow space for it. As said above, I first supposed this to be a transept, but my finding the east wall and the apse so far in disproved the idea.

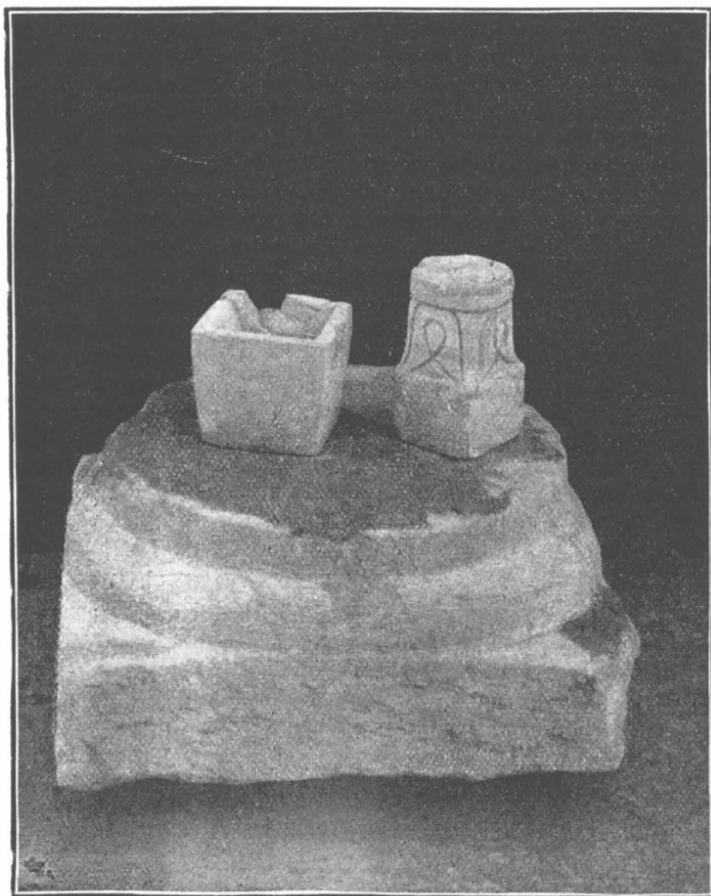
The mosaic of the north aisle has a pattern, within a border, evidently meant to represent peacocks' feathers. Like the mosaic of the last-mentioned chamber, it is made of small cubes of stone—red, black, and white. It extends for 2 feet 3 inches under the "stone bench." The tombs may be seen to extend partly under the mosaic. Owing to the great amount of accumulation above them, these mosaics have been perfectly preserved.

The line of slabs between aisle and nave is also completely *in situ*. I send a photograph of one of the column bases. The proprietors had excavated most of the aisle but left the earth lying above the nave, as a valuable olive tree stands there. I made a cutting to find what the pavement of the nave might be, but at that point it was gone.

The chancel pavement is about 1 foot higher than the aisle and on a level with the sacristy. The pattern drawn by Herr Schick occurs in the line of squares to the west. The line which I have drawn to indicate the termination of the elevated chancel, about half way between the two pillars, was suggested by the remains of a step. This pavement was laid in marble of red, yellow, green, and white. I send the facsimile in colours of all that remained, measured and painted by Mr. Sandel. A matrix of potsherds had been laid in the native clay and the pavement placed on that. The cleaning of the pavement was a delicate operation, as the pieces were very loose, many of them missing, and it was necessary to employ much care lest the pattern be lost. Part of it I cleaned with my small penknife! From the painting it will be seen that the central large circle in the second line is filled in irregularly with bits of white marble. Mr. Sandel suggested that there might have been in this circle some picture or Christian symbol destroyed by the Saracens, who then rudely filled up the place.

Just about in the centre of the apse-circle we made a most interesting discovery. On my plan it is represented by a rectangle. It was a cutting in the clay, lined with marble slabs, the slab to the east having an opening, against which another slab rested, forming a sort of door. Its west slab lay on the north-and-south diameter of the apse-circle, and its centre was only 1 inch south of the east-and-west diameter of the circle. Hence it occupies a position under the place of the high altar. It was covered with slabs of limestone. In other words, it appeared as a sunken marble

box with a limestone covering. The inside measurements of the box, were 1 foot 2·5 inches east and west, 1 foot 8·75 inches north and south and 1 foot 0·75 inch deep. Part of its interior was occupied by a square stone 3·75 inches high. The other part was raised to the same height by several small slabs. Resting on this tiny platform were the two objects which I photographed, placing them on the base of one of the columns



which divided aisle and nave. They were not in the centre, nor placed parallel to the sides of the box. No. (1) is a plain vase or vessel of soft limestone. It has a square top and bottom, and sloping sides. At the top it is 5·8 inches square, at the bottom 5·2 inches. It is 5·2 inches high. The sides are one-half an inch thick and the depth inside is 3·5 inches. It is quite without ornamentation. No. (2) is difficult to

describe, but the best idea can be gathered of it from the photograph. It has a resemblance to a tiny base of a pillar, but I do not think that is what it is. It is 7·7 inches high and its base is 4 inches square. It was found placed on its side, with the line of its top parallel to one side of the vase which it almost touched. The vase was found standing squarely on its base.

The slabs which covered this sunken "box" were found broken in, but I concluded that this was due to the weight of accumulation and not to violation. For, notwithstanding their unsymmetrical position relative to the "box," the objects had evidently been placed as we found them. Owing to the breaking in of its cover, the "box" was filled with earth, and the vase as well. There was nothing in it besides.

The position of the "box" directly under the place for the High altar, marks it as the reliquary of the saint to whom the church was dedicated. The vase may once have contained some small bones, or a clot of blood. The opening at the east end, which has a slab laid against it, is 8·5 inches high, and as the vase is only 5·2 inches high, it is quite possible that there was some means for getting at the opening from the floor of the church, so that on feast days the precious relic could have been taken out for exhibition to the people.

The proprietors showed me a door sill, with sockets, holes for bolts, &c., measuring 6 feet 10 inches on the inside which they said they found *in situ*. The place they pointed out came in the south wall of the church. The chambers to the north are from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 feet higher in level than the aisle of the church, and the mosaic outside to the east is 5 feet lower than the aisle. I should mention that both the inscription chamber and the chamber near the "New House" have circular depressions in the mosaic at one corner, 1 foot 6 inches across, meant to collect the water while the mosaics were being washed. This feature occurred in the mosaic near the Damascus Gate.

From the form of the church, the character of the letters in the inscription, the manner of mosaic, and the material of the walls, I conclude that we have here a conventual establishment of early Byzantine times, perhaps the fifth or sixth century. Herr Schick gives good reasons for supposing that the place was ruined and buried at the time of the pilgrimage of Felix Fabri. At any rate it is an interesting discovery. The place was so far from my field of work at the wall that I doubt if I should have made the discovery had it not been for the suggestion of Hamdy Bey, to whose interest, thus, we owe the recovery of the church. This enthusiastic Director-General of the Imperial Museum shows a constant readiness to assist us in every way, and personally I feel most grateful to him.

Our work on the Mount of Olives was a pleasant change, and it was agreeable to have so good results in so short a time. The proprietors received us cordially. Here, as elsewhere, I felt the value of the presence of Ibrahim Effendi, our Commissioner. His ancient family is well known about Jerusalem, and the proprietors received him as an honoured patron.

They took great interest in the progress of the work, and kept serving coffee not only to us but to our workmen. The last two or three days we were working both here and near Siloam, so my hands were quite full. But the glorious air and views quite compensated me for the additional fatigues.

On January 3rd I closed the works and ran down to Cairo. We had lost so much time by rain that it seemed best to call a halt. As my trip gave me some interesting archaeological experiences, I may be pardoned if I refer to some of these before closing this report.

One day was rich in reminiscence. Finding that Dr. Petrie was too far away for a visit, I thought that the next best thing to seeing him would be to see the spot where he had taught me so much. So one day with a friend I took train for Wasta, and soon I found myself once more crossing the valley of the Nile with my eyes fixed on my favourite Pyramid—the Pyramid of Meydûm—that had presided over my beginnings in the art of digging. We arrived about noon, and at once climbing the slope of *débris* that buries the lower part of the Pyramid, we took our lunch. It was the perfection of days, and brought out to perfection the simple elements that make the eternal beauty of an Egyptian landscape. On the one hand, the yellow desert, sparkling with myriads of tiny black pebbles—on the other, the brilliant green valley, dotted with mud villages, rising like islets from the verdure, warmed by the sun to a rich, chocolate brown; then, beyond this, the Nile with its white sails; then, another strip of green, suddenly ending, as it begins, with the yellow desert.

From this high point of vantage I reviewed all my experiences of four years before. Here, just below, I had seen Petrie mark out a trench on a perfectly flat surface and set a man at work to find a wall; and what was the indication? Simply that his keen eye had observed that the tiny desert pebbles ceased here in a long, straight line parallel to the Pyramid side. In three hours we returned, and the wall about the Pyramid had been found! Then I looked into the great cutting he had begun before I left, in search for a Temple at the east side, and remembered the skill with which he removed the great stones which were lodged in the *débris*. Beyond I could see the place where he had followed the mud-brick walls of the buried Mustapas. Still further away to the south lay the Roman camp where he had given me my first lessons in the history of pottery. And there was a pleasant satisfaction which I know Dr. Petrie will share with me in my being able to recall how each lesson had borne distinct fruit. Within a month after leaving him I was sorting pottery and tracing buried brick walls at Tell el Hesÿ. At Jerusalem I too have been guided to observe slight surface indications, with the result of finding the long-lost wall. Even the great cutting, with its dangerous stones, was parcelled in my Jerusalem work, when I cleared out the fosse full of great stones fallen from the tower.

Then we visited the tomb of Ra-Hotep, where I had studied Petrie's book on Tell el Hesÿ. Here I was shocked to find the damage the beautiful painted bas-reliefs had suffered during the last four years.

Though very small, it is one of the most beautiful tombs in Egypt. Later I called the attention of Brugsch Bey, the director of the museum, to it, and I am pleased to say that he promised to have a door put to it.

Brugsch Bey kindly gave me a letter to M. de Morgan, and another day with the same friend I paid him a visit at the Pyramids of Dashûr. He received us cordially, showed us his plans, and I was most struck by his enthusiasm and clear, scientific methods. He sent a man to show us through all the excavations. He has at present 300 men at work, and is making his way into the heart of two pyramids. It was interesting to note the place where the famous jewels had been found. I confess that two conditions of his work filled me with envy—he directly represents the Government, and his work lies where there are no landowners. What a privilege to work where archaeology can be purely archæological, and where a cabbage crop and a cauliflower field do not complicate the matter. Then, too, he works in the blessed Wilderness; but this privilege I had for two happy years, and I hope it will be my lot again to lead the desert life. My mind, that day, was full of comparisons. Excavating near a city is necessarily attended with great difficulties, but we are fortunate that in our present mission these have been minimised.

Another contrast between digging in Egypt and digging in Syria was brought out vividly by a visit to the museum. The dry climate and the preserving sand have filled those great halls with their treasures. The regiments of soldiers, about ten inches high, of painted wood, each soldier as individual as if he were carved from life, bearing in their hands the spears of battle, the colours as fresh as the day, thousands of years ago, when they were painted—could the like of these, which were recently found in a tomb of Assiout, ever be found in a Syrian tomb? Our worthy chairman, Mr. Glaisher, will point to his meteorological tables for an answer. It is not lost time, when we are despondent about the lack of finds in Syria, to indulge in these reflections. The Syrian civilisation may have been far richer than we can ever know.

At 'Helwan I saw something that had a direct bearing on my Jerusalem work. In wandering over the hills at the back of this desert health-resort, I came upon some men at work in a large limestone quarry. This was situated in a small ravine; the stone had been cut away at either side, leaving two perpendicular, tool-marked cliffs facing each other. I was looking down from above, and struck by the likeness to my own "Outer Scarp," I descended for a more careful examination. In my report in the *Statement* for October, 1894, p. 248, I gave several reasons to disprove that my scarp was a quarry. The 'Helwan Quarry showed my reasons to be invalid. Here were the same unbroken lines, but much longer even; here were the same smooth faces, worked with the long chisel marks, and standing to even a greater height. The work of the men showed the process by which the "scarp" was being deepened before my eyes. A small groove was made along the base of the scarp, this was deepened for a couple of feet and widened for a few inches; then the mass of rock thus separated was cut up and taken off. The scarp preserved its unbroken

slightly rounded face, only it was a couple of feet deeper than before, I even noticed the same short turnings which occur in my scarp, at F, I, K, &c.

On p. 13 of the *Statement* for January, 1895, I made another remark about the scarp. I said: "Another suggestion may be made: although the scarp in its present condition was fashioned for defence, yet it may have followed the general line of an earlier quarry." I am now prepared to alter that remark, and say: Although the scarp was clearly used for a defence outside the wall, it evidently follows the line of a quarry. The question is merely one of priority. Was it an old quarry whose steep sides and convenient lines were taken advantage of as an outer defence when the wall was built? Or was it the quarry from which the stones of the original wall were cut, worked with the design of leaving an outer defence, generally parallel to the wall, and leaving a platform outside the gate?

The "inner scarp," that uncovered by Maudslay, shows more evident design in its working, as it has the two tower bases, the one on which the school is built and the other which I uncovered just outside the cemetery. But whatever the intention, the scarp was produced by the rock being *quarried away*. It is merely a question of Tweedledum and Tweedledee. In the fosse which belongs to this inner work I have pointed out the blocks of rock which remain in the unfinished work, just as they might remain in an unfinished quarry.

February 18th, 1895.

REPORTS FROM HERR BAURATH VON SCHICK.

1. *Muristan*.—The old church on the Muristan had no proper foundations, hence its decay; whereas the Church of St. Anne, founded on rock, which was built at nearly the same time, is still standing. In the place where the old entrance stood, in the northern wall, with a round arch over it, with figures of the twelve months, tombs were found, their bottoms only about 8 feet under the surface of the road on the north, or about 4 feet under the surface of the flooring of the former church. These tombs are, of course, Christian, although no cross or anything of the kind was found: they are built into the rubbish with small stones, and covered with flat stones. The bones are still there, and one skeleton measured 2 metres or 6½ feet long. In number they are half a dozen, but there may be more not yet discovered. The architect, Mr. Groth, agrees with me that before the later church was built there had been already one there before, built in an easier way, and covered with a wooden roof and tiles, the walls of which they had to strengthen at the time when the church was arched. To the new strengthening parts they made foundations 5 to 6 feet deeper than the former ones, but not deep enough to give the building stability. It is hoped that in a few months the founda-