

ment with Canon Tristram, and the tunnels were swept if not garnished in his honour, but the very day before the hoped-for visit there occurred the sad accident to his leg and he was obliged to leave Jerusalem before he was recovered sufficiently to visit us.

Changes have taken place at the Pool of Siloam. The villagers have made a great clearance at the north-west corner of the Original Pool, and have erected a small mosque in the angle, though the flooring is much higher than that of the pool. They have removed the vault by which the aqueduct was approached so that the upper part of the wall of the Original Pool is now exposed for about 36 feet from the north-west corner, part of it being used as the wall of the mosque itself. The story of the erection of this mosque is a long and complicated one and some day I may tell it. How and why we repaired the modern pool I have mentioned before. On our return we found that it contained a depth of water quite sufficient for the lads to swim in, and the women are still filling their jars from the water flowing through the tunnel. Many are the blessings they shower upon us.

The greatest inconvenience in our work has been the open drain which pours an inky stream past our excavations. Our shaft was sunk some 20 feet away, but one day there suddenly bubbled up at the bottom a horrid black spring which compelled us to seek our clue from another point. The odious slime oozed in at another tunnel, which we had to saturate with diluted carbolic acid for our own safety, though the boys declared they preferred the other odours. I suppose we are gradually becoming inoculated, for this season both Mr. Dickie and myself have kept free from fever. However, we have taken the precaution to sleep in town.

JERUSALEM, *June 8th*, 1897.

NOTE ON THE SEAL FOUND ON OPHEL.

By Professor A. H. SAYCE.



THE seal reads :—

(1) לְיִשְׁמָעֵאל
l a ' m s h i l

(2) בְּרִיָּהוּ
u h y r b

“Belonging to Ishmael, Bar-yahu.”

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The seal is Israelitish, as is shown by the double line between the two names, and the divine name, Yahu. But Ishmael was a foreign name in Judah, and belonged rather to the Aramaic-speaking tribes of northern Arabia, while the use of *bar* instead of *ben* "son" in the second name is also Aramaic. The termination of the second name shows that it cannot be identical with the "Beriah" of the O. T. A η (*u*) is probably lost at the beginning of the second line, so that the inscription was intended to read: "Belonging to Ishmae[l] [and] Bar-yahu." The forms of the characters are those of the sixth century B.C. For the name of Ishmael at this period, see Jer. xl, 8.

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P.S.—Since the above was printed I have seen some casts of the seal which show that a piece of it has been broken off at the head of the letter which I have read *bêth*. The letter in question, accordingly, will be *pé*, and not *bêth*; and in this reading I have the support of Dr. Chaplin. The second name, therefore, is Par-yahu, instead of Bar-yahu—a name, by the way, which is almost inconceivable if the first element in it is to be regarded as *bar* "son." The casts show no sign either of *lamed* at the beginning of the first line, or of space for a *waw* at the beginning of the second line; there are traces, however, of the final *lamed* in the first line. We should thus have "Ishmael, Paryahu."

THE (SO-CALLED) TOMBS OF THE KINGS AT JERUSALEM.

By Dr. CONRAD SCHICK.

The rock-cut tombs, called "Kabûr es Saladeen"¹ and "Tombs of the Kings," are situated north of the present city 2,500 feet distant from the northern gate, or "Bab el 'Amûd"—being the largest and most elaborate of the many rock-cut tombs in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem. They are also comparatively well preserved, and are described more or less fully in all modern guide-books, as well as by many travellers and pilgrims in ancient times, especially in the last three centuries.² Many added to their description a plan made by Pococke, Catherwood,

¹ The "Name Lists" of the Survey of Western Palestine have Kabûr es Salatân.—[ED.]

² Maundrell, in 1697, gives a clear description, although he made some mistakes, and says nothing of the closing rolling stone; but he describes in full the doors of the chambers.