

Dr. Chaplin served on the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and his last work for them was the revision of the Yiddish translation of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. He also served on the Council of the Victoria Institute, and on the Correspondence Committee of the Church Missionary Society. His life was one of strenuous work, and it was only towards its close that the repeated attacks of malarial fever from which he suffered disabled him and ultimately caused his death.

C. W. W.

TENTH QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION OF GEZER.

11 August—12 November, 1904.

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

§ I.—PRELIMINARY.

THE time spent in excavation during the period covered by the present report was about two months. A few days after the middle of August I had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. C. T. Currelly, of the Egypt Exploration Fund and the British School at Athens, to the camp. He came fresh from the important excavation now in progress under the latter institution at Palaiokastro in Crete; and not only did this experience make him a valuable associate in my endeavour to explain some of the objects unearthed at Gezer during his stay, but he was able to inform me of analogous results at Crete to those arrived at in my own work. These, when they have been examined more closely, may be found to involve historical results of great importance. For the present it would be premature to enter into details regarding an investigation, which it will be impossible to carry out thoroughly without the co-operation of the Cretan excavators.

Towards the end of August, as soon as the state of the works permitted me temporarily to close them, I suspended the digging, and with Mr. Currelly went on a short tour through the country. Starting from Sidon, where, through the courtesy of His Excellency

Makridi Bey, we were permitted to visit the important excavations now under progress under his supervision on behalf of the Imperial Ottoman Government, we proceeded by sea to Tyre and Haifa, and thence overland to Jerusalem by way of Jenin, Samaria, Nâblus, and Râmallah.

In a hurried ride over a track so well beaten it is of course impossible to make many new observations. The few notes we took, though not directly bearing on the Gezer excavation, may be recorded here, as they are hardly important enough to submit as an independent communication :—

1. During a walk round the peninsula of Tyre we agreed in coming to the conclusion that nothing pre-Roman was to be expected from excavation there; the site of ancient Tyre, wherever it may exactly be, having to be sought on the mainland. In this conclusion I find we are in disagreement with the opinion expressed by Drs. Thiersch and Hölcher in their recently-published "Reise durch Palästina und Phönizien" (*Mittheilungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft*, September, 1904), a copy of which I received after my return. The German explorers are able to point to sherds of classical vases of black ware, which they picked up, to corroborate their judgment; we happened to find nothing but Roman remains, and it appeared to us that below the thick stratum of Roman brick with which the southern half of the island is covered, and of which a good section can be seen along the sea-shore, there was little or no earlier débris.

2. In occasional wayside conversations with natives passed on the route, when approaching the site of Samaria, I noticed that the local pronunciation of the name of the modern village on that site is not accurately represented in the ordinary printed form. The older men uniformly called the place *Sebusteh*, with a strong accent on the second syllable, thereby exactly reproducing the name of the Herodian town. Some of the younger people have picked up, no doubt from tourists and their servants, the pronunciation *Sebustych*, with the third syllable accented, while others compromise by retaining the accent on the second syllable and shortening the vowel of the third; but the elders were practically unanimous in preferring the shorter form. I suspect that a systematic enquiry among the older inhabitants of Palestine would result in eliminating a good many other cases of the *-yeh* termination so frequently appended in print to Palestinian place-names. It is certainly wrong in *Tell es-Sâfiyeh*, a not uncommon perversion of the name of the mound recently excavated by the Fund.

3. At three spots in the way we observed that the ground was strewn with paleolithic flint flakes, indicating pre-historic occupations. These were—(i) round the foot of Tell Kâmôn, between Haifa and Tell Mutasellim, on the south-east side of the mound; (ii) along the plain called Merj el-Gharaḳ, especially south of the village of Sanûr; and (iii) in a

bend of the road a couple of kilomètres north of Bireh. At none of these places were fine flints noticed, but the artificial nature of the flakes was unmistakable.

The work at Gezer was recommenced towards the end of September, and has been continued since without break. The results have been of considerable interest, but this report upon them will, for reasons that will appear, be probably shorter than any other of the series.

The excavation was resumed in the trench already partially cut on the Western Hill, and for about a month the whole force of the staff was concentrated there, with the exception of one gang of labourers who were employed in tracing the line of the city wall.

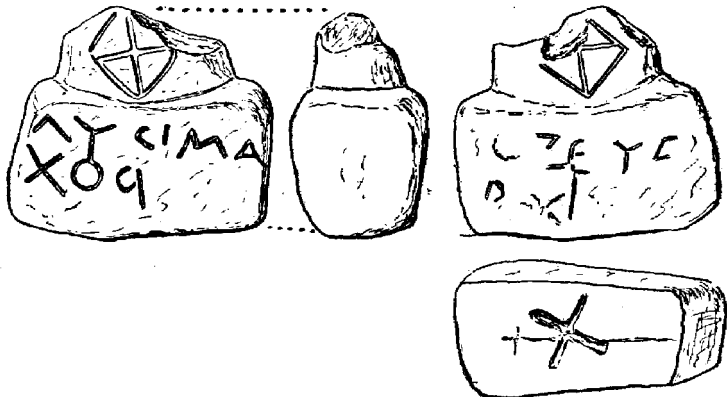


FIG. 1.—Inscribed Fragment.

The result of this month's digging may be dismissed in a few words. The observation already made that there are here eight strata of building was confirmed. No objects of special interest were unearthed, except duplicates of specimens already described; it is therefore unnecessary to say anything about these at present.

Perhaps the most interesting object found on the Western Hill during the quarter was picked up by the foreman on the surface of the ground. It is a small chunch fragment, represented in Fig. 1. The rectangular base measures $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches long, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick, and 1 inch high. The stump attached is now $\frac{1}{2}$ inch high. On each face of the latter is a cross in a lozenge-shaped panel, while each of the broad faces of the base bears an inscription in Greek letters. That on one face is quite legible; it is the name **ΑΥCΙΜΑΧΟC**,

Lyssimachus, followed by a vertical stroke, apparently a stop; a similar stroke appears on the other face. The inscription on the other face is worn and chipped, in consequence of which it is not fully legible; the only letters that are certain are **ZEYC**, which would be complete in itself, were it not for the traces of other letters; *one* preceding the **Z**, and (probably) *three* in the second line, preceding the vertical stroke. The traces are too meagre to enable the letters to be recognised. On the base of the stone a deep cross has been cut over a shallow scratched cross which existed previously. This appears to be a Christian relic, which has probably wandered

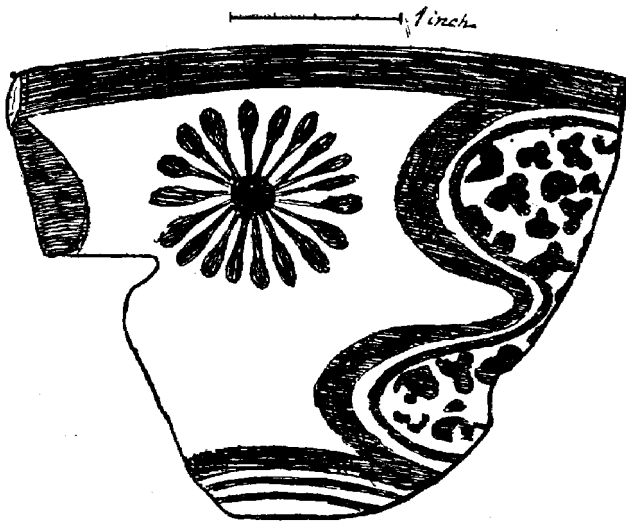


FIG. 2.—Sherd of Cretan Pottery.

from the early Christian settlements on the site of the modern village. It is quite out of place in the tell débris.

It is possible that valuable results may be expected when the work on the Western Hill is resumed at the point where it has for the moment been suspended. A section of a large public building or palace, dating about 2500 B.C., has been laid bare in the trench, which will have to be widened eastward and westward before the structure is completely investigated. The foundations of the part exposed show that its leading feature is a rectangular hall, about 25 feet wide, and certainly more than 40 feet long, built of stone walls, 4 feet thick, and having a row of columns down the centre.

Round it are smaller chambers belonging to the same structure. That it is a palace may perhaps be suggested by the discovery in the neighbourhood of a sherd of pottery of Cretan origin (Fig. 2), which Dr. Mackenzie, of the Cretan Exploration Fund (who has also recently visited the works), told me was comparable with the best specimens of the best period of the pottery from Knossos.

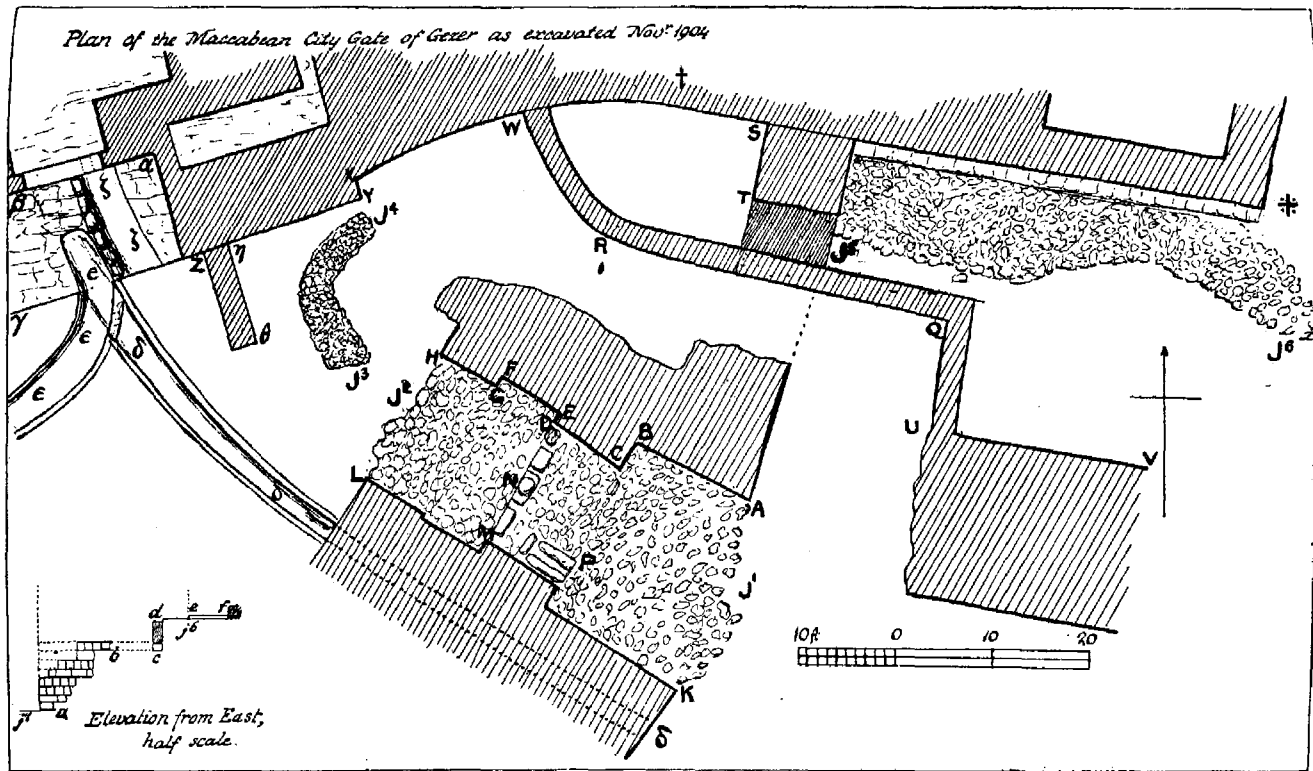
§ II.—PLAN OF CITY GATE AND WALLS.

In the last *Quarterly Statement*, 1904, p. 323, I announced the discovery of a fragment of wall that I thought might be identified with the foundation of the Crusaders' Castle of Mont Gisart. This fragment consisted of three courses of well-squared stones built over the foundation of the outer wall (in tracing which they were exposed), extending, as was ascertained by a tunnel driven along them, for a length of 36 feet, and returning at each end. Two towers, of shallow projection, occurred in the course of this wall. The building had thus every appearance of being the south side of a small castle or keep. The stone-dressing, though not exactly like that usually associated with the work of Crusader masons, might conceivably have been a provincial imitation thereof; and in view of its superiority to the masonry found elsewhere on the mound, I felt that its assignment to the Crusaders was justifiable. Three or four weeks after returning to work, being desirous of examining this supposed castle (which did not promise to be of great size, or to call for many labourers), I detailed about half of the staff to clear the ground from above it.

A few days' digging showed that the building was not a castle, and could not be assigned to the Crusaders; and a few more assured me that I had to do with a magnificent and extensive structure, no doubt the main entrance to the city in the Maccabean period, and possibly, in addition, something yet more interesting. The whole force of labourers was, therefore, transferred to the site, and it is still under examination.

It is unfortunate that this report has to be sent from Gezer at the present time. Each day as the work proceeds new details are exposed, so that neither plans nor descriptions, nor yet theories, presented at the moment of writing can claim any finality. I had hoped to present with this report an elaborate restoration of the gate, and had prepared a drawing for that purpose, in which I

Plan of the Maccabean City Gate of Gezer as excavated Nov: 1904



PLAN OF CITY GATE AS EXCAVATED (November, 1904).

thought I had utilised all the material which could possibly be available; but within an hour of my finishing the drawing a fresh discovery was made, which reduced it to waste paper. I therefore illustrate this preliminary description merely with a temporary plan of the remains thus far uncovered, and for the exact position of the gateway I refer the reader to the plan of the excavations, published with the eighth report in July, 1904.¹ Under the Y of the word "VALLEY" will be seen an oval, marked "*Traces of Building.*" Just west of this is an inset in the line of the edge of the summit-plateau of the hill. The entrance-gate now described is situated at this inset.

In the accompanying plan, where it is marked A H, will be seen the fragment of masonry that first attracted my attention to this place. It is a thick and much ruined wall of rough rubble, faced with the well-squared stones already mentioned. It is 36 feet long, and has two shallow towers, of projection from 1 foot to 3 feet 4 inches. As will be seen by reference to the plan, the wall and towers are not set out truly square. The courses of facing-stones are each about 1 foot 6 inches high. This wall, for reasons that will presently be understood, we shall for convenience term the "middle wall."

In front of the wall is a rough pavement of cobble stones (J¹ J²)², nearly all of which show marks of polishing by footwear. This pavement rises gently from east to west. It appears to commence abruptly near the eastern end of the Middle Wall, and it is interrupted at the western end. There seems to have been some kind of arcading crossing the pavement between the points D M; at least there is here a threshold of cut stones resembling those of the wall, and having in the middle what looks like the much-weathered base of a column (N). It is to be noticed, however, that no evidence of a respond is to be seen on the face of the tower, such as we should expect if there were actually an arcade at this point.

On the south side of the pavement are some cut stones, which at first seemed to be fallen débris. But on more careful examination

¹ It is not repeated here, as the area dug over is hardly extensive enough to make it worth while; it will be given, brought up to date, with the next report.

² The index letters used throughout this description refer to the accompanying plan.

they proved to be the foundation of a wall in all respects similar to that on the opposite side, and containing corresponding projections (K L). The outer (southern) face of the latter wall has not yet been exposed, so that I am as yet unable to say anything about the architectural features that it presented to the valley. We shall call this fragment the Front Wall in the present description.

Thus we have a passage 36 feet long, and from 14 to 15 feet wide, flanked by stone walls of well-dressed masonry, which have two towers projecting inwards. There can scarcely be any doubt that over the walls was a vault roofing the passage. The recesses between the towers (D E F G, and the corresponding recess opposite) were possibly intended for receiving a portcullis that closed the gateway; the space, however (8 feet 4 inches), appears rather too wide. Two stones, 3 feet 4 inches long, side by side, with a groove 3 inches wide between them, are let into the pavement at P. That these have something to do with a door-fastening is probable, though I confess that I do not yet see clearly how it was worked.

The pavement is, as I have just said, interrupted at the west end of the two flanking walls; but, fortunately, a fragment remains a few feet further on which enables us to describe clearly its subsequent course. After emerging from the tower it doubles on itself, and at the same time rises at a steeper gradient. The angle is preserved, and will be seen indicated in the plan (J³ J⁴); after that there is a long gap, in which, however, we are not left wholly without indication of its direction. When the pit was first dug a white line, evidently following the pavement, was observed on the face of the wall in the back ground (here called the Back Wall); this was afterwards washed out by a shower of rain, but its course was well determined before this took place. No doubt it was the trampled clay brought in by the feet of passers by. The gradient is about 1 in 6.4. Just under the present surface of the ground the pavement re-appears for the last time (J⁵ J⁶), and runs for a length, 58 feet, after which it is no more found. The difference in level between the uppermost and lowermost section of the pavement is 18 feet 3 inches.

The question now arises whether this causeway was covered during the upper part of its course, between the Middle and Back Walls, by a vault parallel to that which most probably roofed the lower part. Of this there is not wanting evidence. I have added to the lower left-hand corner of the plan a sketch-elevation of the return side as it now appears;

this, though of necessarily small scale, enables the details at that part to be understood. Eight courses there remain. It will be seen that the foundations (*a*, *b*) follow the slope of the ground, the tower being built on the edge of the hill. The upper part of the pavement (*j*⁶) is retained by a wall of rough masonry of small stones (*cd*, *QR* on plan), but having a base course of stones (*c*) similar to those in the facing of the Middle Wall. The line of foundation of the return side of the tower trends upward to this course, and there is no doubt that they originally joined.

Thus the return side of the tower was prolonged to meet the upper part of the pavement. On the opposite side of the pavement is the foundation of a thick wall (*ef* on elevation, *ST* on plan), cutting across it at right angles, but now almost completely destroyed; enough, however, remains to show that it is in the same line with, and was of about the same thickness as the return side of the tower. It can hardly be questioned that the pavement here ran under a rather narrow gateway. Whether before reaching the gateway it passed under a vault cannot be definitely stated; the walls that would have borne such a vault are too ruined to allow a positive conclusion to be arrived at, though it is not impossible that a continuation of the excavation may give a clue to the solution of the question.

The retaining wall (*QR*) (which no doubt originally was carried up as a parapet) is turned at right angles at *Q*, and joins the Outer Wall of the city at *U*. This wall, a portion of which is shown on the plan (*UV*), seems to have been ruined or removed when the gateway was built, but some further excavations are still necessary in order to determine the exact relation between the gateway and the walls of the city. The walls (*RQU*) no doubt helped to prevent intruders from entering the city otherwise than through the gate. *QR* is prolonged in a curved line to meet the Back Wall at *W*. When first uncovered the space enclosed between this curve and the back wall was found to be full of small round stones closely packed together. These possibly were a foundation for the pavement. This curved wall was removed in order to open the older débris lying below before the nature of the structure of which it formed a part had been fully realised.

What is this Back Wall, to which allusion has just been made? It has every appearance of being a massive city wall, and had I been sending this report a week ago I should have unquestionably described it as such. I took it to be a section of the very ancient inner wall of the city, restored and adapted for defensive purposes by the Maccabean builders of the gateway.

This view, however, opened up so many perplexities and was involved in so many difficulties, on the details of which I need not enlarge, that I was forced, after consideration, to seek some other theory. Indeed, it is only necessary to look at the plan, and to see

how the wall curves at the point where the pavement meets it, to infer that this wall and the pavement are part of the same scheme, and date from the same time. This inference adds some probability to the suggestion that the upper part of the pavement was vaulted over as well as the lower.

So far as the wall in question has been exposed, it commences about 6 feet from the present termination of the pavement at the upper end. At the end (\ddagger) it returns northward, but only a few feet of this return (eastern) side have as yet been exposed; enough, however, has been opened to show that there is here a chamber, not unlike the chamber in the first tower found in the inner wall, north of the great High Place. There is nothing in the appearance of the building at this point to prevent our regarding this as the corner of just such a tower.

From the corner, however, the wall runs in a straight course almost due westwards for 61 feet 5 inches (to \dagger), after which it takes the outward curve just referred to, accommodating it to the line of the paved causeway. It then breaks out, at the point X, into a genuine tower (X Y γ), of small projection (1 foot 10 inches) at the east side, but probably greater at the west, since it is not set truly at right angles with the wall. The western end of this tower has not yet been found.

Of this tower there are two foundation courses, which, from their roughness, must have been intended to be underground. Over them are built two smaller towers (X Y Z α , and another to the left, beyond the limits of the plan), with a passage between them, paved and sloping like the paved causeway already described, but much superior and carefully smoothed with beaten clay and plaster. The section of this passage that lies within the limits of the plan is marked Z α β γ . This passage leads to a beautifully built gate 8 feet wide (α β), evidently the entrance to the city or else to some important building.

That the two gates—this and the entrance approached by the causeway—are contemporary, there can be no doubt whatever; their being associated with identical types of pottery makes this unquestionable. What, then, is their relation one to the other?

The first theory that naturally occurs is, that we have here two city gates, and that the paved causeway must have bifurcated at some point in order to lead to both of them. With this theory in mind, I have carefully examined the remains, and have no hesitation in pronouncing it impossible. There is no point where a branch passage can be led off

from the main causeway to the causeway approaching the second gate ; the levels are quite against it, to say nothing of the very different styles of the pavements, and the fact that if there be any sign of curvature in the passage to the second gate at all, it leads away from the causeway, westward instead of eastward. Moreover, there is a ruined wall ($\eta\theta$), which seems to have been built with the express purpose of separating the two causeways. The two gates must therefore be completely independent.

If the second gate be a city gate, it is not obvious why the builders weakened their city by making it at all, for the great gate with the covered passage would surely answer all possible requirements. So far as the excavation has advanced, I can only record my present belief, that this is not a city gate, and the wall in which it is set is not a city wall.

The gate, however, leads outside the city, and if not a city gate, can only be a private doorway for the use of some person who occupied the building containing it, and who had the right of exit and entrance at all times. This could only be the governor or chief military authority in charge of the city. I can only say that at present the probability seems all in favour of the structure being the residence of the governor of the city. One is strongly tempted to identify it with the dwelling-place that Simon Maccabeus built for himself in the city, and afterwards handed over to his son John (1 Macc. xiii, 48, 53). This is not impossible ; it is even likely ; but in the present stage of the work it would be premature to press the identification.

The walls of the towers containing the second gate are drafted, with central bosses. Some of them display a mason's mark similar to that on a stone found in the great well-shaft on the Eastern Hill, and thus the date of the latter engineering work is indicated as contemporary with the gates.

Attention must be directed to the remarkable system of sewers that radiate from beneath the threshold of the second gate. They are three in number. One ($\varepsilon\zeta$) runs eastward, under the southern tower of the covered causeway, and ends abruptly just below the tower. At the upper end it is stopped by a slab laid diagonally across it. At the lower end it is 1 foot 10 inches wide and 2 feet 7 inches deep ; at the point where it is stopped it is 2 feet 2 inches wide, and 1 foot 9 inches deep. The drain is constructed of stones, of the same general character as those composing the tower, set on edge ; the floor is also paved with stones. The second sewer ($\epsilon\epsilon$) from which that just described branches, is wider and deeper, but of inferior construction. It is 4 feet 6 inches deep, and 4 feet across at its upper end, and is built of small stones lined with cement. It, too, is stopped at its upper end. The

pavement seems to have been pulled up in order to fill the drain with earth, and afterwards laid again, for the drain is full of earth, but there are neither cover-stones nor vaulting spanning the drain and carrying the superposed pavement. Thirdly, there is a small and narrow drain ($\zeta \zeta$) running out from a hole 1 foot square, cut in the threshold stone of the door; this drain is sunk in the pavement in front of the gate, and partitioned off by a dwarf wall.

Of these drains the first described seems to be the oldest. Its line can easily be traced in the floor of the sewer from which it branches. We may, I think, explain the successive stoppings and openings of these sewers very simply if we admit the assumption that we have to do with a castle. The first drain ran by the public highway, for some distance being covered by the tower. It was found to be large enough to admit of an adventurous person creeping through it unobserved to the castle, and was therefore closed and deflected along the private way, where it was perhaps felt that it could be better guarded. Experience, perhaps, proved that even this was unsafe, and the third drain was opened, passing through a hole too small to permit of a person squeezing through.

This is the point to which the excavation has now brought us, and I must defer till the next report the further developments that may be expected shortly. This discovery, I may say in passing, illustrates the two characteristics which this wonderful mound of Gezer has proved to possess to a marked degree. Wherever a pit is dug something of interest is almost sure to make its appearance, and the discovery is almost sure to be of an unexpected character. I commenced this pit looking for a comparatively uninteresting Crusaders' castle, and have found instead a magnificent fortified gateway of the second century B.C.

§ III.—CHRONOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF GEZER.

I have said that for a time I kept a gang of labourers at work on the outer city wall. Practically, the complete course of this wall has now been determined with the exception of a short stretch at the western end of the mound. I estimate its total length at about 4,500 feet, which is rather more than one-third the length of the modern wall of Jerusalem.

Further consideration has been given to the problem, already more than once alluded to in this series of reports, of the relative

chronology of the three city walls. A careful study of the masonry has been made of all the exposed parts, and the associated antiquities have been examined in order to find whether they had any evidence to offer.

We may commence our discussion with the great brick gate, described in the *Quarterly Statement* for July, 1904, p. 206. The first observation that must be made is, that further excavation has convinced me that the circular pits in the tops of the towers, referred to in the description just cited, are not part of the original scheme, but were dug as grain stores or to serve some similar purpose, by the occupants of the houses built on the top of the wall. Now that these houses have been removed, and a considerable stretch of the tower completely exposed, it is obvious that they cannot have been built till after the wall had fallen out of use and become ruined.

As it is inconceivable that a city of the importance of Gezer should have existed at any period without a wall, the ruin of the inner wall which contains the brick gate must have been synchronous with the erection of the outer wall which superseded it. If, therefore, we can date the houses erected over the brick towers, we are in a position to assign a minor limit to the date of the outer wall.

This fortunately is easy. These houses proved remarkably rich in small objects, such as scarabs, beads, pottery, &c. The evidence of these was absolutely unanimous. Every dateable object was contemporary with Amenhotep III, several of them bore his name, and I feel quite certain in assigning these houses to the middle of the second millenium B.C.

This chronological result is not a little startling. The outer wall is no doubt the latest of the defences of the city, but, though (as we shall see) repaired from time to time, it is fundamentally of the respectable antiquity of the Tell el-Amarna correspondence.

This outer wall served as the defence for the city built over the brick towers, and for two other cities that overlaid it—three in all. It thus lasted in use from about 1500 to about 100 B.C., at which latter date the site was deserted: that is about 1,400 years. Now the inner wall, that containing the brick towers, also serves three cities: and if we may assume the rate of growth to have been fairly uniform, we are led back to 2900 B.C. as the date of its foundation.

During these 2,800 years of occupation the débris accumulated to a depth of 28 feet. Underneath this there is a further depth of 12 feet, not 1 inch of which is virgin soil, between the rock and the foundation of the inner wall. The lowermost stratum contains sherds resembling those found in the caves. On the same scale we should have to put back the beginning of life on the mound to 4000 B.C., which I am becoming more and more convinced is nearer the truth than the 3000 B.C. that I was originally inclined to assign.

The excavation has shown that the brick towers are erected on a foundation of stone, 3 feet in thickness, and that the stretches of wall at the sides of the towers are also of stone. This suggests the question why brick was used at all; the normal building material in the city and neighbourhood is stone, which is more easily procurable than is brick. The only answer that I can see is the suggestion that possibly the towers are not native work, but were erected during the occupation of the city by some brick-using foreign race. The only race satisfying the condition that has left traces in the débris at so early a date is Egypt; and perhaps we may see in the brick gate evidence of a conquest of Gezer by Egypt previous to the capture effected by Tahutmes III, which is the first event in the city's history of which we have a written record.

With the possible exception of this assault by Tahutmes, all the attacks on Gezer mentioned in the literary history must have been directed against the outer wall; and we are led to examine the masonry of this structure in order to determine whether it offers any trace of the injuries and consequent repairs it must from time to time have received.

Such traces are not far to seek. So far as the wall has been exposed, there are 30 towers. An examination of the masonry shows that, with two exceptions, all of the 30 are insertions. The masonry of the main line of the wall consists of fairly large stones, dressed roughly with a hammer only, and packed with small field stones filling the corners and joints. The joints are wide, and the stones set in mud. The towers, however, show smaller stones, well chiselled, and dressed to a truly rectangular shape. In every case but the two towers just mentioned it is found that, either immediately at the point of contact of the tower with the wall, or (more commonly) 3 to 5 feet beyond it, there is a straight joint running

right through the wall. The well-squared stones appear on the tower side of this joint, but never on the wall side. The inference I draw from this is that at some time there was an extensive scheme of repair and strengthening carried out, and that at intervals along the wall a section was cut out and a massive square tower inserted. The two exceptional towers fortunately remain, not only to show that the wall in its original design was provided with towers, but also to negative the alternate hypothesis, that isolated towers were first built of good masonry, and afterwards joined by lengths of wall of an inferior type of construction. The masonry of these two towers is identical with that of the wall, and they are bonded to it.

Near the west end of the north side, for a length of about 150 feet, the masonry of the wall, though inferior to that of the towers, is of the same general character, and I believe contemporary. It is reasonable to infer that the wall for this length was breached by some hostile invasion, and that it was afterwards repaired and strengthened.

In the *Quarterly Statement* of April, 1903, p. 115, I have described the sloping face of rather rough masonry that has been carried round the tower at the north-east corner, butting against the wall at each side of the tower. It has since been ascertained that six of the towers along the wall display the same addition, and that a seventh, which owing to a settlement had fallen out of the perpendicular, has been buttressed with similar masonry. These six are the two corner towers at the east end, and two each on the north and south sides. It is quite safe to say that this sloping face is in every case a later addition, as no builders in their senses would have erected well-built square towers, with carefully-dressed-corner stones, merely to serve as cores for roughly-built bastions of a different shape.

When we examine the literary history of Gezer, in order to find whether any light can be thrown on these successive buildings and rebuildings, an interesting series of coincidences present themselves. Consider first the narrative of 1 Kings ix, 16. The king of Egypt can hardly have burnt the city and decimated the inhabitants without breaching the walls; and a building monarch like Solomon might be expected to lavish especial care on a city like Gezer, in which he had so direct a personal interest. The series of towers is just such an extensive repair as he might be supposed to have

carried out, as well as the closing of the breach in the north side effected, on this hypothesis, by the Pharaoh. I feel at present strongly inclined to seek in the square towers inserted at irregular intervals along the wall for the tangible traces of this important event in the city's history.

The next reference of interest is the fortification by Bacchides, carried out during the year he held the city (1 Macc. ix, 52). Now the roughly-built bastions surrounding the towers at certain points are just such a fortification as might have been added during a brief military occupation. Bacchides may be supposed to have seen that the square towers (though superior in strength to a similar length of blank wall, and presumably superior to whatever towers may have existed in the wall previous to their insertion) were a source of weakness, owing to the straight joints that ran through the wall on each side of every one of them. He accordingly proceeded to mask these joints by building his bastions. The work is hasty, and put together with no pretence of art; and it is very incomplete. It probably was the intention of the builder of the bastions to erect similar structures round each of the towers, but he was interrupted when he had finished six. The capture of the city by Simon Maccabæus would be a sufficient reason for the interruption.

Bacchides held the city about a year, after which Simon broke down a tower, entered the city, purified it of idolatry, made it stronger than it was before, and built a house for himself (1 Macc. xiii, 43-53). Until the excavation described in the earlier part of this report has proceeded further, it cannot be said whether the work of Simon is to be seen in the great buildings now under examination, or whether it is to be sought in some as yet unopened part of the mound.

§ IV.—SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES ON NINTH QUARTERLY REPORT.

In the report published in the last number of the *Quarterly Statement*, dealing with the burial customs of the Gezerites, I referred at length to the deposits of food found in the earlier tombs. But I omitted to mention a singular detail in connection with these food deposits. The omission was intentional, as I wished to be quite sure of my ground before committing myself to print.

In a number of tombs, all about 1200 B.C., there were found with the vessels containing food exactly identical vessels containing one or more human bones. In one, for instance, was a small earthen ware jug, containing the finger bones of an infant. In another was a similar jug, in which was an adult patella. Elsewhere was an infant's sacral bones. Most remarkable of all was a bowl into which the calvaria of a skull was exactly fitted, obviously with intention. It is represented in section in Fig. 3, and the figure, more than any length of argument, will leave no doubt on this point.

I am permitted, through the kindness of Dr. Merrill, to quote a parallel but apparently later example from Beit Jibrin. This

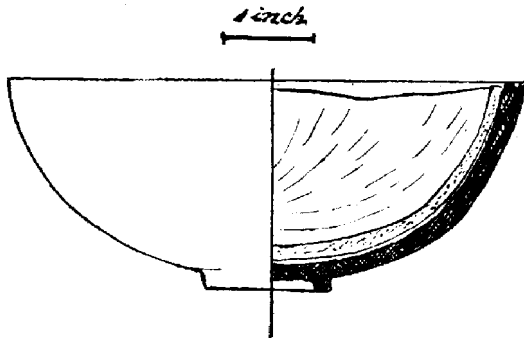


FIG. 3.—Bowl with fragment of Skull inserted.

specimen consisted of a bowl or cup-shaped glass vase, with a neck, and it contained an extraordinary assortment of relics: three adult toe bones (from different individuals); an adult finger bone; thumb bone of a child of 10; sacrum; right ulna and fragment of femur of an infant; and a foetal toe bone.

Two possible explanations suggest themselves. We may here find a reminiscence of a funeral feast in which originally ceremonial cannibalism had been practised. Or else the bones may have been regarded as amulets: superstitions attached to such relics as the fingers of drowned persons are familiar to everyone, and these bones may have had some such virtue. I may re-assure possible sceptics, so far as I can foresee their objections, first, that it is impossible that the bones should have accidentally been intruded into the jugs, or been inserted by workmen, for in every case I cleared out the jugs myself, and saw that the earth they contained

had been undisturbed before I did so; and secondly, that they are not the surviving bones of originally complete skeletons, buried in jars like the infants in the High Place; for the jugs are never more than 6 or 8 inches high, and would not have contained skeletons of any size. The preponderance of *infant* bones will not escape attention.

Through the soil on the Tell, extending over a long lapse of time, are found numerous specimens of a class of object that I have never seen described elsewhere. These are, apparently, spindle-whorls; their peculiarity consists in their being made of the heads of human femora, sawn off and perforated through or near the fossa of the inter-articular ligament. Spindle-whorls of stone, bone, ivory, and pottery are found in profusion, showing that it was no poverty of material that led the Gezerites to adopt femur-heads. Had it been merely the obviously convenient shape that suggested the adaptation, we might have expected to find other human bones used for other purposes for which they are equally well adapted. So far as I can find, however, these spindle-whorls (to call them what they *appear* to be) are in a solitary class by themselves, and without the light that may be expected from comparison with parallel customs, I have no explanation to offer regarding them. They seem, however, worth bearing in mind in connection with the custom of depositing single bones by themselves inside tombs, which is now brought to notice.

THE IMMOVABLE EAST.

By PHILIP G. BALDENSPERGER, Esq.

(Continued from "Quarterly Statement," 1904, p. 367.)

There are many kinds of sticks, rods, and staves, which Orientals always have in their hands; they are indiscriminately styled *ʿaṣá*, cf. the Hebrew *ʿeṣ*. There are five words which require to be mentioned. The first is *ḵalīb*, a common stick of oak, about 3 to 3½ feet in length, which is carried in the hand or under the arm. It is not to lean upon, and, in fact, it shows that the holder is a man of position, superior to the workman or day-labourer. The Government officials, superior officers,