

worked on the sides; the other has a floral scroll and rosettes. The latter has lost its cover, and the loss has been supplied with three fragments of other covers, not apparently intended to be associated with the sarcophagus on which they stand or with each other. The chamber is 24 feet 8 inches long, 9 feet 8½ inches across. Beyond it are two rough chambers, apparently unfinished: the first has a bare rock surface on the walls, supplemented with inserted stones when irregular, and in the jamb of the door. The second was apparently an old entrance (perhaps for workmen), as its roof consists of movable blocks of stone, apparently supporting earth.

The walls in all the principal chambers and passages are lined with marble slabs. The doors were closed by slabs cut to fit the reveals. These slabs are still lying about the tomb.

A sufficient number of the fragments of carved stones lying about outside the tomb have already been published by Dr. Schick. To attempt to fit them into their places in a hypothetical surface structure would, I am convinced, prove a rather more hopeless task than restoration of the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus. They are mostly fragments of egg-and-tongue and other classical ornaments, volutes, acanthus leaves, and various mouldings—nearly all of a very debased or provincial type.

I prefer to abstain from speculation as to the persons for whom this tomb was intended. In the absence of inscriptions all such speculation is mere guesswork, impossible to disprove or to substantiate.

---

## HILL OF "JEREMIAH'S GROTTTO," CALLED BY GENERAL GORDON "SKULL HILL."

By Dr. CONRAD SCHICK.

1. In 1842, O. Thenius suggested, on various topographical grounds, that this hill was Calvary, where Christ was crucified. In 1883 the late General Gordon came to the same conclusion from quite other reasons. He founded his opinion on the contour line 2,549 feet above the sea (Ordnance Survey of Jerusalem,  $\frac{1}{2500}$  plan, 1864-65), which has roughly the form of a skull,

although rather too broad, with the nose-bone turned towards the west.<sup>1</sup> He was confirmed in his opinion by the discovery of a rock-hewn tomb at the western foot of the hill, which he declared was that of Joseph, and in a garden.<sup>2</sup> The view that "skull" hill was Calvary was adopted by many persons, and more especially by English and Americans. It was also opposed by many other persons, who brought forward good arguments against it. This lessened but did not put an end to the enthusiasm for the hill. In the cliff on the south-west side of the hill there are two holes, running in about 10 feet, which from the shadows thrown by the roof and sides always look dark. These holes were thought to look like the eye-sockets of a skull, and hence this part of the hill was compared with a skull.<sup>3</sup> This conclusion requires a great deal of imagination, for the two holes differ greatly in size and form. The western and larger hole is part of an ancient rock-hewn cistern, which became useless when one side was cut away in quarrying stone. It is now a small cave, retaining the size and form of the old cistern. The almost horizontal bottom is about 14 feet wide, the sides converge as they rise, and, near the top, form as it were an arched roof. The other hole, about 20 feet to the east, is on a lower level, as any good photograph will show. Drawings and pictures are "helped" so that the holes may appear more like the eye-sockets of a skull. Any argument based on them is rather useless, as the name "Kranion," Calvary, or skull, was probably derived, not from the form of a hill, but from the discovery of a human skull in the place. Tradition and the early Christian writers say it was the skull of Adam. I suggest that it was Goliath's skull which David brought to Jerusalem (1 Samuel xvii, 54; xxi, 9) and buried somewhere close to and outside the city, as it could not be buried near the Tabernacle at Nob, where he deposited Goliath's sword. It may have been found when Nehemiah rebuilt the walls, and the spot called "the skull"—that is, the place where the remarkable skull was found.

<sup>1</sup> See General Gordon's note in *Quarterly Statement*, 1885, p. 79.

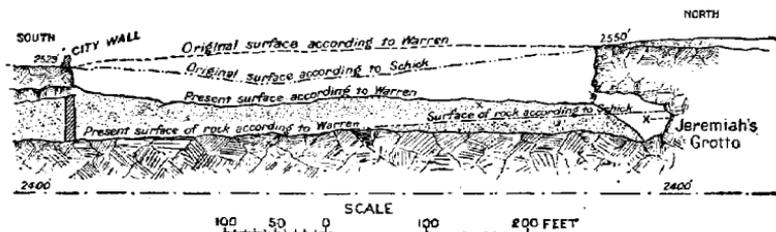
<sup>2</sup> St. Matt. xxvii, 60; St. John xix, 41. A full report on this tomb by me is given in *Quarterly Statement*, 1892, pp. 120 ff, and 199.

<sup>3</sup> This idea was repudiated by General Gordon. In a letter he writes:—" 'Skull with caves for eye-sockets,' that is all one would get if one was foolish enough to write. I say it is the *contour* in a map of 1864."—C. W. W.

2. The tomb at the foot of the north-western part of the hill—a Jewish rock-hewn tomb re-used by Christians—was purchased, with the field (the supposed garden of Joseph), by some English people, who were obliged to enclose the field with a boundary wall. When the wall was erected they were compelled, on the north side, to build it above the scarped rock in which the tomb is hewn. But on the east side they had to build it in front of the scarp, and to dig down some 10 feet for a foundation. Here, about the centre of the side, the entrance to a passage, about 3 feet wide and 7 feet high, running eastward into the rock, was discovered. It was full of earth, and, as it was not cleared, its object could not be ascertained. Probably it led to a cave, or grotto similar to that to the east, called "Jeremiah's" grotto. The passage could not be cleared at the time for fear of raising difficulties with the Moslems, who closely watched the work. But an opening was left in front of it in the new wall, so that it could be opened and cleared when an opportunity arrived; and its position was indicated by a mark on the wall above ground. On seeing this, and on examining the hill more closely, I came to the conclusion that the rock roof of a large cavern had fallen in and left the rock standing up for from 8 to 10 feet, thus giving the curious outline of a human skull in profile, as seen in the contour line on the Ordnance Survey map. This hypothesis explains the openings by which the various small caves in the upper portion of the rock are entered from the west, and the absence of the artificial entrances which they must have possessed originally. The fracture was most likely caused by an earthquake, perhaps that in the reign of Uzziah (Amos i, 1; Zechariah xiv, 5).

3. It is generally believed, and the appearance of the rock on both sides justifies the belief, that "skull" hill was originally connected with the height (Bezetha) inside the town, and that the broad trench which now separates them is the result of quarrying for stone. Sir C. Warren ("Jerusalem Memoirs," Plate XII) gives the trench an almost level bed of rock, but the many portions of the bed which I have seen, when exposed by excavation, are very uneven and bear the marks of quarrying. In some places, especially near "skull" hill, the rock is much higher than in others. I am therefore convinced that the great trench was not made at one time, but is rather the result of

quarrying operations spread over a long period,<sup>1</sup> including some which have taken place during my own residence in Jerusalem. The accompanying diagram, based on Sir C. Warren's Plate XII,



NOTE.—In some places the rock rises to this height ×.

explains my views. I believe that, as in the case of other ridges near Jerusalem—the ridge of the Mount of Olives, for instance—there was originally a depression between the two heights, and not an elevation, as shown by the dotted line in the diagram. Thus the square cubits of stone removed were far less than they would have been if the rock had risen in accordance with the dotted line, and the bed of the trench had been as low as it is shown in the diagram. These remarks have some bearing on the topographical question. It is to be regretted that there is no proper plan of Jeremiah's grotto. English and German writers generally mention the grotto, and some of them notice its interesting cistern, but none have given a plan.<sup>2</sup>

JERUSALEM, June 6th, 1901.

<sup>1</sup> This view, which I have long held, is confirmed by local details that I hope to explain in a forthcoming paper.—C. W. W.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Schick has since sent home a plan and description of Jeremiah's grotto, which will be published in the January *Quarterly Statement*.—C. W. W.