

TWELFTH QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION OF GEZER.

16 *February*—15 *May*, 1905.

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

§ I.—PRELIMINARY.

THE work of clearing the Maccabean Castle, partly described in the last report, was continued and completed during the earlier weeks of the past quarter, after which the trenching of the Western Hill was resumed at the point where it was abandoned last October.

The section of the castle cleared during the quarter had been as completely looted as the eastern end had proved to be, and yielded no objects of special interest. Though the southern end of the trenches on the Western Hill was probably richer in important antiquities than any other part of the mound examined, the central portion of the same trenches, which has occupied my attention during the past six weeks, proved much less prolific. A second fragment of a Cuneiform tablet, and a broken example of the rare "marriage" scarab of Amenhotep III and Thyi, are among the most interesting discoveries.

§ II.—THE CASTLE.

As a complete plan of the castle will be given in the final memoir, it is hardly necessary at present to illustrate the additional chambers unearthed during the past quarter, which do not differ essentially from those whose plan was presented with the previous report. There are three separate points of interest relating to the castle to which I would here refer:—

1. In a corner of one of the rooms of the castle was found a very large pile of cockle-shells, such as are strewn in great numbers over the sea-shore at Jaffa. These shells all have a perforation at the valve, and no doubt this perforation was made use of for threading, so as to make a necklace—one of the camp guards has

made such a necklace of some of this heap of shells, which is worn alternately by his baby and by a sheep he is fattening with a coming feast in prospect. It seems most probable that we have here a waste or deserted heap of builder's material, and that these shells were brought together with the purpose of pounding them for cement.¹ The very hard cement with which the chambers and troughs of the bath (described in the last *Quarterly Statement*) are lined is made with fragments of shells, taking the place of the pottery-dust which is used in modern cement in Palestine.

2. Further study of the *Pampras* inscription (*see ante* p. 100) has led me to the conclusion that it is impossible to choose between the two readings *κατεπάρη* and *κατοπάξη* at the beginning of line 2, or to make anything definite of the marks with which the same line concludes. But if we read, with Père Germer-Durand, *κατοπάξη*, and neglect the indefinite marks (as well as the *ι* of Père Germer-Durand's *πυρι*) as being meaningless scratches, which they easily may be, we obtain—

Πάμπρα(ς), Σιμῶνος κατοπάξη πύρ βασιλείων,

—a very bad hexameter, but still one that gives better sense than the alternative readings suggested previously. The interpretation would be "(says) Pampras, may fire follow up the palace of Simon." The advantages of this reading are two: it gives us a satisfactory nominative to *κατοπάξη*, and gives a sufficient reason—metrical exigencies—for the omission of any verb associated with *Πάμπρας*.

3. Of all the sections of the recently-opened work the most interesting as well as, in some respects, the most perplexing, is the great drain that runs under the threshold of the castle gate. The part of it outside the gateway has already been shown in the plan facing p. 104 *ante*. It appears to have originally run eastwards, under the southern jamb of the public gateway, and was afterwards diverted and turned westward. The probable reason for this was the discovery that the entrance to the drain was concealed from observation by the jamb of the gate, and that it formed a convenient covered way whereby enemies could enter the city. The westward arm which was substituted for it was shallow, and (at least at its lower end) was probably open and under perpetual observation.

¹ [A very fine white cement is still made in India from shells.]

This radical connection of the drain with the jamb of the gate proves that it was contemporary with the castle and the associated buildings. The diversion of the lower end of the drain must have taken place almost immediately after the buildings had been completed and inhabited, as we have shown reason to believe that the castle itself had a very short existence. These results had already been obtained when the last report was written. It was an obvious duty to trace the drain and to find, if possible, its origin; this work was accordingly entrusted to one of the gangs. Reserving fuller details for the present, I may only mention that it is remarkable for a sudden and unaccountable bend 60 feet from the threshold of the gate, and that at a distance of 13 feet from this spot the channel is divided by a block of stone set in the middle. The latter can scarcely have served as a filter, and, in fact, the design is problematical. May it be merely an ingenious and cruel trap for unwary besiegers of the city?

§ III.—THE SECOND CUNEIFORM TABLET.¹

This was found not far from the neighbourhood which yielded the tablet found last year, and in the same stratum; so that probably it is of much the same date, and is another monument of the Assyrian garrison to which the first tablet gave us our first definite introduction. Like the first, it is a fragment only, and is evidently a document of similar character; unlike the first, which was of black colour, it is of a light coffee-brown hue. It measures $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, 2 inches broad, and $\frac{2}{3}$ inch thick.

There are in all eight perfect lines of writing, and the ends of two others. The obverse has two lines, after which is a band of three impressions of the seal shown on p. 206, and then the two imperfect lines, after which the tablet breaks off. Turning it over, we find on the reverse the five last lines surviving: the first four—which seem to be names of witnesses—are separated by a blank space from the fifth, which is the commencement of matter completed in two lines on the edge. Whether a certain curious clay fragment, which was found in the same stratum, is the remains of a model of Assyrian origin, *e.g.*, a man-headed bull, is doubtful. A cast of this puzzling object also has been forwarded to London.

¹ See pp. 174, 206 *sqq.*, 272.

§ IV.—THE MARRIAGE SCARAB.

When complete the inscribed base of this interesting object must have been about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches broad. It is, however, a mere fragment, and the surviving portion is represented by shading in Fig. 1. It is of paste, covered with a rich olive green enamel on the back: the base is yellow, but the letters have been filled in with green. The colouring matter has, however, come out of most of the characters. Under the legs of the beetle

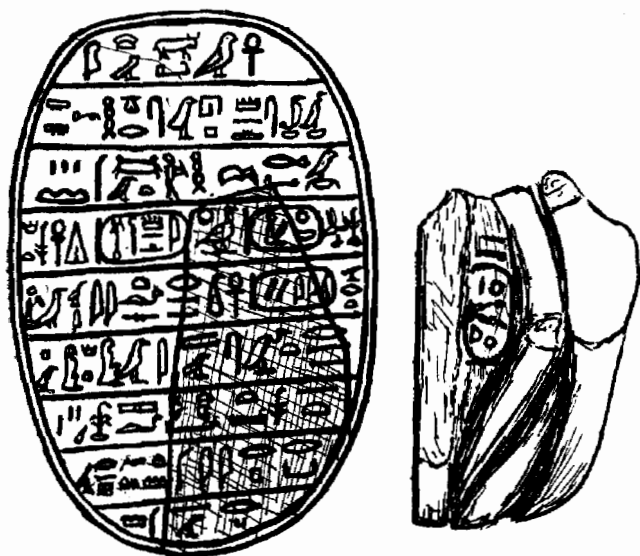


FIG. 1.—The Marriage Scarab.

on the surviving side is the throne-name of the king, Nb-Mꜣt-Rꜥ. The remains of the inscription differ in one respect only from the corresponding part of Mr. Llewellyn Griffith's transcript, which is prepared from specimens in Mr. Ward's collection (Ward, *The Sacred Beetle*, pp. 64-5): namely, that the present example reads [Nḥꜣ]rꜣnꜣ instead of Nḥꜣrꜣnꜣ in the last word. The complete transcript and translation (according to Dr. Griffith) is as follows: the division into lines follows the Gezer fragment:—

1. [^cn_h Hr k₃, n_ht, h^cm m₃^ct
2. n_ht_i, smn, sgr_h t₃u_i
3. Hr nb, ^c3 h_pš, hu St₃u
4. stn b_it_i] Nb-M₃^ct-R^c s₃ R^c Imn htp hq u₃st d_i ^cn_h-
Hmt stn,
5. urt I i ^cn_ht_i. Rn n [t₃ [u₃š,]
6. rn n m₃ts Tu₃š. Hmt p₃u
7. nt stn n_ht; t₃[šf, rs]
8. r K₃r₃i, [m₃t_i r Nh₃-]
9. r_in₃

1. Lives the Horus, the strong bull, resplendent in strength
2. the double ruler, establishing laws, pacifying the two lands
3. the golden Horus, great of valour, smiting the Asiatics
4. King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Amenhotep III, son of the sun, Amenhotep ruler of Thebes, giving life. The royal wife,
5. the great one, Thyi living. The name of her father Yawya,
6. the name of her mother Thawya. She is the wife
7. of the mighty king; his boundary, the southern
8. to Kari, the northern to Meso-
9. potamia.

According to Mr. Ward's book, about 20 specimens of this scarab have been found in Egypt; I believe that the present is the first discovered outside the Egyptian borders.

§ V.—OTHER EGYPTIAN OBJECTS.

Of the other objects of Egyptian provenance the most interesting is a small bronze statuette, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, representing a man, walking. He wears a shirt that reaches almost to the ankles. The right hand was stretched out, but has been broken off. The left hand hangs by the side and holds some indistinguishable object. The figure has been gilt; the gold covering remains to a little above the waist. Pearls are set in the eye-sockets. On the head is a cylindrical hollow crown. As is usual with such figures, tenons are provided under the heels to fit into mortices in the stand on which it was set. This figure was found in débris contemporary with the latter part of the eighteenth dynasty.

Another figure, which is of more summary execution, represents a sitting man. The head is lost. The arms are outstretched, and each hand bears a rather indefinite object—that in the right, flat and shaped like a knife; that in the left, globular. There are tenons provided for mortices in the seat and foot-rest.

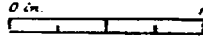
Several "Horus eyes" and other amulets, principally in paste, green enamelled, have come to light. A seated god (? Osiris) figure, holding symbols of authority, was also found. Only the central portion of the body remains. The figure is placed on a throne with open-work sides. The whole is of paste, with green enamel, except the tracery in the sides of the seat, which is brown.

The scarabs, as usual, I present in tabular form. They will be found on Plate I.

No.	Fig. on Pl. I.	Stratum.*	Material.	Device.
1	1	II	Steatite (mounted in a bronze ring).	Symmetrical ornament.
2	2	II	Steatite	A crocodile and two uræi. These two scarabs were found in a granary.
3	3	III	Steatite	A sphinx walking and uræus.
4	4	III	Steatite	Uræus and symmetrical hieroglyphs.
5	—	III	Crystal	No device.
6	5	III	Steatite	<i>Hpr R^c</i> with <i>bennu</i> bird and uræus.
7	6	Between III and IV.	Steatite	<i>Hpr dd</i> surrounded by <i>nh</i> and <i>r</i> .
8	7	Between III and IV.	Steatite	Ring (broken away) surrounded by <i>stn nh</i> . The head of the scarab is coloured red, the shards and base blue.
9	8	V	Steatite	Three S curves, one in an oval.
10	9	V	Steatite, gold mounted.	Ring of Usertsen I, surrounded by various symbols.
11	10	VI	Paste, red enamelled.	<i>nh</i> and two uræi. A bird takes the place of the beetle on the back of the scarab.
12	11	VI	Steatite	... <i>nbt Imn</i> . The oval on the back coloured red and outlined in olive green.
13	12	VI	Paste, green enamelled.	Ring of Amenhotep III with <i>mr Imn-R^c</i> .
14	13	VI	Steatite	A charioteer; above a worshipper and a deity.

* Note.—All are from the Western Hill, where there are eight strata.

SCARABS



No.	Fig. on Pl. I.	Stratum.*	Material.	Device.
15	14	VI	Paste, green enamelled.	Four circles.
16	—	Between VI and VII.	Amethyst	No device.
17	15	Between VI and VII.	Paste, yellow enamelled.	S; R ^c mn.
18	16	Between VI and VII.	Paste, green enamelled.	Walking animal.
19	17	VII	Paste, green enamelled.	Scaraboid. <i>Dd</i> between two <i>m₃^{cf}</i> .
20	18	VII	Ivory.	Conventional pattern, type of 22nd dynasty.
21	19	VIII	Blue paste	Scaraboid with winged disc.
22	20	From waste earth.	Steatite	Peculiar ornamental device.
23	21	From waste earth.	Steatite	Two animals.
24	22	From waste earth.	Paste, green enamelled.	Cubical bead with the name of Amenhotep and nb-st-hpr (?).

* *Note.*—All are from the Western Hill, where there are eight strata.

§ VI.—SEALS.

The past quarter's work has been remarkable for the number and variety of seals and seal impressions unearthed. Some of these are of very interesting types, and others raise important questions.

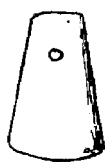
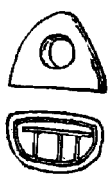
The following is a catalogue of the seals illustrated on Plate II:—

1. (Stratum II.) A sealing on black clay of a stamp bearing three figures, that in the central being apparently Chnum.
2. (Stratum V.) A seal of soft limestone with a mark, possibly an Old-Hebrew \aleph .
3. (Do.) Rude seal of soft limestone with a figure of a stag. The frequency upon seals of stags and other animals of the deer kind has already been noticed in these reports; and it is specially remarkable how many such have been found in this section of the excavations, *i.e.*, about the middle of the eastern hole. As a rule, they are found in a later stratum (the seventh) than the present example. The frequency of these seals in this particular part of the mound suggests that it was the badge of a local family who occupied this region of the city. Whether we may search for survivals

SEALS

Scale for 1, 4, 9.

Scale for the remaining figures



Reston

of totemism upon these seals is a question that we cannot yet, for want of material, discuss: it is not at all improbable.¹

4. (Stratum VI.) Sealing in black clay apparently resembling a sprig of a plant.

5. (Stratum VII.) This is another of the "deer" seals. It appears to represent a female deer suckling its young. Material, basalt. A set of seals illustrated in the July *Quarterly Statement* for last year ought to be compared.

6. (Do.) Another "deer" seal. Here there are four deer, two full-grown and two young ones. In material and technique this much resembles the last.

7. (Do.) A small ivory seal bearing the peculiar device of an earwig between two scorpions.

8. (Do.) A glass Assyrian seal of common type, much disintegrated.

9. (From near the Maccabean Castle.) An Egyptian seal, with a seated figure holding something in its hand.

10. (Stratum VIII.) A seal impression in pottery, bearing a well-drawn lion.

11. (Do.) Conical seal bearing a winged horse—possibly a local representation of Pegasus.

12. (Picked up on surface.) A seal probably of the "deer" family, representing an animal with extravagantly long horns.

13. (From outside the city wall, on the south side.) A minute signet ring, too small for any but a child's finger, bearing a very elementary representation of the Virgin and Child. As children do not as a rule require signets, this was probably an amulet.

§ VII.—MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS.

The following various objects call for notice:—

1. From a chamber near the castle, a disc of porous limestone, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, with the letters **ΙΦΝΑ** scratched upon it.

2. From the topmost (eighth) stratum, a small weight of the common dome-shape, weighing 3.84 grammes, bearing the mark **LL**. This is about $\frac{1}{3}$ the weight inscribed **ΣΙ**. Other weights found during the quarter are: two of hæmatite from the sixth stratum,

¹ It is, perhaps, merely a coincidence that a person named Dorcas (gazelle) lived in the city in post-exilic times, as we learn from the *Altar of Eunelos*. She *may* have been a member of the "stag" family.

91.43 and 91.89 grammes respectively (eight times X I); one of torpedo-shape, from the third stratum, 91.31 grammes; another from the sixth, 34.78 (three times X I); and another 180.11 (sixteen times).¹ None of these weights bore any inscription.

3. From the same stratum, a simple but elegant bronze lamp.

4. Also from the same stratum, a fragment of a handsome lekythos of brown ware, with ornamentation in glossy black and red (Fig. 2).



FIG. 2.—Lekythos.

5. Head of a figure wearing a peculiar cap with a peak that falls over the back. This is interesting, as contemporary representations of Palestinian costume are rare. It was found in the seventh stratum.

6. Fragment of a handsome lentoid flask with embossed ornamentation upon it.

¹ See *Quarterly Statement*, 1904, p. 209, where the characters X I were erroneously inverted (*cp.* p. 359).

7. Finally, a stone box, found outside the north-east corner tower of the city wall. It is made of soft limestone, and is $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, $3\frac{1}{8}$ high, and now $2\frac{1}{2}$ broad. The depression of the box below the rim is $\frac{5}{8}$ inch. The perfect side is slightly concave. The box displays quaint geometrical and zoomorphic ornament scratched upon it; on the top, surface-frets and spirals; on one side (Fig. 3) two animals, perhaps a hyæna or lion (?) eating (?) a donkey (?); on the second side there was apparently something similar, the "donkey" being the only member of the group that



FIG. 3.—Animal Representation upon one side of a Stone Box.

has survived. On the third side is a man in a short-sleeved tunic, driving an animal whose tufted tail alone is left, and there is just an indication of the man's beard. This box has been used for fire (perhaps for burning incense), and marks of it remain in the smoke-blackened and cracked condition of the fragment.

§ VIII.—BUILDINGS.

Two buildings uncovered during the past quarter call for special notice. The first is the early palace site, as it appeared to be, of which mention was made in a previous report. The other is a

curious structure, not easy to explain, from the stratum which yielded Amenhotep's scarab.

The result of examination of the supposed palace did not at all come up to expectations. It will be remembered that a section had been exposed in a 40-foot trench, a leading feature of which was a long rectangular hall with a row of column-bases running down the centre. As it was manifestly a building of importance, it was decided to cut the next trench to the east, into which the hall in question seemed to run, before proceeding with the trench in which the building itself was found. It was disappointing to find that the building, whatever it may have been, was completely destroyed, and not a stone was left to show how it had run.

Neither were any objects of interest or special value discovered round about the walls which might enable us to determine the purpose for which the building was erected. The western part still awaits excavation, and it is possible that something which will explain its object may still lie hidden there.

So far as the building has been exposed, the most important member is a pillared hall, which is at present 39 feet long and 24 feet broad. There are two pillar bases, 3 feet 6 inches in diameter. I had these overturned, after taking plans and photographs, in order to search for foundation deposits, but found nothing. The symmetry of the structure and the absence of other pillars shows that it can never have been much longer. The walls are almost 4 feet thick, a thickness quite double that of the normal house walls.

The pillar bases found here and elsewhere (rows of similar but much smaller stones are very common in the house-rooms) were probably meant to support wooden posts on which the beams of the roof rested. Some such central beam would evidently be necessary when the space to be ceiled was so wide as the pillared hall here described—single beams both long and strong enough to span the area would be difficult to procure. That the posts were of wood is made probable by the almost complete absence of stone columns, column drums and capitals in the débris.¹

And here we have, I think, a key to a problem which has troubled both Biblical critics and architectural experts from Sir Christopher Wren downwards, namely, the exact manner of the death of Samson. If we read the description at the end of

¹ [*Cf.* the wooden columns of the Cretan palaces.]

Judges xvi carefully, it will appear, first, that there is no authority in the narrative for the conceptions of the artists of some well-known pictures, wherein Samson is represented as *breaking* two massive columns of stone. What he must have done, if we study the narrative in the light of these more or less contemporary monuments (the palace now being described is more than a thousand years older than Samson, but the construction of the dwellings of his period did not essentially differ), was to push the [wooden] posts that supported the roof so that they slid from their stone bases. This would not be an impossible feat for a man of superhuman strength; and, obviously, as soon as he had succeeded in pushing the posts slightly out of the perpendicular, the ruin would be completed automatically.

A little further study enables us to form an idea of the architectural character of the Temple of Dagon. It must have consisted essentially of three members—the cella itself; a very deep distyle portico; and a forecourt, open to the sky. What seems to have happened was this: the blind prisoner was conducted to the forecourt, whence he could be seen by the Philistine grandees who sat in the shade of the portico (*cf.* verse 30, “the house fell *upon* the lords”) as well as by the large crowd of commoners assembled on the roof. By tricks of strength and buffoonery he was compelled to give them amusement, after which he was allowed to rest awhile, probably in order that he might have strength to continue the sport. He was set to rest between the pillars, which was the nearest place where he could be shaded from the sun’s heat while resting. Taking the opportunity, he put forth his full strength, and before the lords of the Philistines realised what he was doing he was able slightly to displace the posts holding up the portico but sufficiently to cause them to fall under the weight of the roof and the crowds upon it.¹

And this leads me to speak of the second of the two buildings I have mentioned above, which, on a small scale and with some trifling variations of detail, is just such a structure as in the last paragraph I have pictured the Temple of Dagon to be.

¹ [The words expressing Samson’s actions are not quite clear: (Judg. xvi, 29) he grasps or entwines himself (*lîphath*) about the two pillars, and then braces himself against them (*sîmak*), and, finally (*v.* 30), he appears to have thrust them apart. The last action (*nûṭah*) is otherwise explained to mean he bowed or bent forward, or lifted, or perhaps even he pulled them.—Ed.]

A plan of this building, so far as it has been excavated, is forwarded (Fig. 4). It is bounded on the south by two walls (*aa bb*), not in line, with a gap—apparently a passage way—between them. The western section of this wall (*aa*) is of a different style of masonry

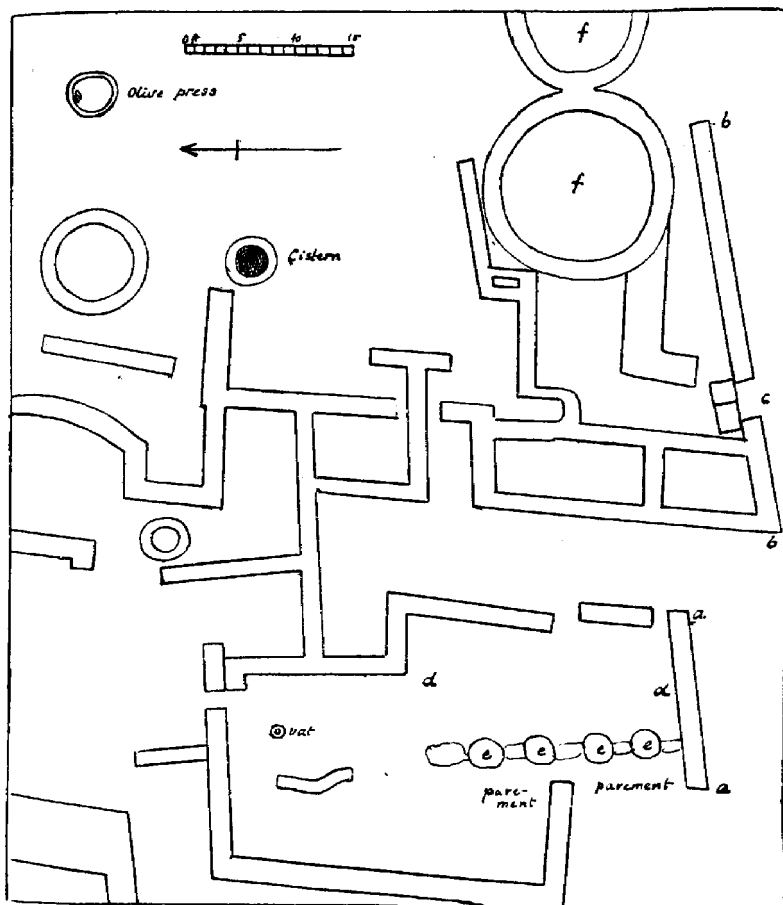


FIG. 4.—Plan of Walls—perhaps a Temple—Fifth Stratum (about 1400 B.C.).

from anything else I have seen on the *tell*; it consists of large, long stones with rounded ends, piled up into a wall without any very definite attempt at coursing. Indeed, one might almost say that it consisted of a series of pillar stones, that in some earthquake or

similar catastrophe had fallen on top of one another.¹ To the north the complex is less definitely marked off from the surrounding buildings. There is a doorway (*c*) in the south wall with a threshold of two slabs inside it.

To the north of the western section of the wall is a building consisting of a forecourt, not quite rectangular in shape; and a paved chamber, of which only a small section has so far been exposed. The pavement is laid to a well-marked slope upwards, but the greater part of it has been destroyed. The chamber is separated from the forecourt by a row of four large column bases (*eee*), about 2 feet in diameter.

The evidence that this structure has a religious purpose is twofold. In the first place, certain religious emblems and objects were found in the forecourt; they included a beautiful "Horus eye" amulet, and a very peculiar bronze statuette of a female divinity, unlike any other that I have seen from Palestine. It seems Egyptian in execution, but displays Semitic influence in the conception. The figure wears a lozenge-shaped head-dress, but is otherwise undraped, and displays characteristics identifying her with a goddess of fertility. A cast of this object will be sent to the office of the Fund.

Secondly, the two circular structures to the east of the forecourt (*ff*) were found to be completely full of fragments of sheep and goat bones. These were all broken into fragments, but none displayed any marks either of burning or of cooking. These pits might have been receptacles into which slaughtered victims were thrown after sacrifice.

To the south of this structure, and on the same level, was found a peculiar pavement of beaten lime, intersected by brick walls. A large rectangular pottery trough was sunk in the floor. Nothing was found to explain the purpose of this building. Underneath the pavement was a solid mass of fragments of the bones of small cattle similar to those found in the circular structures.

(While this report was being written the stratum underneath the building above described was reached by the excavators, and foundation-sacrifices were found within it. So far, two infants

¹ This is meant merely to give an idea of the appearance of the masonry of the wall, and is not intended as a suggestion regarding its origin. There is no doubt that it was built with intention exactly as we see it.

buried in jars in the corners of rooms have been found, and one adult, lying exactly in the middle of another chamber. The latter had apparently (to judge from the position of the arms) been bound, and the left hand was cut off. I hope to be in a position to give further particulars about this discovery in the next report, which will conclude the series presented under the present firman.)

THE IMMOVABLE EAST.

By PHILIP G. BALDENSPERGER, Esq.

(Continued from p. 126.)

WHEN the villagers tell stories among themselves about some wonderful adventure of a king's son, who found a treasure—and so on, and so on—they always begin with the formula: "There was once, and there was once, in the course of the centuries"; "there was a king," &c.;¹ and having told the story, the speaker will say, "The bird flew away—good evening to you all."² They may also ask riddles or recount fables about the fox. These are the most popular, and the following will show what they think about the craftiest of all animals:—

The Tiger and the Fox.—Abu Sliman (the nickname of the fox), walking about the fields, met Abu Tansar (from *nissr*), the eagle, and asked him how the world looked from the sky. The eagle said, "Why, it is so small that it can hardly be seen." But the fox would not believe this, and the eagle invited him to suffer himself to be carried aloft, so that he could see it for himself. So the fox rode on the back of the eagle, and up they went, till the earth was as small as a ball. On being questioned, the fox replied that it was like a ball. On they went, still higher and higher, till the fox said it was as small as the eye of a needle. Still the eagle ascended, and at last the fox said, "I don't see anything at all." "Well," said

¹ *Kán a-ma-kán, fi sa'út il-akrân, Kán fi hona malek, &c.*

(كان امكان في سعات الاقران - كان في هنا ملك)

² (طار الطير ومسيكم بالنجير)