

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-

tion work of the church now being erected (or restored) will be finished, having occupied $1\frac{1}{4}$ years' time, and involved an immense expenditure of money.

2.—*Excavations inside the New Gate.*—Inside the town, at its north-western corner, just inside the New Gate, was till recently a void piece of ground,¹ the greater part belonging to the Greek Convent. One of the Greek monks is now, with consent of the Convent, building there along the road a row of shops, and behind them some other apartments, magazines, stables, cisterns, &c., and over these rooms to be let for lodgings. When digging for foundations they found several walls, running chiefly from north-west towards south-east, but of no special interest. But in a line with the present city wall, behind the School Brethren, and running from west to east, was found a much stronger wall 8 feet thick, consisting of large but not well-dressed stones, resting on a pavement, which consisted of large and thick flag-stones fitted together very exactly, so that one became convinced that it was rather ancient and older than the wall mentioned. It is about 8 feet under the present surface, and under it the rock was found, and in some places the flag-stones were missing, and the rock cut there to a smooth level with the pavement. I got the impression this pavement had been once the flooring of a somewhat large court which was surrounded by buildings. About 45 feet more north, or nearer to the gate, another still stronger wall was found. The southern wall stood on the pavement, but the northern seemed to be at the end of it; but I could not decide this properly on account of the rubbish. There were also found a few carved stones once belonging either to capitals on square piers or pilasters, or perhaps forming a kind of cornice in a somewhat grander building. Such stones may be seen used again on the inside of the present city wall—west of the spot I speak of, and near the south side of the mosque standing there in the very corner of the modern wall. Hence, when the present city wall was built in 1542 by Sultan Soliman, the said building had been already destroyed.

I send a drawing of a fragment of a tile with a lettered stamp on it. In itself it has no great value, but it may help to decide other questions.

3. *An old Pool west of the City.*—The new Jewish colonies are extending along the Jaffa road and west of the city out to the valley in which the Convent of the Cross is situated. I had, in connection with these colonies, to measure and divide into shares several pieces of ground south of the Jaffa road, extending downwards towards the Convent of the Cross, and observed a little way down the valley a level piece of ground, which I found to have been once a round pool, encircled for two-thirds of its extent by rocks, of considerable height towards the hillside, and walled up towards the valley below with very ancient, but now greatly dilapidated, masonry of square stones. The average diameter of this pool is nearly 400 feet, the thickness of the layer of earth on its bottom unknown, but

¹ See Ord. Survey Plan $\frac{1}{25000}$, and *Quarterly Statement*, 1889, p. 62.

I ordered a man to make a shaft in the centre, in order to ascertain the depth and the condition of the bottom, whether cemented or not. In the rock towards the north-west is a cleft, as if it had been once the source of a spring, but now dry. On the eastern height, not far from the pool, is a ruin and a cave, or rather a sunken court in the rock, and on one of its sides is an opening like that of a Jewish rock-cut tomb. People told me that some time ago sarcophagi were found in it, and removed. On the western height is a cistern, and further down another one, and also a ruin. The people have no proper name for the place, but call it simply the "Hosseini's Pool." Hosseini is the name of a noble family in Jerusalem, so this name is rather a modern one. I am wondering that we have not any notice of this pool, either in the Bible or in profane writings.

4. *Reckoning of time among the Armenians.*—It is perhaps not generally known that the Armenians have their own peculiar mode of reckoning dates. They count from the date of the first Armenian, who, they say, lived in the time of Shem, 4,386 years ago. Also they use a second reckoning, starting from the year 551 A.D. I became acquainted with this by noting on an inscribed slab the dates 1834 and 1283, which I thought indicated that the stone was put into its present position in the year 1834, and was then 551 years old. But the Secretary of the Convent told me this is not so, but the date 1283 indicates that according to the Armenian reckoning which corresponds to 1834 A.D.¹

5. *The Armenian Cross.*—With reference to Major Conder's objection to the opinion that the Jerusalem Cross came from the Armenians (*Quarterly Statement*, 1894, p. 206), the Secretary said to me, "Whatever others may have had, I know that always, in all the centuries, the Armenian Cross had one beam longer than the others. That the Latins have it also, is no proof that we had it not."

REPORTS FROM GALILEE.

By Dr. G. SCHUMACHER.

THE excavations on ancient sites carried on by native explorers with the object of finding articles of value, extended not only over the district between the seashore and the Jordan, but also over Jolân and 'Ajlun; during a period of more than two years the Turkish Government placed

¹ In the year 351 A.D. a certain Andreas, of Byzantium, drew up an Easter-table for 200 years. Towards the end of that period it was found to deviate considerably from the astronomical indications, and a new adjustment had to be made. This was done in 551 A.D., and ever since then the Armenians have reckoned from that year. See Ideler, "Lehrbuch der Chronologie," Berlin, 1831, p. 439.—[ED.]