

was used to seal up a jar of such capacity. The root meaning permits this view. Or, again, it may be a woman's name (as feminine names end in *he*) signifying "the great, *i.e.*, the important, person." No. 11 is impressed upon a bit of black wax showing the markings of cloth on the back, with which possibly was sealed the small jar in which it was found. Below a two-winged creature, resembling a bird, is a beautifully fine inscription reading . . . **לשמר נ**, the wax being broken off after the first letter. Shemer is the name of the man of whom Omri bought the hill of Samaria (1 Kings xvi, 24), and the name Shomer occurs in 1 Chron. vii, 32.

TELL EJ-JUDEIDEH, *June 2nd, 1900.*¹

A DOLMEN NEAR BEIT JIBRÎN.

By R. A. STEWART MACALISTER, M.A.

It has hitherto been a commonplace with Orientalists that no megalithic remains are to be found in Palestine west of the Jordan. The discovery of an alignment of three standing stones, in the excavation of Tell es-Sâfi, was the first circumstance which rendered this idea out of date.² I have now to announce the discovery of a second rude stone structure. This is a dolmen, the only example yet found in Western Palestine, which exists in the sequestered valley close to Beit Jibrin. To reach it take the road from Beit Jibrin towards Zakariya, as far as the Roman milestone at the second mile (*cf.* the "Revue Biblique," July, 1899, p. 421); then follows the valley at the

¹ Since this report was sent I have picked up from the surface of Tell Kubeibeh a jar-handle with the Royal stamp, the place-name being Hebron. My view as to the royal potteries has thus received fresh confirmation, for while the geographical distribution has been widened, the place-name is one of the four already recovered.

² Since writing the above I have been informed of the discovery of another, the details of which I do not feel at liberty to give, as they have not yet been made public by the finders of the monument (the Dominican Fathers of St. Étienne, Jerusalem).

mouth of which the milestone stands. At a short distance the structure will be noticed—a conspicuous object on the right-hand side.

It consists of eight limestone blocks, five arranged in two parallel rows, the other three possibly fallen cover-stones ;

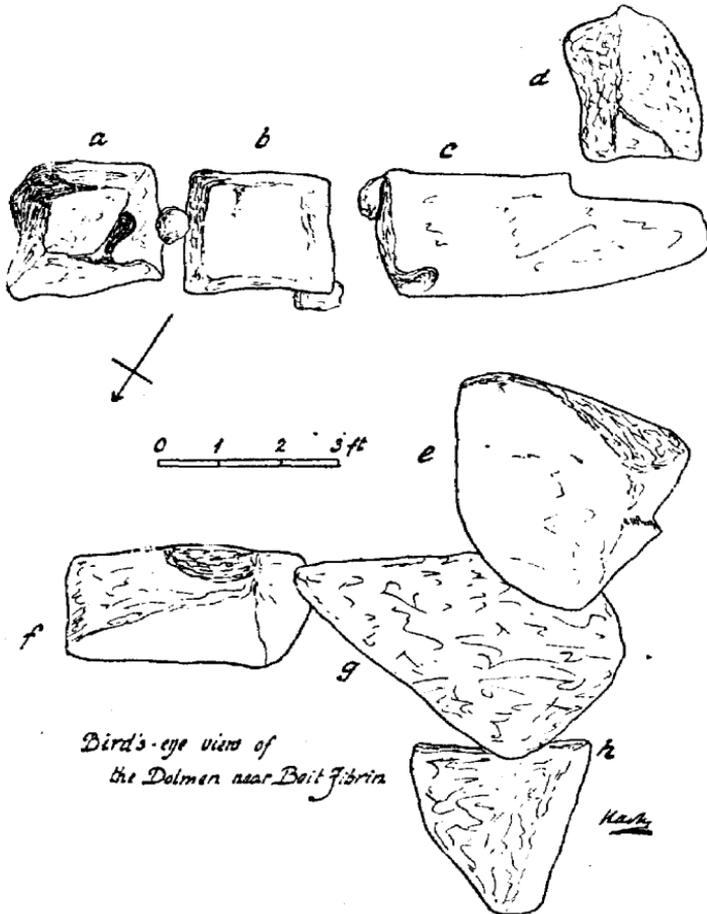
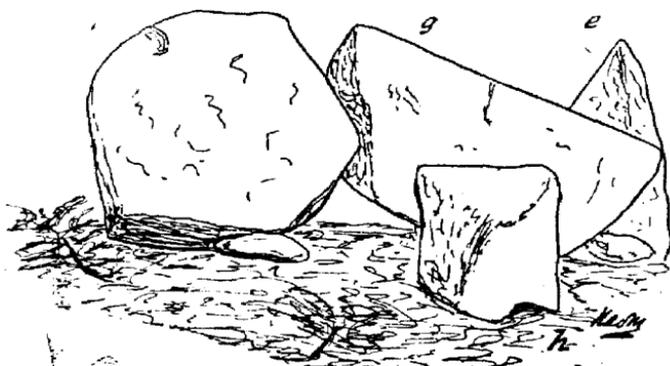


FIG. 1.

though, owing to their small size compared with the space to be roofed, this is questionable. Their general appearance and disposition can best be understood by reference to the accompanying sketches.

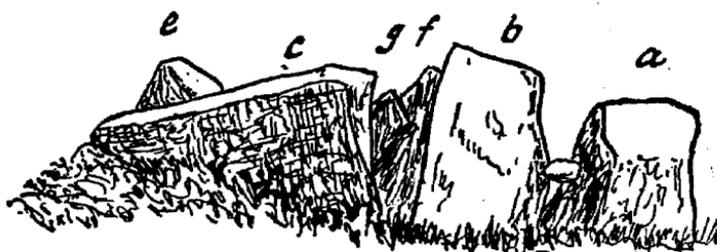
This dolmen differs from all other structures of the class I have ever seen, in being erected on an almost completely bare surface of rock; none of the stones are set in earth. If it was sepulchral the body must have been laid on the rock surface between the rows of stones.



Dolmen near Beit Jibrin; from the N.-W.

FIG. 2.

In order to facilitate reference from one drawing to another every stone is indicated by an index letter, which is repeated in each of the drawings.



Dolmen near Beit Jibrin; from the S.-E.

FIG. 3.

Dimensions of the Constituent Stones (height in each case given first).—(a) 3' 6" × 2' 5" × 2' 1"; (b) 4' 2" × 2' 5" × 1' 11"; (c) 3' 2" × 4' 5" × 2' 10"; (d) 2' 8" × 3' 0" × 2' 7"; (e) 3' 6" × 3' 5" × 2' 10"; (f) 4' 0" × 2' 5" × 2' 3"; (g) 13' 4" × 4' 5" × 3' 10"; (h) 2' 0" × 2' 10" × 2' 0".