

NOTES ON THE JULY "QUARTERLY STATEMENT."

By Major CONDER, R.E., D.C.L.

JULY, 1895, p. 195. The so-called coins of Bar-Cochebas and of the Second Revolt were denounced as forgeries by M. Renan. They seem to have been struck by modern forgers on much-defaced Roman coins.

P. 209. In the seventh century A.D. the Christian Era is used on texts in Palestine. I think, considering the development of Mariolatry in the Madeba text, that the Cathedral is more probably of the seventh than of the fourth century A.D.

P. 232. The Cufic *graffite* at Mashitta ought to be published to aid in deciding on the probable character of the building. Cufic (so-called) was the alphabet of Syria before the Moslem Invasion, and also as late as the eighth century A.D. It is by no means certain that this palace is really Persian work. It may have been built for one of the early Khalifs of Damascus, by a Persian architect. These Khalifs employed Persians and Greeks, as is well known. To call it the "Palace of Chosroes" is fanciful. It is a great disappointment to find that, like the 'Ammâu building, it is entirely without inscriptions.

P. 258. The *Kerâva* of this Arabic writer is shown on the survey map in the Jordan Valley itself. It is not the site of Corea, which was in the mountains at *Kuriât*. I believe *Kerâva* to have been Archelais.

NOTE ON DR. BLISS'S LEJJÛN IN MOAB.

By Rev. Canon DALTON, C.M.G.

It might perhaps interest some of the subscribers to the Fund if their attention were drawn to the fact that there exists intact in England the fortification of a Roman military town almost precisely similar to that lately found by Dr. Bliss in Moab, the ground plan of which is figured in the July *Quarterly Statement*, p. 222. Dr. Bliss there says: "The town (of Lejjûn) is rectangular, about 670 feet north and south by 850 feet east and west. The town wall is built of small smooth stones, and is over 8 feet thick . . . Besides the four corner towers there are towers along the walls between; six on both north and south, and four on both east and west. These intermediate towers are hollow, they project 38 feet from the wall, and are 28 feet across. They have straight sides, with a (? semi) circular termination . . . The whole suggests a Roman military town with strong outside walls and towers."

In Mr. George Clark's "Mediæval and Military Architecture in England," 1884, vol. ii, pp. 388, 389, is a description with ground plan of Porchester Castle, in Hampshire: "In its present and tolerably perfect condition, Porchester (which is unquestionably a Roman work) is a walled enclosure, square or nearly so, containing within its area close upon 9 acres. The investing walls measure, by the larger Ordnance Survey, 630 feet north and south, and 621 feet east and west. They range from 15 feet to 40 feet high, and from 6 feet to 10 feet thick. They were supported outside by four mural bastions on each face" (the same number as on the east and west faces at Lejjûn), "and one at each angle, in all 20." (There would seem to be 24 at Lejjûn.) "Those bastions which remain are half round, 19 feet to 20 feet in diameter, and have slightly prolonged and flattened sides. The angle bastions are of the same pattern . . . Most of them are closed, and probably all were originally so, for the interior work is very rough indeed, and seems intended to have been concealed with earth and rubbish, as was often the fashion in Roman bastions . . . They stand from 123 feet to 126 feet apart, from centre to centre, the distances being slightly unequal . . . The walls are built mainly of flint nodules, laid in courses with as thick or even thicker beds of mortar. Occasionally are seen single and double flat courses of red tiles and tile-stone, and sometimes of herring-bone work, characteristic peculiarities, especially strongly marked in the bastions. The work seems late in the Roman period." There is still an east and west, a water and a land gateway, and the street ran straight through the centre of the rectangle from one to the other, as at Lejjûn. The rest of the very accurate and elaborate description given by Mr. Clark need not be here quoted, as it sketches the additions and changes made by the English, Normans, and others down to the 18th century to this ancient Roman town (pp. 390 to 400).

There is a railway station now at Porchester, and the place is within a few minutes of Portsmouth or Southampton. Here then in Britain, on the north-western verge, as at Lejjûn on the south-eastern verge, of that empire which once embraced all the countries of Europe, as well as the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean, we have two instances of Roman work almost identical in shape, character, and general dimensions. The brains that planned and the hands that built the one may even have been the same that raised the other. For Palestine and England were under the same civilising sway in the earlier centuries of the Christian era.
