

tessera of the ground in the centre. Border lines between the members of the margin, each a single row of black tesserae. Everything marked with *dots* in the drawing, red; everything blacked in, black. The guilloche is of three strands, each of five rows of tesserae, in this order—black, white, two coloured, black. The three strands are distinguished by different tints in the coloured tesserae: in the strand that fills the corner shown in the drawing, the colour is yellow; the next strand, bluish grey; the third strand, red.

In the central pattern an essential part of the device is the way in which the rows of the white tesserae of the background follow the lines of the circles, on whose interlacings the pattern is founded. This I have endeavoured to indicate in one of the quarters of the saltire.

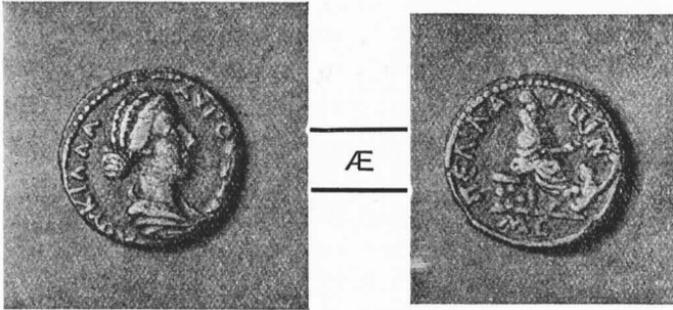
INTERESTING COINS OF PELLA AND BITTÎR.

By ARCHDEACON DOWLING, Haifa.

(1) THERE seems to be no reasonable doubt that the Arab name of Tabakât Fahl, the Fahl Terraces, represents the ancient Greek Pella. It is situated about 20 miles south of the Sea of Galilee, on the east side of the Jordan, and north of Perea. It was originally a Macedonian city, built by veterans from the armies of Alexander the Great, who settled there. Hence the name, in honour of the Macedonian Pella.

From the coinage of Pella it appears that this city continued to flourish under the reign of Heliogabalus, A.D. 218-222. It was one of the Greek Episcopal cities of the Decapolis in *Palæstina Secunda*, the metropolis being Scythopolis = Bethshan.

On March 19th I purchased in Jerusalem a unique bronze Pella coin, with the following inscription:—



Obv. ΛΟΥΚΙΛΛΑ - ΑΥΓΟΥΣΤΑ, with bust of Lucilla.

Rev. ΠΕΛΛΑΙΩΝ, with MC in the exergue = Mater
Castrorum.

Weight 158 grains Troy.

The coins of Antioch, and of all the cities of the Decapolis, confirm the fact that the Pompeian era was computed from B.C. 64.

Type.—Somewhat similar to the Tyche of Antioch, turreted, seated on a rock, with river god Orontes swimming at her feet, copied from the famous statue of Eutychides of Sicyon, a pupil of Lysippus.

The only Pella Greek coins mentioned by De Saulcy, *Numismatique de la Terre Sainte*, pp. 291–293, are those of the reigns of Commodus, Caracalla and Heliogabalus.

Annia Lucilla, the youngest daughter of Marcus Aurelius and Faustina Junior, was born A.D. 147. She married Lucius Verus, A.D. 164, was exiled to Capreae by order of Commodus, A.D. 183, and put to death shortly afterwards.

A question arises whether this exceedingly rare coin, unmentioned in numismatic publications, was stamped at *Antiocha ad Orontem*?

(2) The strong Jewish fortress at Bittîr, about 5 miles south-west of Jerusalem, was captured with great bloodshed towards the end of the eighteenth year of Hadrian, in August, A.D. 135. Its defence lasted three and a half years. Bittîr is associated with Bar-cochab, “the son of a star,” who announced himself as the Messiah, A.D. 132.

The present lofty village is of interest to numismatists, for Jewish coinage closed with the career of this famous Bar-cohab.

In February last, three native Moslem families, who own the land near the ancient Castle grounds, began to clear the stones for the cultivation of the soil. This occupied about four months. During this period, undisturbed by the Government, they unearthed one perfect flint spear-head, many broken specimens of spears, one large brass vessel, iron spear heads, iron door rings, stone balls, a quantity of pottery, a large cistern, and another cistern full of wheat. The most interesting discoveries, however, have been the extraordinary number of beautiful silver and copper specimens of Jewish coins. Several of these were current during the First and Second Jewish Revolts. Some of these types are derived from connection with the Temple and its services; *e.g.*, the Temple, and noticeably the star above the Temple, trumpets, lyres, sacrificial vases, the palm tree, vine-leaf, wheat, grapes, are also represented. Many of the samples found within the last five months at Bittir are now exceedingly rare, and have not been purchasable in Jerusalem of late years. Curiously, only one shekel of the first year has been dug up. The Turkish authorities have now strictly prohibited any further digging. Most of these coins have already been sold to purchasers in New York, and in Europe, at fancy prices. Jewish dealers in Jerusalem, who thoroughly appreciate their marketable value, are naturally unwilling to dispose of them without much unpleasant haggling.

AN ANCIENT GATE EAST OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE.

THE Jerusalem architect, C. K. Spyridonidis, sends the following account of an interesting discovery :—

“It seems probable that the present market Khan Ez Zeit, situated to the east of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, was originally part of the great court-yard, which in ancient times lay