

This Schedule includes rest for lunch on the first and second days only.

I was disappointed at not being able to procure several ancient coins in Moab. As a matter of fact, only one coin was forthcoming in Moab, and another in Edom,<sup>1</sup> during a tour of 25 days. The Arab school-master of the Greek School, and his boys, were actively interested, but the specimens brought to me generally bore Arab inscriptions. The only coin of any interest was the well-known State umbrella, and three ears of barley, springing from one stalk, year 6 (A.D. 43), of Herod Agrippa I. The natives now dispose of coins to the Turkish soldiers, who sell them to Jews in Damascus and Jerusalem. They eventually find markets in Hamburg and the United States.

About one hour's ride from Kerak (in Wady el-Yabis) are interesting hermit cells, which, in 1884, were reoccupied by four Orthodox "Religious." One came from Jerusalem, two from Mar Saba, and one from the Convent of St. George, Wady el Kelt (Brook Cherith).

All have been driven back again to their parent convents, owing to the robberies and cruelties of the Kerakî. One of their number, the Caloyer Onuphrios, is now an occupant of the Convent of St. Constantine, Jerusalem.

The military authorities at the castle are digging bravely at excavations, but apparently with no working plans. May we not hope that the Palestine Exploration Fund will obtain a Firman from Constantinople for a thorough investigation of the Castles of Kerak and Shôbek, and the Rock City of Edom?

JERUSALEM, *July 13th, 1896.*

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## TWO ROMAN MILESTONES AT WADY MÔJIB (RIVER ARNON).

By Rev. THEODORE E. DOWLING.

WHEN in Kerak last May I was told that the Mutasarif had lately ordered soldiers to turn over the prostrate milestones in the southern valley of the Môjib, when they were repairing the precipitous descent. And I was also informed that the inscriptions had not been copied. So I went prepared with a note-book. After consulting a friend in Jerusalem about the rendering of obscure words and letters, I heard that Père Germer Durand, of Notre Dame de France, had made a walking tour last Easter-tide with several students of the Augustinian Convent (Jerusalem), and between them had succeeded in turning over three stones in the valley, copying the inscriptions, and taking a squeeze

<sup>1</sup> Copper Petra coin of Hadrian. "Numismatique de la Terre Sainte," M. de Saulcy, *Planche XX, 1.*

of a Trajan stone. So, after all, the Kerak soldiers had nothing at all to do with either one or other of these inscriptions. My copies needed revision, which has been kindly made by Père Durand; and after inserting a few of his suggested additions, two inscriptions are here reproduced with translations. Experts will no doubt be ready to correct and complete them. I ought to add that there are two milestones with the name of Trajan attached, but only one, with the longest inscription (incomplete), is given below. The other stone, of Pertinax, distant about ten minutes' ride from the previous one, is also added.

(1.) A.D. 112.

IMPCAES  
 DIVINERVAEFI  
 TRAIANVSAV  
 DACICVSPONT  
 TRIBPOTXVI  
 PPREDACTAI  
 PROVINCIA  
 NOVAMAFI  
 VSQVEAD[MARERV]  
 APERVITETST[RAVIT]

\* \* \* \*

BACILEY

The Emperor Cæsar, son of the divine Nerva, Trajan Augustus . . . .  
 Dacicus Pontifex Maximus in the sixteenth year of his tribunician  
 power. . . . . Father of his country after the reduction of the province  
 . . . . opened and paved a new road from the frontiers as far as . . . .  
 O King.

(2.) JANUARY-MARCH, A.D. 193.

IMPCAESAR  
 PHELVIIVSPERTI  
 NAXAVGPRINCEPS  
 SENATVSCOSI  
 PONTIFMAXIMVSTRIB  
 POTPRETCEASARHEL  
 VIVSPERTINAX  
 PRINCEPSIVVENTVTIS

\* \* \* \*

NIKAN  
 EGENNHΘHC

The Emperor Cæsar Publius Helvius Pertinax Augustus Princeps Senatus Consul for the first time Pontifex Maximus endowed with tribunician power by the Roman people, and Cæsar Helvius Pertinax, Prince of the youths.

Thou wast born to conquer.

JERUSALEM, June 29th, 1896.

[It might be well to impress upon our friends who are so good as to forward copies of inscriptions from Palestine, that it is most important that they should always when doing so specify the size of the stone on which the inscription is cut, and the size of the letters; and also whether the stone is whole or broken, and if the latter, what portions are gone. Conjectural emendations, or "suggested additions" should never be "inserted" unless most carefully and exactly marked; otherwise the most valuable inscriptions are rendered absolutely worthless. For instance, at the crucial point in the first of the above inscriptions, which should give us its exact date, we are unfortunately left in doubt by a non-observance of the above precaution. It would appear that some words, in some of the lines at any rate, on the right-hand side of the inscription are either broken off from the stone or rendered illegible, e.g., the fourth line would at least appear incomplete, and we are thus led to ask, Is the all-important fifth line incomplete also? The XVth year of Trajan's tribunician power was 112 A.D. By reference to the April *Quarterly Statement*, pp. 134, 135, it will be seen that in that year he had not left Rome for the East. It was in the autumn of 113 A.D. that he began his Eastern campaign. The term, therefore, "the province having been reduced," would apparently belong more fitly to a later year. Hence it is of cardinal importance to know whether XVI is the real ending of the line, or whether the stone is there broken, so that the reading may have possibly been XVII or XVIII. Of course XVI may be the correct reading; then this new road was made in 112 A.D. "opened," cut through the mountains, as a preliminary to the Emperor taking the field with his legions in the ensuing Eastern campaign. If the reading was XVI, then the rest of the date, if given in full, would have been IMP. VI. COS. VI.

It is a pity that the other Trajan inscription was not sent; the date might have come out clear from that.

As regards the second inscription sent, it would appear that the lines in the original are of unequal length, but here, again, we are in doubt, as we do not know how far "suggested additions" have been "inserted." Pertinax was elected Emperor, January 1st, A.D. 193, and was murdered on March 28th of the same year, being then in the sixty-seventh year of his age. His son, to whom the title Augustus was never given, is here associated with him in this inscription. Pertinax was Consul for the first time 179 A.D., and the second time 192 A.D., on the last day of which

year the Emperor Commodus was murdered; hence it is possible that there was another stroke in the fourth line, and that COS II is the right reading. This stone apparently, to judge by the Greek words chiselled below, was set up by some legionary who had formerly served under Pertinax either in Syria in the suppression of the revolt of Cassius, or else in his victorious campaigns on the Rhine 172 A.D., in the reign of Marcus Aurelius, at whose death he was Governor of Syria. The inscription was cut at the glad moment when the good news of his old leader's election at Rome had reached Kerak, although perhaps the Emperor was then already lying dead.

The end of Gibbons's fourth chapter contains a sketch of Pertinax's popular career with the legions.

It would be a great thing if the Reference Library at Jerusalem would obtain a copy of the "Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum," of the Berlin Academy, compiled by Mommsen and his fellow labourers, or at any rate of those portions of the work that relate to the East.—J.N.D.]

## THE DATE OF THE EXODUS.

By W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE, D.C.L.

As two writers under the above title have referred to some statements that concern my work, I wish to give a few explanations, though I hope that I may avoid dealing with so thorny a subject as the title indicates.

P. 247. Captain Haynes remarks that "Lower Egypt appears to us as the very hotch-potch of races"; but—if I may say so—that seems to have been the case of every country where an active civilisation prevailed, and Upper Egypt was probably as mixed as Lower Egypt. The race in the IV Dynasty was compounded of three or four peoples; the New Race of the VII-X Dynasty was quite different; and in one tomb at Thebes of the XVIII Dynasty I have found skulls of the most extreme shapes, some the very opposite to those of the earlier residents there. So the mixture in Lower Egypt, though true enough, is not peculiar to that part. Regarding the period of the Judges, Captain Haynes relies entirely on a statement, which is probably of late origin, of 480 years between the Exodus and the Temple. I will not attempt to enter on so complex a question here, but only say that as there is a far shorter chronology—about 200 years—resulting from statements in the Old Testament I could not pass such an assumption as this in silence, which might imply tacit consent.

P. 248. The note about corrections in the chronology which I have adopted, is based upon the March number of the "Proc. Soc. Bib. Arch." It is unfortunate that the writer should not have apparently seen the April number before his paper appears in July, or at least have waited to