

Vat.—32 feet south of the area is a vat 9 feet 9 inches in length from north to south, 8 feet 6 inches in width. It shows signs of old cement. The average depth of the vat to the soil with which it is partially filled is 3 feet.

Monoliths.—South-east of the citadel is another interesting feature which may have been connected with ancient worship. The rock here has apparently been quarried away for the sake of building material, leaving two monoliths resembling immense menhirs. They are perhaps 100 feet apart. The one towards the west, which on its north side rises from the brink of a precipice, has the following dimensions at its base:—West side, 10 feet 8 inches; south side, 7 feet 3 inches. The monolith to the east has a measurement on the south side of its base of 5 feet, on the west side of 6 feet 4 inches. These monoliths seem to be about 18 feet in height, and to have a diameter at the top of about 2 feet 6 inches. They are shown in the photograph.

JERUSALEM, *July 24th*, 1900.

REPORTS FROM GALILEE.

By Dr. G. SCHUMACHER.

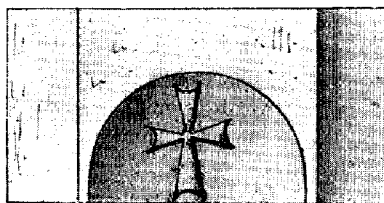
BEISÂN.

ON the ancient high road leading from the Jâlûd Bridge, near Beisân (Bethshean), westwards towards Zer'ain (Jezreel), we came across a number of sarcophagi scattered about and partly overturned, from one of which I copied a Greek inscription, and enclose a squeeze. With the kind assistance of Messrs. Monahan and Foord the following three lines were deciphered, the other parts being obliterated:—

... ΘΟΔΙΟΓΕΝΗΚΑ ΙΟΥΛΙΑΝΟ
... ΝΟΚΥΙΟΙ ΙΙΝ ΝΥΙΝΑ
... ΧΛΑΧΟΥ ΜΙΝΙΡ

The sarcophagus is hewn out of a large, so-called 'Ajlûn, marble block, measuring 7 feet in length and 2 feet 7 inches in width; a simple ornament crowns the top end.

On the site of an ancient church, 200 yards north-west of the Jâlûd Bridge above mentioned, the nave and pillars of which can still be traced, the round upper part of a well-preserved niche was excavated. The shape of the stone into which the niche is hewn is octagonal, the width of the niche 2 feet 9½ inches; a carefully carved raised Maltese cross decorates the cupola of the niche, which is also made of 'Ajlûn marble.

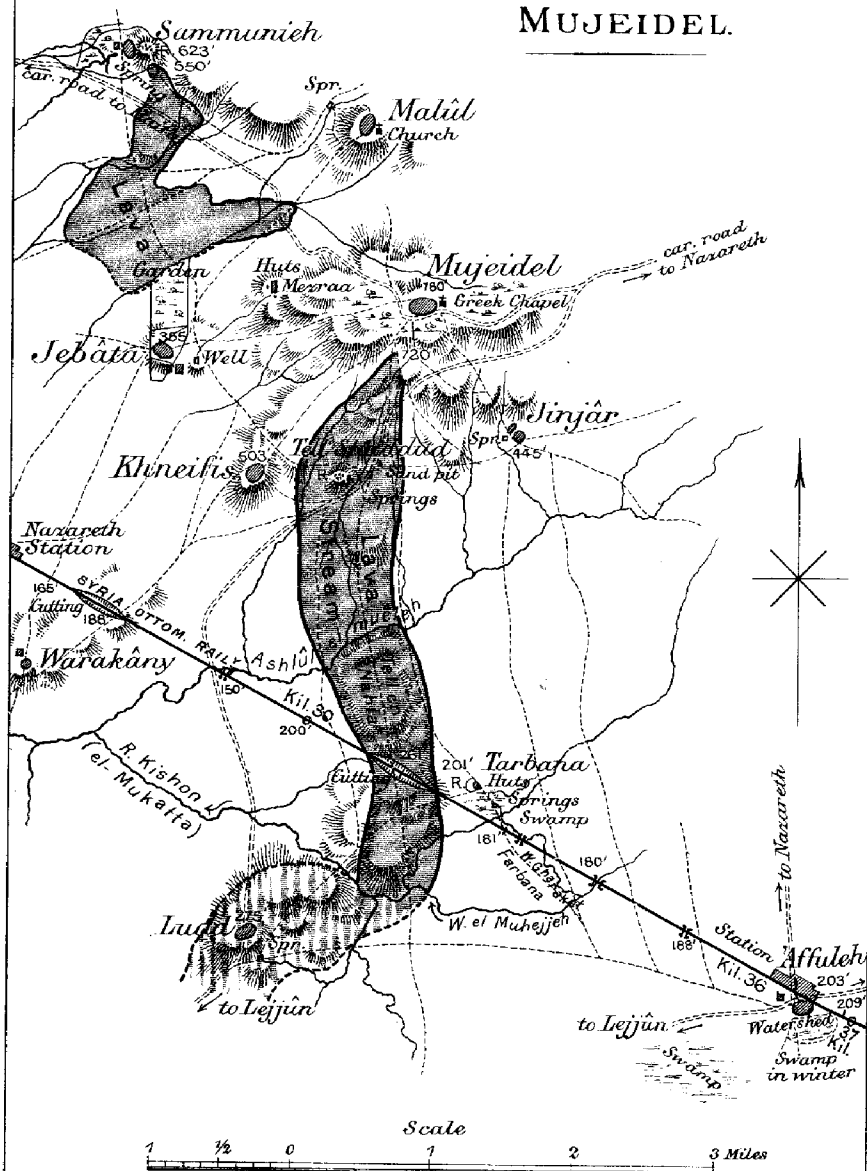


← ----- 2 feet 9½ inches. ----- →

The old Jâlûd Bridge itself is being rebuilt by the active Mudir of Beisân, and a carriage road has been made by His Excellency leading from the bridge to the town of Beisân and thence down the slopes of the Jordan valley to the village el-Hakeimîyeh, near Wâdy 'Esh-sheh. On June 2nd I drove in a carriage with my family down to within 400 yards of the Jordan River, near the ford Makhâdet 'ain es Sôda, following this road to Hakeimîyeh. I mention the fact, as it is the first carriage in modern days that reached the shores of the Jordan of Galilee south of Tiberias.

The town of Beisân is rapidly increasing in population; the main market street is well kept and shaded by acacia trees; modern natives' stores and grain magazines are being built. Beisân will very soon become the mercantile centre of the Jordan valley products and the neighbouring plain of Jâlûd, as well as of Central 'Ajlûn, the main roads of 'Ajlûn being diverted by the skill of the present Mudir from the old "gathering place," Jisr el-Mejâmi'a, to a new bridge in course of construction, crossing the Jordan over against Beisân, a little south of the present ford, Makhadet er-Rummâneh.

SKETCH OF THE LAVA STREAMS IN THE VICINITY OF MUJEIDEL.



P.S. The heights in feet along the Ry. Line
are Ground Levels of the Ry. Longit. Section.

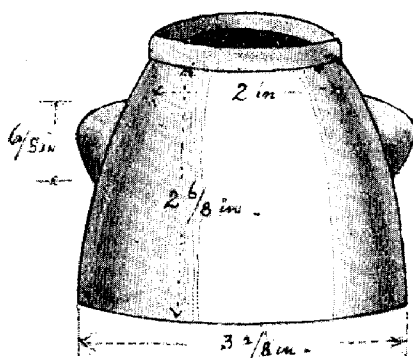
N. J. Munnick
10. 6. 1900

THE LAVA STREAMS OF THE PLAIN OF ESDRAELON.

In my last report of June 5th, 1899 (*Quarterly Statement*, 1899, p. 341), I mentioned the discovery of a bed of lava (basalt) while making the railway cutting through Tell en-Nahla, in the Merj Ibn 'Amir. In searching for sand along the wâdies on the Mujeidil hill sides, we discovered another outburst of basaltic lava close to the springs and ruins of Tell Shadûd, and have been able to trace it uphill to a point 60 feet below the level of the village of Mujeidil; here it suddenly appears on the surface of the ground, and runs down the slope in a width of 500 to 1,000 yards, embracing Tell Shadûd, forming Tell en-Nahla, and continuing to the bed of the Kishon. Here the distinct traces end, but the elevation on which the village Ludd is built again shows lava *débris*, and it may therefore be safely stated that this lava stream commenced (*see Quarterly Statement*, 1899, p. 342) as an upheaval at the foot of Tell Semûnieh, on an altitude of about 550 feet, spread towards Mujeidil, ended at the northern slope of the town hill, and took a general direction towards Jebâta, disappearing north of the village. It appears again on the surface of the ground near Abu Shûsheh, on the southern border of the great plain. Another branch of the same lava stream appears first on the other or southern side of the Mujeidil slopes, 720 feet above the sea, runs, *viâ* Tarbaneh and Tell en-Nahla, to Ludd, disappears there, and can again be traced on the southern border of Merj Ibn 'Amir, between el-Lejjûn and Ezbûba. I prepared and add a sketch map of this lava stream as it shows in the vicinity of Mujeidil. My supposition that the central part of the plain of Esdraelon was once filled with a lava stream has thus been confirmed.

In digging for sand on the slopes near Tell Shadûd, the workmen found embedded in a lump of earth in the pit sunk into the very crumbling mass of lava a small marble cup, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches high, $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches in diameter, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch thick, 2 feet below the surface of the lava. The cup was not broken, but the crust surrounding it consisted of a hard burnt clay, soft on the outside. As the cup was beyond doubt found in the lava, it seems to me that the lava stream took place in historical times, and carried away with it a piece of manufacture of an early period. This period must be previous to Hadrian, as we found graves *cut into* the basalt

rock at Tell en-Nahla containing a Hadrian coin. The cup may be Phoenician.



In preparing the above sketch map I find that I must add a few notes with regard to the following two villages, which, since the Palestine Exploration Fund map was prepared, have been built up from desolate ruins to flourishing villages:—

- (1) Ikhneifs—village of 52 huts and about 230 inhabitants, the property of Messrs. Sursock, of Beirût.
- (2) Ludd—village of 46 huts and about 200 inhabitants, built up by the Bedouin of the Merj.

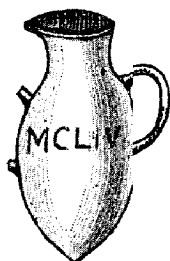
The village of Semûnieh, on the Nazareth-Haifa road, has not increased owing to its unhealthy position and bad water. Jebâta has grown considerably. The proprietor, Sursock, built a number of dwellings covered with tile roofs, cleaned the well on the eastern slope and lined it with masonry. Three-quarters of a mile north-east of Jebâta a few huts have been erected by a villager of Mujeidil. Large olive and mulberry gardens have been planted around Jebâta. Junjâr has increased a little; it numbers now 16 huts and about 70 inhabitants. Tarbaneh contains a few huts built by the railway company for their workmen, which, later on, will be used permanently by the villagers of Mujeidil. Kitchen gardens are planted in the swamps formed by the 'Ayûn Tarbaneh. The swamp produces the worst malarial fevers known in the neighbourhood; nine of our Italian and Egyptian railway workmen died from the effects of the Tarbaneh malaria. Warakâny consists of two quarters, both in a state of decay owing to the poverty of the proprietors; the 55 or 60 villagers live in 15 to 18

miserable huts and stables, and suffer from fever, their only water supply being from the water gathered in the bed of the Kishon south of the village. 'Affûleh has not increased; the village counts 50 to 55 huts and 200 inhabitants; they also suffer from fever, especially after an abundant rainfall, owing to the "Birket" close to the village on the south, which contains stagnant water up to the end of summer. Surssock's grain store north of the village, and the garden surrounding it, have not been improved lately. Bir esh Shallaf, mentioned in the Palestine Exploration Fund map, exists no more. 'Affûleh (not 'Afûleh, as it is written with a shadda on the "f," عَفْلَة) takes its water supply from the "Birket" and the marshy springs near Fûleh.

A series of levels is given on the accompanying map following the railway line, which will have two stations on this section, one near Warakâny for the Nazareth traffic, and another at 'Affûleh on the Nazareth-Jerusalem high road. The watershed between the sea and the Jordan, where crossed by the railway line, has an altitude of 209 feet above the Mediterranean.

KEFR LÂM

In a sepulchral cave near this Crusading castle (on the sea coast north of 'Athlit) a small, red pottery jar $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches high was dug up by the natives, bearing the following letters: MCLIV.



The pottery is crumbling, but the letters are distinctly carved. If they represent the date 1154, they fix the time of the Crusading occupation of the place.

A handful of coins of John Hydruntus, and a few Herodian coins were found last month at Kefes-Sâmîr, a ruin at the foot of Mount Carmel, on the sea coast a little south of Haifa, while

digging for ancient building stones, which are found in great number and of good size on this important site.

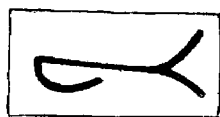
HAIFA.

A new lot of sepulchral caves were opened in the dunes close to the German Colony on the west, hewn out of the sandstone rock, but the native discoverers have not been allowed to proceed. On the vertical side of one of them I copied the following character, 8 inches high, probably Phœnician, cut into the rock :—



TELL EL-KURDÂNEH.

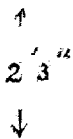
On my recent visit to this place I collected the following Phœnician (?) characters from the walls of the modern mill, built up amidst the springs of Kurdâneh, the source of the ancient Belus near 'Akka :—



As on other stones, crosses are found, the vaulted building with



gun holes must have been a fortified place of Phœnician origin,



rebuilt in Christian, probably Crusading, days. The cross vault has been lately restored.

HAIFA, *June 8th*, 1900.