

DISCOVERY OF AN IMPORTANT CUFIC INSCRIPTION
NEAR THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE,
JERUSALEM.

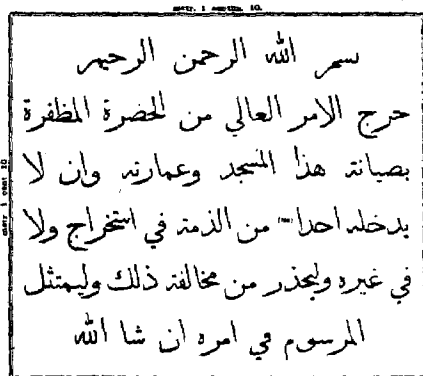
PADRE GIROLAMO GOLUBOWICH, O.S.F., Missionario Apostolico, has sent us the following, together with a photograph of the inscription :—

STUDIOSIS ARCHÆOLOGIE ORIENTALIS.

Communicandum.

Ab octava statione Hierosolymitanæ Viæ Dolorosæ recedentes, rectoque tramite per Saracenorum forum venalium rerum ad nonam versus stationem progredientes, immediate post prædictum forum, dextrorsum brevem per gradus ascendimus viam, ubi Christianorum vicus incipit. Inibi igitur, in dextra parte hujus vici, et sub sinistro latere januam secundæ domus ingredientium, *hexahedrus cubicus* prægrandis lapis inventus est (undique habens dimensiones *unius metri et centim. 10*), publiceque detectus fuit die 30 julii currentis anni 1897.

In uno ipsius latere, sequens inscriptio *Cuphiciis Characteribus* insculpta legitur, cujus textum versionemque latinam hic damus, in commodum illorum qui orientalis archæologiæ studio vacant.



Versio litteralis.

1. In nomine Dei miserantis et clementis.
2. Exiit sublime decretum (hoc) a Maestate Victrice¹
3. ut custodiatur locus orationis iste² et reparetur, et ne

¹ Saladinus, ut probabiliter creditur.

² Mesquita.

4. ullus ex protectis¹ ingrediatur huc, neque propter tributum (solvendum) neque propter aliud quidquam.
5. Et caveatur ne transgrediatur hoc, et observetur
6. decretum ab Ipsa mandatum. Faxit Deus !

With reference to this inscription M. Clermont-Ganneau writes:—
 “It appears to me to be of the highest importance in connection with the history of the *Martyrion of Constantine*; it proves that the old wall on the Russian ground east of the Holy Sepulchre is indeed the eastern wall of the Martyrion, and that it had on this side a vestibule and a staircase. I am about to read a memoir on this discovery before the Academy.”

A GREEK INSCRIPTION.

By the Rev. H. PORTER.

BEIRÛT, *May 19th*, 1897.

I ENCLOSE a copy of another Greek inscription, which is found in our College Museum here. It is on a neatly-wrought headstone to a grave. The stone is cubical at the base, about 12 inches each way, surmounted by a short pillar. The lettering is very clear, and corresponds to the best type of Greek funeral inscriptions for the early period of the Christian era.

ΔΙΟΔΩΡΕΧΡΗCTE
 ΚΑΙ ΑΩΡΕΕΤΩΝ
 ΕΙΚΟCΙΚΑΙ ΤΡΙΩΝ ΧΑΙ
 ΡΕΖΗΤΕΙ ΔΕ CΕ Η ΑΤΥ
 ΧΗCΟΥ ΜΗΤΗΡ ΠΕΝΘΕΙCΕ
 ΟΛΟC ΟΙΚΟC

*Διόδωρε, χρηστὲ καὶ ἄωρε, ἐτῶν εἴκοσι
 καὶ τριῶν, χαῖρε. Ζητεῖ δέ σε ἡ ἀτυχή[s]
 σοῦ μητήρ, πενθεῖ σε ὄλος ὁ οἶκος.*

“O Diodorus, good and untimely (taken) at twenty-three years of age, farewell!
 Thy unhappy mother seeks thee; all the household grieves for thee.”

[The expression “thy unhappy mother seeks thee” is doubtless derived from Luke ii, 48, “Thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing,” and if so it adds one more to the number of scriptural quotations on the early Christian tombstones.—A. S. M.]

¹ Subditis scilicet Christianis et Judæis.