

ANCIENT ARROWS IN THE CASTLE OF DAVID.

By Dr. SELAH MERRILL, U.S. Consul.

ABOUT the year 1882 a native of this city, an intelligent old man, told me of a "room full of ancient arrows" that had been "found a few years before in the Castle of David," and he thought that I could obtain some specimens if I asked the military governor for them. I did not do this myself, but sent a person who I knew would introduce the matter cautiously, and the result was that the commander and no one connected with the garrison knew anything about it. Since that time I have asked one person and another, generally old people who might be supposed to know of this "find," but I never learned anything definite, the replies always being, "Yes, we heard something of the kind long ago." People who are now 50 or 60 years old heard their fathers talk about it when they were children.

The matter may not be of much importance, still I have thought it might be of some slight interest to quote from an old volume, long since forgotten, a notice of this circumstance. The work is entitled "The Holy Places: a Narrative of Two Years' Residence in Jerusalem and Palestine." By H. L. Dupuis. London: Hurst and Blackett, 1856; pp. 10, 11:—

"It was during my residence in the country that the flooring of a room adjoining the Tower of Hippicus fell in, and a vault hitherto unknown was discovered underneath containing a store of shafts of arrows. Opinions were divided whether this depôt had been made in very early times or belonged to the Middle Ages. The latter was the more general opinion, and so we pronounced it to be a military deposit for the arms of the Crusaders. These arrows, ready prepared for the head, may have been for the particular service of the garrison of the tower in which they were found, and from being made of deal wood it is not unreasonable to conclude that they must have been weapons used by some northern and perhaps western nation, rather than shafts prepared by an Oriental people of the south, who invariably employ cane, or the stem of the palm leaf (jereed), for this purpose."

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Dr. Chaplin writes:—"I very well remember about the ancient arrows found in the Castle at Jerusalem. One or two of them were shown to me in Bishop Gobat's house in the year 1861 or 1862. They were as described by Mr. Dupuis, and I recollect thinking that they looked hardly strong enough to be used against men in armour. Perhaps they were only for sporting purposes."