

NOTES ON THE OCTOBER "QUARTERLY STATEMENT."

I.—By Colonel C. R. CONDER, LL.D.

P. 289. *Tell Zakariya*.—Dr. Bliss has found so many antiquities as to which there can be no dispute that he can afford to neglect less certain indications of date. As regards masonry with rude bosses, I do not know of a single example, in Syria and Palestine, which can certainly be dated before the Roman period, and his masonry closely resembles that of the Byzantine age in dated buildings. He found Roman pottery at the same depth with that of the door sills of the fort, and though the jar-handles appear to be some centuries earlier I can see no proof that this building was erected by Rehoboam. The name has nothing in common with that of Azekah. Why Thothmes III (1600 B.C. according to Brugsch) and Amenophis III (1500 B.C. on the same authority) should be described as "about 300 years before a commonly received date of the Exodus" I cannot understand. The common date for the Exodus is about 1500 B.C. Bunsen's theory—which is not founded on any monumental basis—was accepted by Brugsch, but has never been generally accepted by authorities on Egyptian history. It is quite irreconcilable with the Old Testament chronology, and in Germany Dr. Winckler and Dr. Zimmern have pronounced in favour of the view (based on the notice of the 'Abiri in the Amarna letters, and on the mention of Israel in Ruten, or Palestine, in Mineptah's time) that the Hebrew conquest occurred about the end of the reign of Amenophis III, which agrees with the three definite statements of date in the Hebrew of the Old Testament.

P. 324. *Antiquities at Tell es-Sâfi*.—It is interesting to note how many Egyptian remains occur in the Philistine ruins, whereas none are found at Jerusalem as far as I have gathered. The Egyptians held the plains from 1600 to 1200 B.C., but they had little object in holding the mountains when protecting their great trade route to Babylonia, and their chariots were of little use to them in such mountains.

The fine jar with a bird and a sort of Maltese cross reproduces two features of ornamentation found by M. Chantre in his

Cappadocian excavations, in connection with bronze figures in Hittite dress and seals in Hittite characters. Dr. Bliss may, perhaps, be so fortunate as to discover such seals, or cuneiform texts, and the objects marked as "Babylonian" appear to me to be very probably native Canaanite work, for we have now many seals of the same character accompanied not by cuneiform but by Hittite symbols.

The wonderful character of M. Chantre's discoveries is hardly yet recognised. He has found 13 letters in Hittite language, but written in cuneiform, and a long tablet in Cypriotic characters in the same language, describing the conquest of Cappadocia by Tarkutimme (probably about 2200 B.C.). These discoveries ought to set the Hittite question at rest. My translations have appeared in the "Times" (October 10th and 24th, 1899). We are still, however, in want of evidence of the history of this race in the south. So far the only indication is given by the Hittite seal found by Dr. Bliss at Lachish, which is probably as old as 1600 B.C. or earlier.

II.—By PROFESSOR CLERMONT-GANNEAU, LL.D.

P. 290. *Royal Israelite Jar-handles*.—I am glad to find that Canon Dalton adopts as more rational the explanation of the Hebrew legends proposed by me: "For the King.—Hebron"; "For the King.—Socho," &c., i.e., "For the King's service," &c.

P. 297. *Rude Stone Monuments in Palestine*.—"No one had ever seen them in Palestine." Their existence was, as a matter of fact, established long ago, especially to the east of the Jordan; on this point see, amongst other authorities, the explorations of the Duc de Luynes in 1864 ("Voyage d'Exploration à la Mer Morte," &c., in vol. i, pp. 135, 136, 158, 159, 176, 178, with numerous accurate illustrations of various dolmens).

P. 305. *Reliquary of Crusaders, with Relic of Oswald King of Northumbria*.—This precious memorial was published two years ago in my "Rec. d'Arch. Or.," vol. ii, pp. 234-239 (August, 1897), with the needful explanations. Photographic reproductions of them will appear in one of the ensuing parts of my "Album d'Antiquités Orientales."

P. 312. *Tomb of Ja'far, first cousin of Muhammad*.—Thanks to a drawing courteously sent me by Sir Charles Wilson, I have been enabled to decipher and published in facsimile the fragment of a Cufic inscription referring to it ("Rec. d'Arch. Or.," vol. iii, pp. 278-283). In connection with this, I have studied in detail the curious tradition to which this first conflict between Byzantines and Mussulmen has given rise amongst the latter.

P. 314. *Nabathæan Inscriptions*.—Sir Charles Wilson has been kind enough to place these epigraphical materials at the disposal of our Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres; they arrived just in time to be utilised for the next part of the Aramæan inscriptions of the *Corpus*, now in the press. I have the pleasure of thanking him and the Committee in the name of the Commission of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum*.

P. 315. *Adr* or *Adar*.—This new local name allows us to fill up with certainty a regrettable lacuna in the itinerary (described by Abu Shâma) of Saladin marching from Damascus upon Karak, at that time occupied by the Crusaders (*cp.* my "Rec. d'Arch. Or.," vol. iii, pp. 297, 303, 350).

P. 332. *Stone Seal of Tell es-Sâfi*.—Seal No. 2, judging from the shape of the stone and the subject engraved upon it, appears to me to belong to the Persian period rather than to the Babylonian or Assyrian.

P. 332. *Amulet in blue and yellow Glass*.—I possess an exactly similar grotesque head found in Cyprus, made of the same material and in the same colours.

P. 333. *Mould for casting Bell*.—An old bell of a similar kind, but of much larger dimensions, was found in the neighbourhood of Beyrout. I have given a phototype reproduction of it in my "Album d'Antiq. Orient." (Pl. XLIX, No. 3).

P. 342. *Copper Spoon*.—A similar spatula, of the same material but broken, was found by me in one of the graves of the Necropolis at Jerusalem. It is engraved in my "Archæological Researches in Palestine," vol. i, p. 414.

P. 353. *Scarabæus on the Stamped Jar-handles*.—Colonel Conder says: "I did not see it suggested that the figure on these handles is a rude scarabæus." I myself, however, made the very same suggestion three months ago (*Statement*, July, p. 204): "The enigmatical symbol is nothing but the *Egyptian scarab with four wings expanded*."

P. 356. לַמֶּלֶךְ.—Professor Gautier rightly notices Professor Sayce's singular grammatical oversight. If he will refer to p. 206 of the preceding *Statement*, he will find that the only possible readings *lammelek* (to the King) or *lemelek* (to the King of) had already been put forward by me; he will also find there the extrinsic reasons which induced me to adopt the first.

III.—By Rev. W. F. BIRCH, M.A.

Gibeah (p. 343).—The mention of both Geba and Gibeah of Saul in Isa. x, 29, seems fatal to the identification of this city Gibeah with Geba the priestly city (Josh. xxi, 17).

Ramathaim Zophim (*ibid.*).—If this city be placed at Er Ram (Ramah of Benjamin), how came Saul, who lived at Gibeah, less than three miles from Ramah, not to know Samuel even by sight (1 Sam. ix, 18)?

Nob (p. 345).—Isa. x, 29, seems to require Nob to have been in the line of march from Geba to Jerusalem. Bir Nebâla is therefore not suited to represent Nob, being out of the required line.
