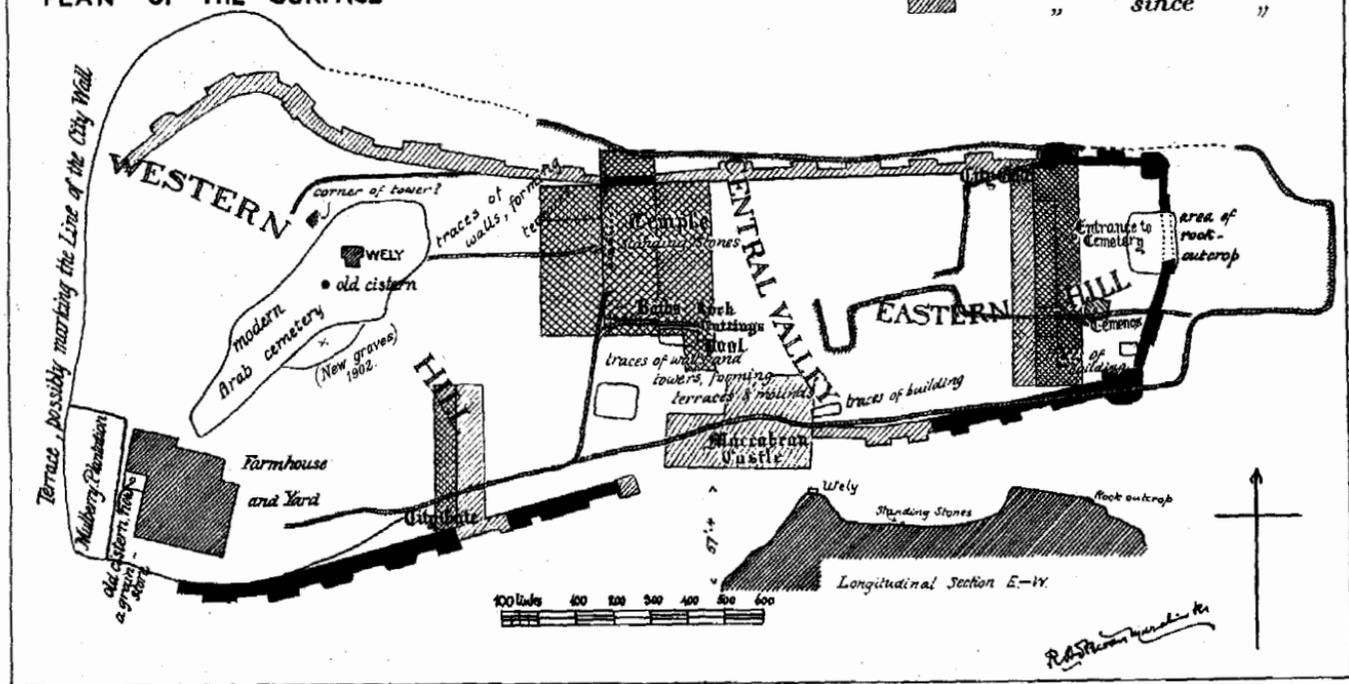


EXCAVATION OF CEZER

PLAN OF THE SURFACE

Excavated before Report VIII
 " since "



ELEVENTH QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION OF GEZER.

13 November, 1904—15 February, 1905.

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

*“ In the hundred and seventieth year [c. B.C. 143] was the yoke of the
“ heathen taken away from Israel. And the people began to write
“ in their instruments and contracts, In the first year of Simon,
“ the great high priest and captain and leader of the Jews. In those
“ days he encamped against Gazara and compassed it round about
“ with armies : and he made an engine of siege, and brought it up
“ to the city, and smote a tower, and took it. And they that were
“ in the engine leaped forth into the city : and there was a great
“ uproar in the city : and they of the city rent their clothes, and went
“ up on the walls with their wives and children, and cried with a
“ loud voice, making request to Simon to give them his right hand.
“ And they said, Deal not with us according to our wickednesses,
“ but according to thy mercy. And Simon was reconciled to them,
“ and did not fight against them : and he put them out of the city,
“ and cleansed the houses wherein the idols were, and so entered into
“ it with singing and giving praise. And he put all uncleanness
“ out of it, and placed in it such men as would keep the law, and
“ made it stronger than it was before, and built therein a dwelling-
“ place for himself. . . . And Simon saw that John his son was a
“ valiant man, and he made him leader of all his forces : and he
“ dwelt in Gazara.”*

I have prefixed the foregoing extract from the First Book of Maccabees [chap. xiii, Revised Version], which is by far the most graphic account of any historical event connected with Gezer that we possess, as it serves as a text on which to base the present report. There is every reason to believe that the discoveries of the last three months are to be connected immediately with this Maccabean conquest of Gazara.

It will be remembered that in the preceding report a very perplexing series of constructions was described, the excavation of which had not advanced far enough to enable any definite opinion to be pronounced regarding their mutual connection and their

relation to the rest of the remains on the mound. These constructions consisted of three principal members :—(1) A paved causeway ascending and entering the city at a level very slightly under the present surface of the ground ; this causeway proceeds in a zigzag course, passing through a probably vaulted tower or gate-house on the way. (2) A long wall, neither broad enough nor sufficiently deeply founded to be considered as a section of either of the great city walls. (3) A gateway in the said wall, with an elaborate drainage system running under it.

It was noticed from an early stage of the examination of these structures that the outer city wall was interrupted in its course at the point where they occur, and did not appear to be resumed till the place where they came to an end ; in short, that the long wall, though clearly not a part of the city wall, was at this point substituted for it. Shortly after commencing the excavation of this region of the mound, I formulated the following argument, which seemed to me to be sound, and it was more or less definitely put forward in the last report—(i) that all these structures are certainly contemporary, being on the same archaeological horizon ; (ii) that it was unlikely that there should be two city gates so close together, and that as the gateway at the head of the ramp was certainly a city gate, it followed that the smaller gate close to it was not a city gate ; (iii) that, therefore, the gate in question was the entrance to a castle which, as the gate leads out of the city, must have been the residence of someone entitled to entrance and exit at all times, that is, of the military governor of the city. Whence it follows that the gate belonged to the citadel or barracks. Further, since the date of the castle, as we may henceforth call it, is certainly Maccabean, the probability is that it is actually the residence of Simon referred to in the above-quoted extract ; for it is unlikely that Simon would have built another fortress if this great building were already prepared for him ; while the same argument applies to any later conqueror, who would most probably have adapted Simon's construction to his own use if he wished to reside in the city, rather than erecting another. The coincidence of the wall of the city being breached at this point did not escape notice ; it recalls the description of Simon's operations with his "engine of siege." Even when the last report was forwarded, though I considered it wisest to maintain an attitude of uncertainty, I had on this reasoning based the theory that the interruption noticed in the wall at this point

was actually the breach made by Simon's engine, that the ramp-entrance to the city was a Maccabean repair of this breach, and that the castle was in truth the dwelling-place that Simon built for himself.

Before proceeding to an account of the curious graffito inscription by which these theories seem to be confirmed, we may pause to notice that nowhere in the mound, with the possible exception of the western end, is there so favourable a spot for the manipulation of a siege-engine. At the east end the side of the hill is high, steep, and rocky, and the carrying up of the engine—which was no mere battering-ram or *ballista*, but a large erection in which the assaulters themselves took shelter—would have been very difficult. On the north side, though now the slope is, on the whole, comparatively gentle, the excavation has shown that the side of the hill was once, in places at least, actually precipitous and unscalable. At the west end, the *col* on the slope of which the modern village is partly built, and which connects the *tell* with the system of hills to the south, makes an assault on the wall fairly easy, and it might have been expected that Simon would have directed his attention to that point. The spot which he seems, by my theory, to have preferred is, however, not much less attractive; it is at the lowest part of the central valley, where the hill is neither high nor steep, and where terraces outside the line of the wall afford convenient standing ground on which to erect the engine. It is possible—I speak in ignorance of practical military science, and on this point make suggestions under correction—that it would be advantageous to breach the wall of a long narrow city like Gezer at the sides rather than at the ends, as perhaps the city can be overrun by the attackers in a shorter time.

A few days after the last report was sent to London, a block of stone was found in the ruins bearing a graffito in cursive Greek characters. The block in question is a fragment of a building-stone of a kind very common in Palestine in structures of the Maccabean age: they were found in profusion in the acropolis of Tell Zakariya, in the upper city of Tell Sandahannah, and also in some of the caves of Beit Jibrin which may be supposed to have been excavated or repaired and adapted for use during this epoch. They are blocks of rather soft limestone, trimmed with a chisel to the shape of an ordinary brick, and measuring about 1 foot 9 inches by 7 inches by 6 inches. The fragment now described is a wedge-shaped splinter of such a block. Fortunately the end bearing the inscription is

perfect, or nearly so: it measures $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 6 inches. Of the length of the stone, a maximum of $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches remains.

The surface, as will be seen from the accompanying photograph (Fig. 1) bears in addition to the inscription a series of lines, which seem to have some intention, though what that intention may be eludes me. It may be a magical diagram, such as is, I believe, sometimes found on imprecatory tablets of the class to which our inscription will presently be shown to belong, or it may be a rude drawing or plan of the "house" alluded to in the inscription itself.



FIG. 1.—Greek Inscription.

I have to express my acknowledgments to the Rev. Père Germer-Durand, of the Assumptionists, and the Rev. Père Lagrange, of the Dominicans, for kindly allowing me to consult them in reference to this almost illegible scribble, and for very substantial help towards its elucidation. It is written in the careless style that distinguishes the great series of magical tablets recovered from Tell Sandahannah, and is almost as difficult to read. Its contents are to the same general effect. With the assistance of the distinguished epigraphists named, I have arrived at the following reading:—

ΠΑΜΠΡΑ(?)ΣΙΜΩΝΟΣ
 ΚΑΤΕ(?)ΠΑΓ(?)ΗΠ
 ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ

In the first line a fracture makes it uncertain whether we are to read the sixth letter Δ or Ι. On the whole, the indications are more in favour of the former. The division of the line into words is also not quite clear. The first vocable is a proper name, that at first sight appears to be *Pampra*, but the occurrence of a nearly similar name, Παμπρασ, in *C.I.G.*, 1575 (a reference for which I am indebted to Père Germer-Durand), suggests that we are to assume the *sigma* to be iterated, that is, to be taken as serving the double purpose of ending one word and commencing the next—a common labour-saving device, if not often a mere oversight, in inscriptions of all languages and ages. The name would thus be *Pamppras*, and as such I shall take it in the present discussion. There is another fracture, later on in the line, which has carried away the second half of the Μ and the top of the Ω. The Ι, it should be noticed, is attenuated to little more than a mere dot, affixed to the upper stroke of the following Μ. The Ν, which has its first upright stroke curved, is crossed about the middle by a vertical line: this, however, is merely an accidental scratch, and does not belong to the inscription.

In the second line the difficulties of reading are very great. The letters are so carelessly formed that several of them are ambiguous, and they are run together in such a way that they are not very easily separated. My reading is ΚΑΤΕΠΑΓΗ, given above: Père Germer-Durand prefers ΚΑΤΟΠΑΞΗ (*κατοπάξῃ*). Either is possible. The end of the line is so faintly scratched that it is impossible to be certain of the reading. Père Germer-Durand makes ΠΥΡΙ, which would give good sense, but to my eye there appear to be other letters that will not work in with this word. I can make nothing better than ΠΥΓΜΗΝ, literally *boxing*, possibly used here in the general sense of *fighting* or *assaulting*; from the point of view of the meaning, this is far less satisfactory.

The third line is perfectly clear and the reading certain.

Thus the whole seems to read something like this:—

Πάμπρα(ς), Σιμώνος κατεπάγη(?)π[ύρι?] βασιλειον.

“Pampras, may he bring down [fire?] on the palace of Simon” [or “may he follow up with fire” (*κατοπάξῃ πυρι*), or “bring down fighting” (*πυγμήν*)].

The inscription is therefore an imprecation, scratched on a building-stone by one Pampras, and built into the structure for

which the stone was intended, no doubt in the hope that it would prove effective in bringing down destruction of some sort upon it.

It is scarcely necessary to indicate the manifold interest of this graffito. Who Pampras was, and what was the reason for his spite, are questions that cannot be answered definitely, though it is possible to conjecture with a fair measure of probability. Very likely he was an adherent of the Syrians, possibly a follower of Bacchides who for the year preceding Simon's victory had held the city. That the capitulation described in the passage quoted at the commencement of this report was as unanimous as it would appear from the description to be, need not be assumed; no doubt there were many in the city who resented being turned out of their homes in order that Simon and his Puritan followers might destroy all the household gods. No doubt those who in any way showed their resentment at such summary treatment would be marked, and perhaps compelled to extra hard task-work in whatever forced labour the repair of the walls and the construction of Simon's dwelling-place would involve. It would be only natural that Simon, though in general "reconciled" to the city, should have not a few individual secret enemies within it, of whom we may assume that Pampras was one.

The formula adopted by Pampras for his curse, and the curious diagrams with which he accompanied it, are deserving of study and comparison with other recorded instances, if any. For this investigation I have no materials at hand, and I therefore pass it by for the present. The practice of building an imprecation into the walls of a house is not without parallel, but here in Abû Shûsheh with a limited library I can recollect and quote no other concrete instances. It may incidentally be noticed as being a converse to the earlier practice of foundation sacrifice, which has already been abundantly illustrated at Gezer, and which was no doubt meant essentially to bring good luck to the building and to its inhabitants.

But the chief importance of the fragment lies, of course, in the mention of Simon—the first contemporary allusion yet found to any of the Maccabees—and in the identification which it affords of his dwelling-place with the castle in which the stone was found. It appears from the remains that the "dwelling-place" was a far more elaborate structure than the modest reference to it in the Book of Maccabees would lead us to suppose, and we are now in a position

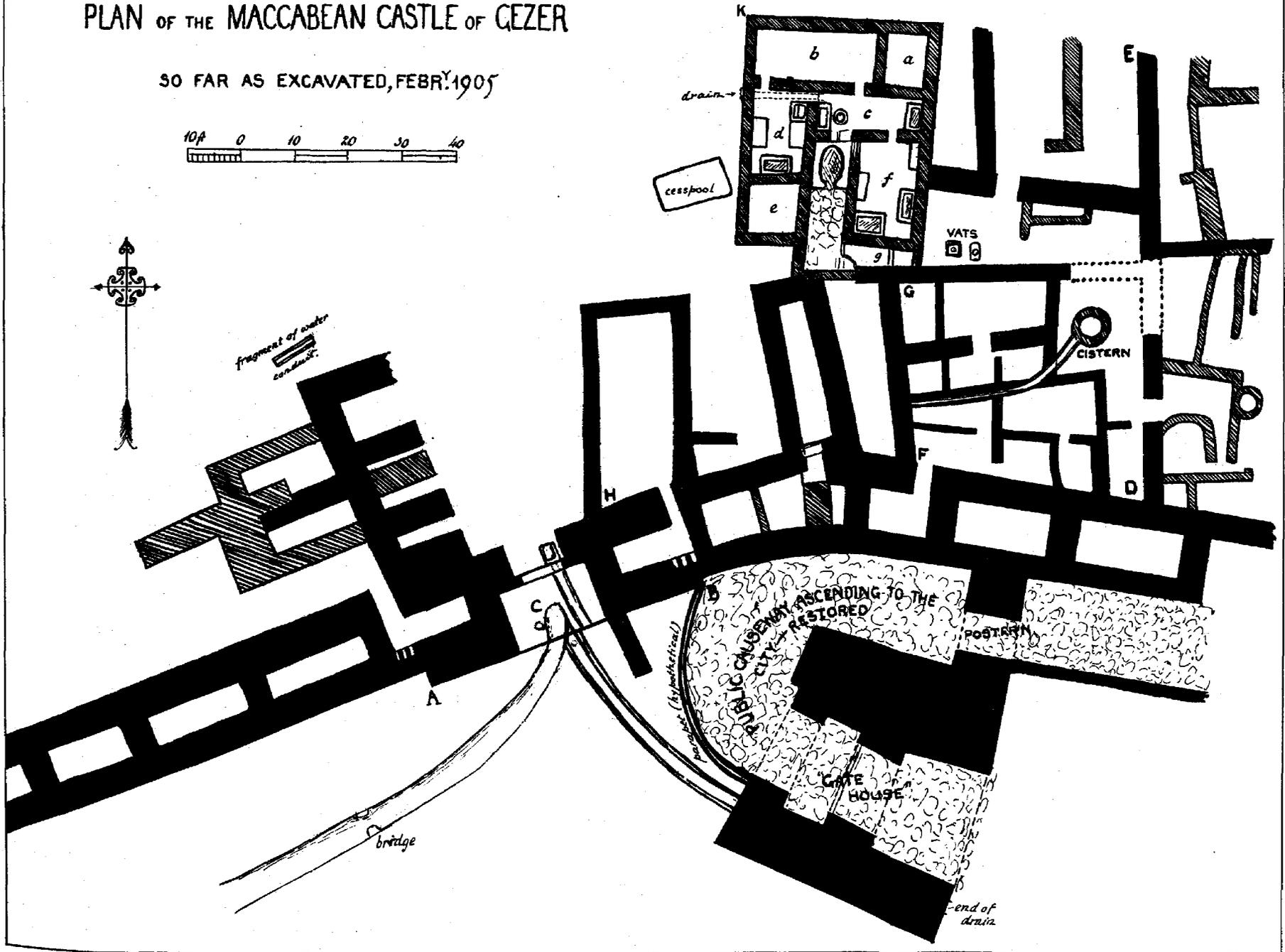
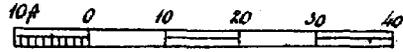
and is approached by a short straight sloping pavement C. This pavement is divided from the public causeway by a short dwarf wall, and, as I said in the last report (though, perhaps, I did not express my meaning clearly enough) the slope of the two pavements is so different that there is no point where they approach together in which the levels correspond sufficiently to allow us to suppose that there was any connection between them. In short, no one wishing to enter the castle would be able to do so with ease, if at all, from the public causeway. I suspect the latter was still further shut off from the castle by a parapet, a possible course for which is indicated on the plan. The private causeway disappears outside the limits of the tower, but there are not wanting indications that originally it was approached from a direction opposite to the ascent to the public causeway; the former being approached from the east, the latter from the west. The chief indication lies in two small breaks in the cement lining of the drain running westward, which are seemingly the traces of a little bridge that here crossed the drain. If this bridge did not lead up to the castle gate it has no apparent purpose.

The gate itself is 9 feet 2 inches wide in the clear. The hinge and bolt-holes of double doors remain just inside the threshold. The threshold stone has a similar hole on the outer upright face, showing that it was taken from some earlier doorway. This is a striking illustration of the inveterate utilitarianism that has characterised the inhabitants of Palestine from the first. When a building has served its purpose it is promptly and remorsefully turned into a quarry, and no one seems to care in the slightest, if some trace of the earlier function of a re-used building-stone remain conspicuous, even if it be, as in the present case, an unsightly intrusion on the architectural effect of the new building. Even in the enclosure known as Râmet el-Khulîl though nowhere in the country is there so careful and costly a piece of architectural work, three or four old threshold-stones are much in evidence in the masonry, without the slightest expense having been incurred in removing their now purposeless cuttings, though they impart a certain "cheapness" to the work by their mere existence.

I have spoken in the last report of the drainage system that radiates from the gateway, and have at present nothing to add to the description there given. The source of the large drain *cc* has not yet been determined; at the moment of writing it is being

PLAN OF THE MACCABEAN CASTLE OF GEZER

SO FAR AS EXCAVATED, FEBR. 1905



traced. The small drain ζζ (these letters refer to the plan published with the last report) is meant to carry rainwater from the court inside the gate. It stops internally a foot or two after passing under the threshold. As the opening would be large enough for a boy to squeeze through, who could then open the gates for enemies outside, the drain has been blocked immediately inside the door by a large stone, which effectually prevents anyone coming through, while it is no obstacle for water to run away, as it does not fit closely.

The gateway leads into a large courtyard which the presence of the drain just mentioned, and the constructions surrounding the space, show to have been open to the sky. The area is irregular, and its northern limit has not yet been determined. It is at present known to be 40 feet north to south, and about 25 feet in width. Probably it extends for another 40 feet northward, in which case it would be terminated in that direction by the great reservoir opened and cleared at the beginning of last year.

The masonry of the castle is of three different kinds. At the gateway the stones are more carefully squared and fitted than anywhere else on the mound, the only masonry that may be superior to it being that of the sepulchral monument mentioned at the foot of p. 337 of the last volume of the *Quarterly Statement*. The stones of the gateway itself are dressed smooth; in the flanking towers bossed stones make their appearance. A few of these have the same mason's mark, in the same place (on the marginal draft) as was observed on stone found in the great well-shaft on the Eastern Hill. Secondly, the curious bath system is wholly built of the limestone "bricks" described above when dealing with the inscription of Pampras. Thirdly, the rest of the building is composed of rough walls resembling in general character those of the rest of the city, though, perhaps, of rather larger stones than usual, set in mud instead of mortar.

A glance at the plan will show that the exposed area of the castle is divided into certain sub-divisions. There is first a row of chambers along the outer wall, and the enclosed area is cut up by thick cross walls. It may be confessed at once that in one respect the excavation has so far proved disappointing; the castle was so thoroughly looted before it was covered up that almost nothing has as yet been found within it. A record is being kept, with particulars of the room in which each object is found; but practically the

record consists of nothing but pottery of the period, a few small scraps of Greek bowls, some Rhodian jar-handles, and a few bronze and iron arrowheads of commonplace late types. One or two animal figures, and (more curious), a small fragment of a statuette of the Cyprian Astarte, were unexpected objects to find in such a place; they probably belong to later or earlier occupations, and have become mixed with the castle débris. These finds are too slight to upset the identification of the castle with that of the Puritan Simon, In small antiquities this has been the least prolific quarter of the whole excavation.

This absence of antiquities makes it impossible to assign uses to the majority of the chambers that we find inside the castle, and to the detriment of the interest of the discovery, reduces the fortress to a series of more or less meaningless rooms, opening off one another. Many of the chambers, on this account, call for no description at all; a glance at the plan will tell the reader everything he can know about them.

It will be noticed that there are no doorways apparent to the majority of the chambers in the row along the outer wall. This may be explained in two ways. Either we have the foundations only, the wall being ruined below the level of the thresholds; or the chambers were mere devices for obtaining an enormously thick wall with small expenditure of materials. Probably the former is the more likely view, though it is not altogether easy to explain the fact that doorways remain in some cases and not in all, the level of the walls being the same throughout. Moreover, it is not always safe to assume, in Palestinian buildings, that there was *any* masonry below the threshold, as often the foundations themselves are interrupted underneath a doorway.

An exactly similar row of chambers is to be seen in the guard-house of Marissa, excavated by the officers of the Fund at Tell Sandahannah. For this parallel structure, see the plan facing p. 326 of the *Quarterly Statement* for October, 1900, and the accompanying descriptive letterpress.

In describing the rest of the internal arrangements of the castle, I shall for the present confine myself to the eastern side of the gateway. The excavation of the western side has not sufficiently advanced to enable me to say anything definite about the structures there. In passing, the guess may be recorded that the stall-like spaces to the left of the entrance are porters' lodges or guard-rooms.

To the right is a long narrow chamber, set askew to the general axis of the castle, in which respect it is not unique. I may say that all the important lines in the accompanying plan have been determined with a prismatic compass, and not by mere triangulating from chamber to chamber; the latter process in a complex building like this, is apt to lead to a multiplication of small errors that in time become serious. Thus the skew direction of certain of the walls, though peculiar, may be depended upon as accurate. This long chamber, it will be noticed, has no visible doorway of its own, yet it communicates by an inner door with the tower chamber right of the entrance gate. The tower chamber, whose plaster-lined floor remained, was at a lower level than the outer chamber; descent was effected by a slope, perhaps with some wooden stair in addition;

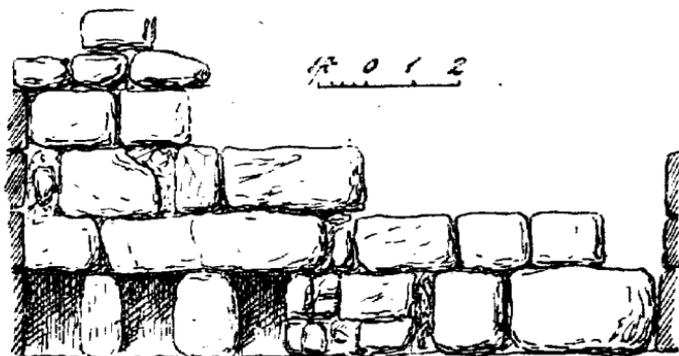
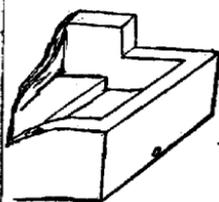
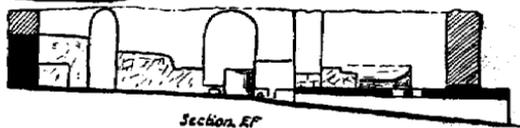
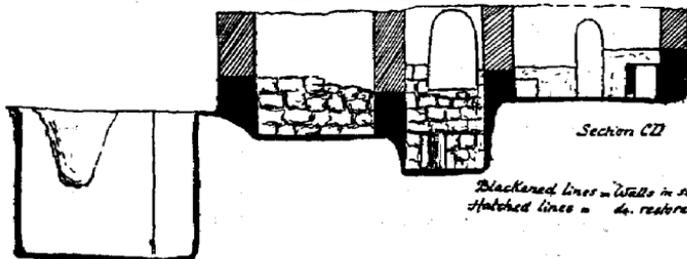
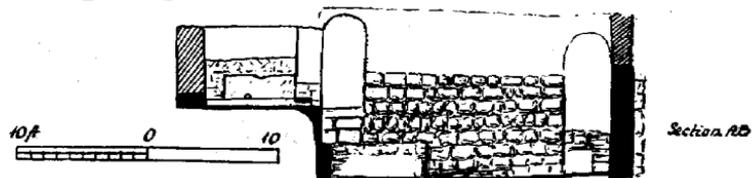


FIG. 2.—Masonry of Eastern Tower Chamber.

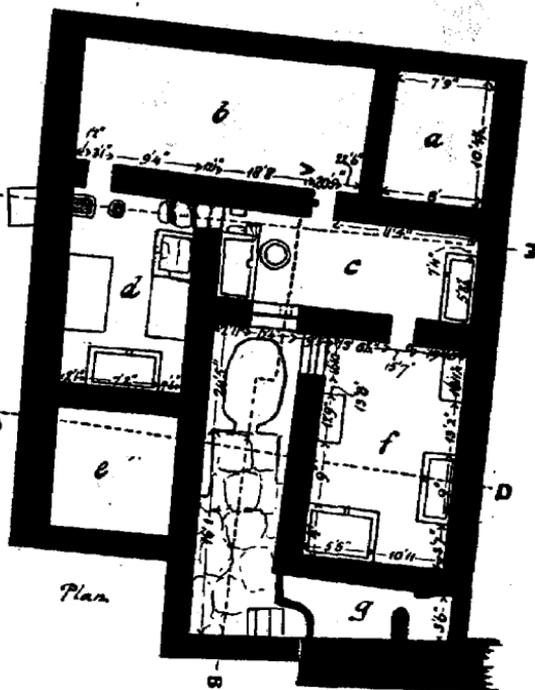
and there may have been a similar short staircase mounting the wall of the outer chamber to the door which, perhaps, to keep rainwater from entering the room, was raised above the level of the entrance courtyard. It is worth noticing that nowhere has any trace of a stairway been found, or any evidence whatever that there was an upper story to any part of the castle.

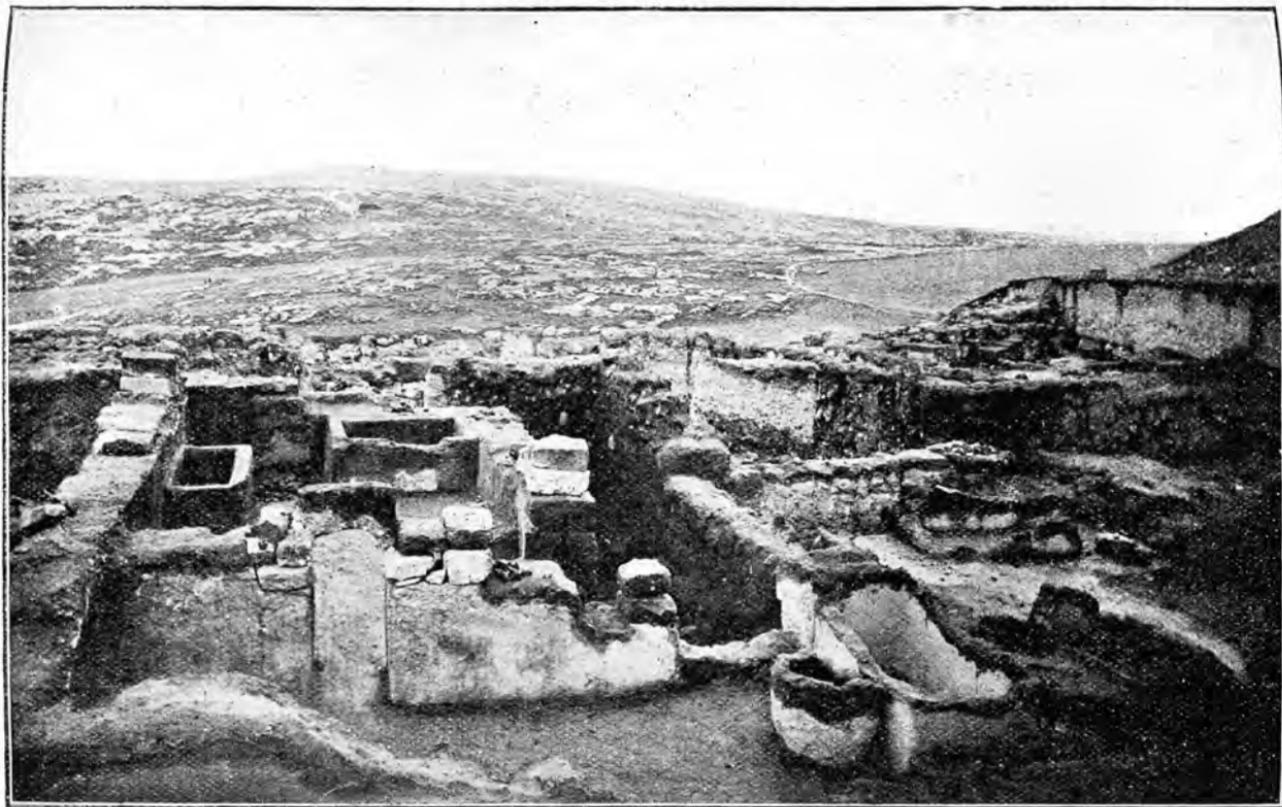
The tower chamber to which this room gives access has a peculiarity shared by the corresponding room at the other side. This is a row of three small shafts, entering the other wall horizontally at the level of the floor. A detailed drawing of the masonry of the south wall of the western tower chamber is forwarded (Fig. 2), showing these shafts in position. They are like nothing so much as miniature *kôk*-graves. Their height is 1 foot 10 inches, their breadth about 1 foot, or an inch or two more or

BATHS



Tank in Chamber D.





View (from the North) of the Series of Baths recently discovered in the Castle at Gezer.

less, their depth about 2 feet 4 inches. Their purpose is a complete mystery, unless they were secret store-cupboards, that could be closed by a short stone. Nothing but one or two potsherds was found inside them.

Proceeding eastward, and confining our attention for the present to the section of the castle marked diagonally GH on the plan, we notice first that the wall chamber next to the tower chamber has been divided in two by a brick partition. This apparently is an addition to the original scheme, and has therefore been hatched, not blackened in, in the plan. Next to this is an apartment whose special function it is very hard to realise. It is a long, narrow passage, about 22 feet 6 inches in length and 5 feet in breadth, evidently belonging to the castle, as its very thick walls are bonded with those of the castle, but sunk to a rather lower level than the rest of the building. At the south end, and at the top of the wall in its present state of ruin, is a small square opening bridged by a lintel stone. Behind this opening is a small platform, surrounded by thick walls, one of which (that to the south), seems an insertion. This platform was found full of ashes, and there was every sign that it was a furnace; but there was nothing to show for what purpose a furnace was required in this place.

The rest of the section GH calls for no comment, as the plan is self-explanatory; we therefore proceed to the section GK to the north, which is by far the most interesting of the whole complex.

It is an elaborate bath establishment; in describing it I refer to Plate III, which contains plan and sections to a larger scale than the general plan; and to Plate IV, which is a photographic view taken from the north. Seven chambers have been revealed, and there may be more still hidden under the uncut earth immediately to the north. These chambers are denoted in the plans by index letters which we shall use for reference. The dimensions are indicated on the larger plan, so that it is unnecessary to overload the description with figures.

The chambers are all, with the exception of *e*, paved and lined with cement; as a general rule, the angles of the chambers are rounded. The walls are built of limestone "bricks," laid in English bond. Voussoir stones were found fallen in some of them, showing that they had been roofed with a barrel vault.

Of the chambers, *a*, *b*, and *e* are empty. Each of the others, *c*, *d*, and *f*, contains two tanks. These are rectangular, and built of

stone, lined with cement containing many pebbles. The edges are chamfered, no doubt to prevent bathers hurting themselves on sharp corners. At the bottom is a small round escape hole which, when a plug was removed, allowed the waste water to run out on the floor. The floors are laid with a fall, so that the waste water is directed as a stream, from all the tanks, to a drain that opens under the doorway at the west end of *c*.

The tanks in *f*, the eastern tank in *c*, and the southern tank in *d*, are of this kind. The western tank in *c* is also similar, but is divided by a small pilaster of 6 inches projection, and about the same width, into two sub-divisions.

The eastern tank in *d* is altogether peculiar. Its small size, its being divided into two, the floor of one division being slightly raised above the other, and the armchair-like stepping of the sides, all suggest that it was meant for a bather to *sit* in, rather than to *lie* in like the rest. A drawing will be found on Plate III, from which the reader can judge for himself as to the possible purpose of this trough.

Chamber *f* contains, in addition to the tanks, two benches which, like the tanks, are built up of stone, and covered with cement. There are two rectangular breaks in the cement floor of *d*, showing that here, too, there was something additional to the tanks there contained. These were probably benches also, but every vestige of them has disappeared.

Chamber *c* has no benches, but it possesses a circular vat about 2 feet 6 inches in diameter. This is peculiar in having no outlet, and in being cut out of a block of stone, not built up and faced with cement. Moreover, it is movable—not fixed to the floor. Possibly it is a later addition. It may have been meant to hold cold water for the person using the bath immediately adjacent to pour over himself.

The drain mentioned above runs through chamber *d*, just under its floor at the northern end. It is partly roofed with cover-slabs embedded in cement, and partly open to allow of the water from the tanks in *d* finding its way into it. The drain stops short just outside the wall of *d*, which is the outer wall of the bath system, and does not appear ever to have gone further. It certainly has no connection with the sewers running from the castle gate. The drain, just before its end, turns southward slightly, as though to direct the waste water in that direction. It is fairly certain that

the fall of the surface on the ground caused the water to continue flowing southward, and to be intercepted by a deep tank sunk below the level of the baths. This tank is cement-lined, and, so far as I can see, serves no purpose if it be not a cesspool for the waste water from the baths; but what was done when the cesspool filled does not appear—it must have been baled out by hand, for there is no outlet.

Between chambers *d* and *f* there is a passage sunk at a level lower than that of the baths, which displays several interesting details. In clearing it out, stones were found to have fallen into it *in long rows*. These almost certainly were flattened-out vaulting, whereby the passage was originally roofed.

There are two doors leading down to this passage, from *c* and *f* respectively. That from *c* has a small opening under the threshold. From *f* there are three steps leading down. At the northern end there is an oval enclosure, which must have been a heating furnace, as ashes were found filling it. Perhaps the orifice under the threshold was to admit hot air: it may be an elementary substitute for the hypocaust of a Roman bath.

North of the furnace the passage continues till it passes the angle of chamber *f*. It is paved with broad, flat flagstones, such as have been found nowhere else on the *tell*. After passing *f*, it returns eastward, and rises by three steps to a retired corner that almost certainly was a *latrina*.

It is an interesting but difficult question whether the bath system here described be intrinsically part of the castle, or a later and independent structure altogether. Three arguments suggest themselves in favour of the latter view, but they can all be met by counter-arguments. First, the masonry is of different character to the rest of the castle; but such "bricks" (including the two inscribed examples) have been found elsewhere in the castle débris, even if none remain *in situ*. It is possible, also, that the highly-specialised purpose of the block of bath-rooms involved a special form of construction. Secondly, the bath-room walls are nowhere bonded to the rest of the castle walls, but, when they meet, butt against them. This, however, is a necessary result of the change of masonry. The most cogent argument is the circumstance, that will be evident from an inspection of the general plan of the castle, that in one place the bath walls are superposed to undoubted castle walls. The underlying castle walls are, however, as I have already

said, sunk at a lower level than usual, and it must first be proved that they were not the walls of cellars. Still, as the doubt exists, I have hatched the whole bath system in the general plan of the castle, rather than blacking it in.

In the rest of the castle there is nothing as yet found comparable in interest with this section. The group of chambers, EG (*see* Plate II), contains nothing remarkable, except a couple of stone vats of common type, connected no doubt with the pressing of olives or of grapes. These may possibly also be of later date: a brick pit-oven close by, not indicated on the plan, is certainly subsequent; so is a water-channel shown running to a cistern mouth in the section DG. The cistern may be original: I have not yet cleared it.

West of the long wall, DE, a few feet only have been cleared. Nothing but the squalid walls shown in the plan was found; I doubt if these have anything to do with the castle.

It may be surprising at first that there should be any walls at all subsequent to a castle built by Simon Maccabæus on a site that must have been abandoned before the introduction of Roman civilisation into the country. But for one lucky chance it would be quite unintelligible, and the fact of the existence of such later structures—which I was compelled to admit to myself, much against my will, and only after every possible alternative explanation had been considered and abandoned—far more than the accidental deposition of one or two idolatrous objects within the walls, would have militated against the identification that I have tried to uphold. This chance is the preservation by Josephus of the correspondence between Hyrcanus and the Roman Senate. Professor Clermont-Ganneau has already shown us that this document proves that not long after the closing of the history of the First Book of Maccabees the coveted city of Gezer once more passed into Syrian hands, and Simon's work was undone. As no direct account of its recapture has been preserved for us, we are quite in the dark respecting the details of this event; but it is not unreasonable to suppose that one of the first acts of the Syrians would be to raze the castle whereby Simon had asserted his authority over the town. This is the best explanation that I can offer for the erection of a great fortress, for its destruction, and for the building of a second stratum of dwellings over its site during the comparatively brief space in which pottery of the characteristically "Seleucid" types was in

use. Pampras may easily have lived to see his desire upon his enemy.

I have no further details to add to this account of the quarter's work. It has been shortened and broken by the Christmas vacation and the rain-storms of winter, which this year have been unusually heavy and prolonged.

One or two more tombs of the second pre-Exilic period have been located and cleared. Nothing specially important has been found in them, except a secondary deposit in one, which is a historical document of some interest. This is a coin of Chosroes II, the Persian marauder; it was lying just under the surface of the earth in the tomb. The cave had been opened at some time, but the deposits, being covered with earth, were untouched. Whether we may infer from this coin that Chosroes or any of his followers turned their attention to Gezer is questionable; but the coin may be an indication of the remote date at which tomb-opening began in the district, and so make us all the more thankful that so much remained to reward the excavator last summer.

I may, perhaps, be allowed to say a few more words respecting the inscribed weights which have been a subject of controversy in recent numbers of the *Quarterly Statement*. I am bound to confess that I cannot understand Professor Sayce's comment on my remarks. If *ro* be the name of a weight, I cannot see that an object bearing that name, without numerical qualification, can be supposed to weigh anything but just one *ro*. If its weight were any fraction or multiple of that standard, a numerical sign *must* be inserted. Could a modern weight bearing merely the word "ounce" be ever taken to be anything but *one ounce*?

Through the kindness of Dr. Masterman, who writes to me from Berlin, I am able to contribute some important additional details regarding the series of weights, adding at least one numerical sign to the system, and extending the region over which the cyphers were used.

Dr. Masterman sends me a description of a weight now in the Kaiser Friedrich Museum, Berlin. I may quote from his letter:— "The weight is the shape and about the size of that figured on p. 209 of the *Quarterly Statement*, 1904, and the incised inscription is as follows: **⋄**⋄. Through the courtesy of Herr Direktor

Friedländer, who has charge of the new Kaiser Friedrich Museum, I have obtained the exact weight; it is 32·41 grammes. He finds it comes from *Smyrna*, but has no other particulars. I should add that the weight evidently is *metal*, but of what composition I cannot say."

The amount given will very fairly fit into the series as *three* times the standard; so that if this *Smyrna* weight be really one of the series—and there seems no valid reason why it should not be—we gather the symbol for 3 to have been **V** in the cypher system. It must not be overlooked, however, that the sign of the standard is on the wrong side of the numerical sign. This is not the case with another weight which Dr. Masterman has found in the Old Museum, Berlin, with a number of others, labelled "Roman Weights"; there are no further particulars. It is of similar character to, but twice the size of, the first weight. The inscription is, **XB**. I have not yet ascertained the exact amount of this weight, which may possibly give us the sign for 6. The letters on both these weights, it is true, look like ordinary Greek numerals for *one* and *two* respectively; but against this interpretation it may be argued that the standard sign must, on such a hypothesis, be supposed to be inverted with regard to one or other of them. This is not likely, so that I still think it may be claimed among the results of the Gezer excavation that we have succeeded in formulating a series of numerical cyphers, used about the second century B.C. in the Levant, of which we have now obtained the symbols for 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 (?), and 8.¹

[¹ It may be added that Mr. Crace has pointed out that the weight found in the Tyropæon (Bliss, *Jerusalem*, p. 267), weighing 2·921 ounces troy = 90·822 grammes, is precisely *ten times* the weight of the cypriote coin quoted by Professor Sayce (*Quarterly Statement*, 1904, p. 358), as marked *ba-si* on both sides, and weighing 9·81 grammes. This can scarcely be a mere coincidence.—ED.]