

at the time of the feast of unleavened bread, strongly reinforced the garrison in the Antonia, and was himself either in the castle or on the porticoes of the Temple (Jos., *Ant.* xx, 5, § 3 ; *B.J.* ii 12, § 1). Pilatè may have done the same, and have set up his *bema* on the open space between the Antonia and the Temple. A not impossible explanation is that Christ, after the trial and judgment at Herod's palace, was handed over to the soldiers for execution ; and that they, in the first place, led him through the streets to the Antonia, and then, after receiving the two robbers from the commandant, passed on to Golgotha.

With our present knowledge, the conclusion must be that the position of the Prætorium of the Gospels cannot be certainly ascertained. An identification with Herod's palace is supported by Alford, Edersheim, Ewald, Keim, Meyer, Schürer, Tobler, Wieseler, Winer, &c. ; whilst the Antonia is preferred by Caspari, Clermont-Ganneau, Krafft, Langen, Tischendorf, Weiss, Westcott, &c.

'AIN EL-FESHKHAH, EL-HAJAR EL-AŞBAH, AND KHURBET KUMRÂN.

By Dr. E. W. G. MASTERMAN.

(Continued from p. 167.)

March 21st, 1902.—*Rise of Dead Sea level since February 19th, 3·5 inches.*

Rise of 'Ain el-Feshkhah level since February 19th, 2·5 inches.

Rainfall at Jerusalem since February 19th, 2·68 inches.

Temperatures, 7.30 to 9 A.M.—Air, 70° ; Dead Sea, 68° ; 'Ain el-Feshkhah, 74° ; 'Ain el-Mabneyeh, 80·5°.

Weather.—Fine ; few clouds ; light N.W. wind till about 8 A.M., then S.E., increasing to a breeze ; in afternoon, strong W. breeze with showers.

State of Dead Sea.—Small waves, not crested with foam ; some haze over the lake to S.E.

White Line.—Two white lines visible at 7 A.M., the outer one passing straight from direction of north shore, about half-way between 'Ain el-Feshkhah and mouth of Jordan (the north end itself being invisible), until directly to the east of 'Ain el-Feshkhah, when it made a bend

M. Clermont-Ganneau, this church, which succeeded the Church of Pilate, was built on the site of the Castle Antonia, where the Turkish barracks now stand (*Rec. d'Arch. Or.*, ii, 154 ; iii, 228, 229). Other authorities, however, place the Church of St. Sophia on the site now occupied by the Dome of the Rock. There is no certain evidence on this point, and a discussion of the question would occupy too much space.

towards the bay, and then passed down the lake in a series of windings. The inner line was in the usual position of this line at the 'Ain. Opposite the 'Ain it was much bent; it could not be made out beyond Râs el-Feshkhah. About 8.30 (after the wind changed to S.E.) the inner line



SKETCH FROM SPOT NEAR KHURBET KUMRAN, LOOKING SOUTH.

was coming inshore rapidly, being much broken up. The outer line was also broken up. Professor Libbey, who was at the shore of the Dead Sea much further east, reported that when he got there a little later the whole north shore was covered with foam.

Remarks.—The plain of Jericho still covered with flowers, chiefly yellow compositæ, in patches, but all the herbage a good deal withered, no longer bright green.

A small herd of camels, with young, found between Wâdy Dabr and Hajar el-Aşbah. Several hundred sheep were gathered at the Pool of 'Ain el-Feshkhah for washing. A dozen Bedawin of the *Ya'âmereh* tribe were engaged in the process, most of them stark naked in the water. They washed the fleeces thoroughly with their hands, but without soap. The whole process occupied a little over an hour.

I had further confirmation from the Jericho man who accompanied me regarding the true *Hajar el-Aşbah* (*Quarterly Statement*, 1902, p. 161). He identified it without any leading from me, and said everyone knew that was the one. He said no one who knew anything about it would identify any other.

A great many storks observed on the Jericho road as far up as "The Apostles' Fountain." Vultures, hawks, storks, and a kingfisher at 'Ain Mabneyeh. This name has much puzzled me, as it means a fountain *built up*. On this visit I found to the north, close to and on a little higher ground than the spring I have described as 'Ain Mabneyeh, another spring of considerable volume, which rises in an enclosure about 30 feet square, with walls about 4 feet thick, and now scarcely at all above the level of the ground: rough masonry. The enclosed part has evidently once formed a pool for some purpose, either for a bath or a fishpond, but it is now almost full of earth: the water rises into two or three deep holes among the rubbish, and flows out to the north-east to join the water of the other spring and form the Seil Mabneyeh. The two springs are not 100 yards apart, but this "built up" spring was hidden before by reeds.

April 26th, 1902.—*Rise or fall of Dead Sea since March 21st, nil.*

Rise of 'Ain el-Feshkhah since March 21st, 0.5 inch.

Rainfall at Jerusalem since March 21st, 1.69 inches.

Temperature, 6.30 A.M.—Air, 77°; 'Ain el-Mabneyeh, 80.5°.

Weather.—Fine; sky clear above; misty over sea to east, and specially south-east, where mountains were gradually obscured in mist. Very gentle breeze north-west and west-north-west.

State of Dead Sea.—Smooth. From a distance of about a mile the sea west of the white line looked clear and glassy, reflecting brightness of the sky; east of the white line there was a dull colour through tiny waves. About 8.15 a.m. the mist to east had cleared, and both sea and mountains showed lovely shades of blue.

White Line.—Visible, but faint and irregular. At 6.30 it appeared to end a little north-east of 'Ain el-Feshkhah district; about half a mile from the shore opposite Râs el-Feshkhah it disappeared into distance down the lake. At 8 a.m. it was nearer shore: the north end had come in shore: had flattened out so as to look like a broad line of white scum on the surface, within a stone's throw of the shore, along most of the 'Ain el-Feshkhah district. Further along the north shore, between the 'Ain el-Feshkhah district and the mouth of Jordan, but much nearer the former, was another irregular line of foam disposed in an irregular circle—ill defined.

Remarks.—Not a soul was seen from Jericho to the 'Ain and back again. No flocks seen. Many storks; a jackal; half a dozen ibex on Jericho plain, near Wady Dabr; a coney, seen at "Observation Rock."

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES MADE DURING A JOURNEY EAST AND WEST OF JORDAN.

By Dr. E. W. G. MASTERMAN.

1. I made a squeeze of a Greek inscription at Nâblus, which Mr. Macalister is sending with some notes (*see pp. 240, et seq.*).

2. The harvest—barley and wheat—promises to be unusually good this year. Wherever we went through the highland west of the Jordan and down through the Haurân and Jebel 'Ajlân the crops were wonderful. I never saw such fertility. Wildflowers, too, are unusually plentiful. The rainfall, though not great, has been well distributed. I do not know whether it is directly connected with this, but all over the land *storks* are extraordinarily common. On the Jericho road they could be seen all the way down from "The Apostles' Fountain." We were seldom out of sight of them east of Jordan. At Damascus it was mentioned to me that their numbers were most unusual.