

Suleyman, later on, joined me and we proceeded, sleeping once more in the Themed. Suleyman went in search of some Butum wood for his *rubāba*. Next day, instead of taking the Pilgrim Road, we followed the Wady Aḳāba, which runs through a valley four miles wide, skirted by abrupt hills, until we reached a point where the hills on our left ended abruptly.

We then left the Aḳāba, taking a straight line to Nekhl. The ground was rising all the time, but we had to go up and down so many wadies, that it was difficult to guess whether we were ascending or descending. Our direction was now south-west towards Nekhl. We slept in a small wady and, early next morning, could see Nekhl distinctly, though it was evening before we arrived there, and the whole of the way was on high ground until the last descent to the place itself.

(To be continued.)

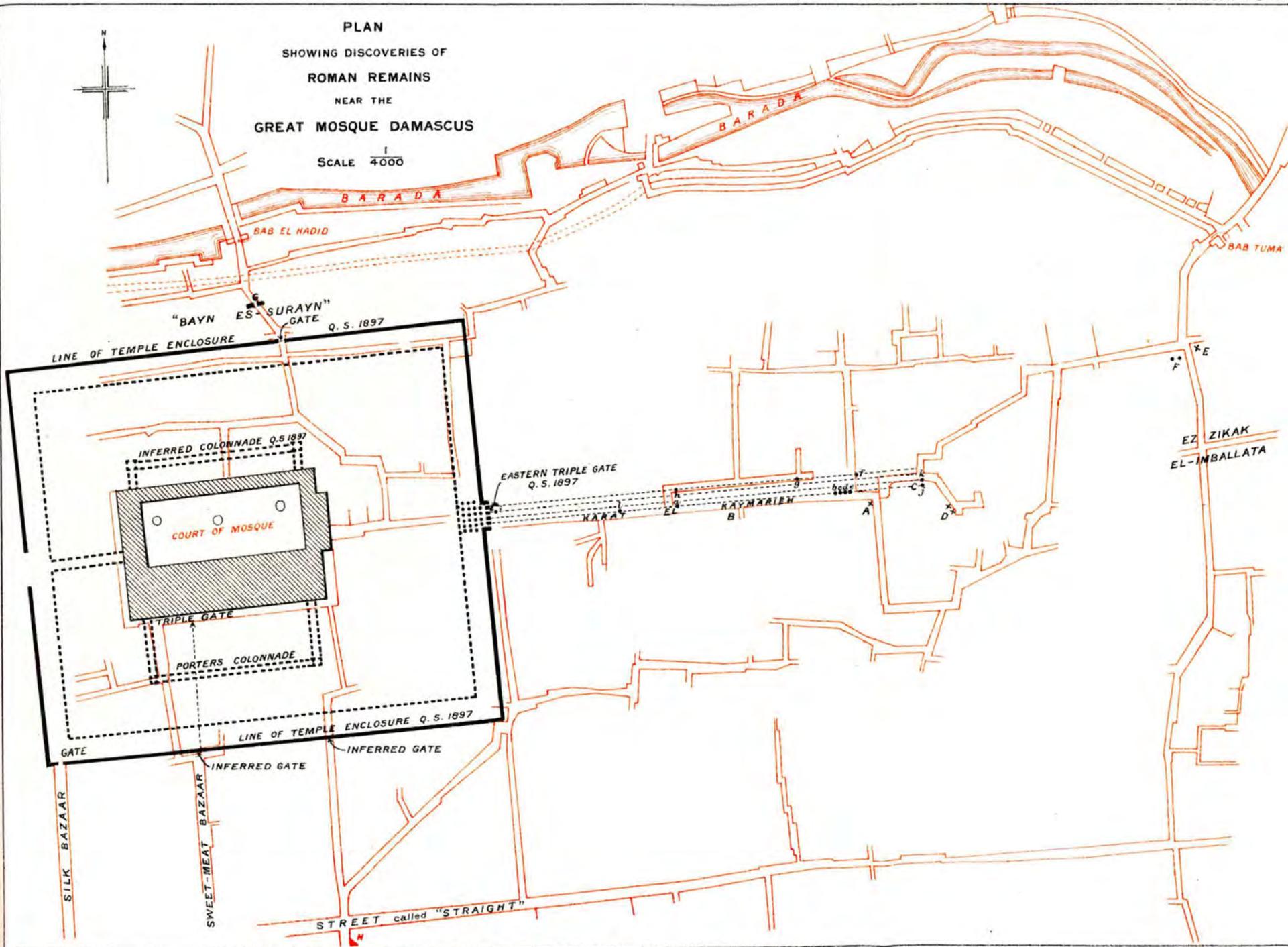
DISCOVERY OF ROMAN REMAINS NEAR THE GREAT MOSQUE AT DAMASCUS.

By THE REV. J. E. HANAUER.

It was towards the end of 1909 that I reported the discovery, and sent the photo of a fragment of a column, bearing an inscription in Greek and relating to the rights of sanctuary in connection, apparently, with the great Church of St. John, the site of which is now occupied by the famous Mosque of the Omayyads at Damascus. The inscription, built in upside-down, was discovered by Italian workmen who had been employed by the Electric Tramways and Lighting Company to dig a hole for the planting of a pole to support wires, at the corner of a house at the eastern end of the Harat el-Kaymariyeh, and at a point marked A, on plan. G. P. Devey, Esq., H.B.M.'s Consul at Damascus, who happened to be with me when a friend came in haste to announce the

PLAN
SHOWING DISCOVERIES OF
ROMAN REMAINS
NEAR THE
GREAT MOSQUE DAMASCUS

SCALE 1/4000



discovery, kindly accompanied me to the spot, and even left his kawass in order that I should not be molested or hindered whilst taking the photograph. On reaching the place we found that the French Consul had also sent an agent whose wet squeeze, still clinging to the stone, by its whiteness contrasting with the darkness

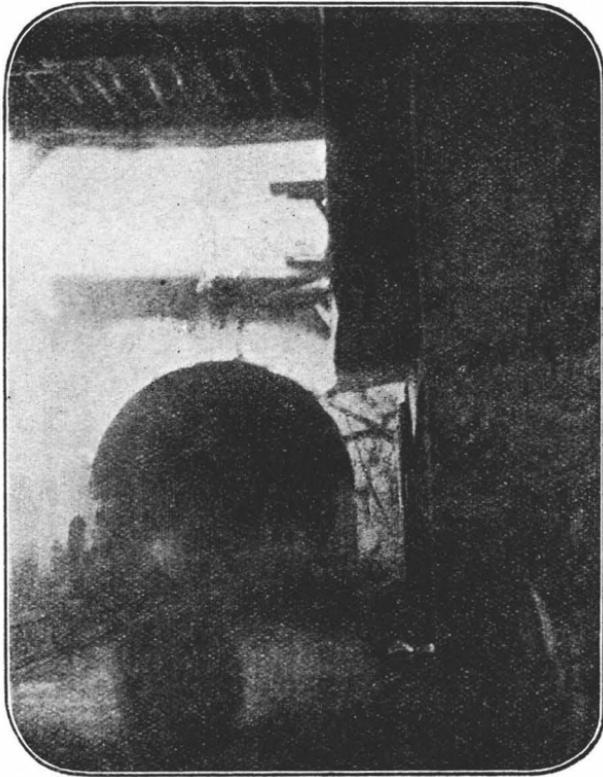


Fig. 1.—Arch, apparently Roman.

of the pit, helped to make the inscription stand out with greater clearness than would otherwise have been the case, and thus greatly facilitated the taking of the photograph. A copy of the inscription, was, in January, 1910, published in *el-Mashrik*. It is incomplete, the name of the “epis(copus)” it refers to being missing, as well as mention of date, etc.

The discovery, however, greatly interested me, for not only did the owner of the house assert that there were other fragments of columns built into the foundations of the edifice, but I had already noticed whilst walking along the Harat el-Kaymariyeh:—

1. That for about 1,000 feet its axis ran perfectly straight towards the east gate of the outer enclosure of the great Temple

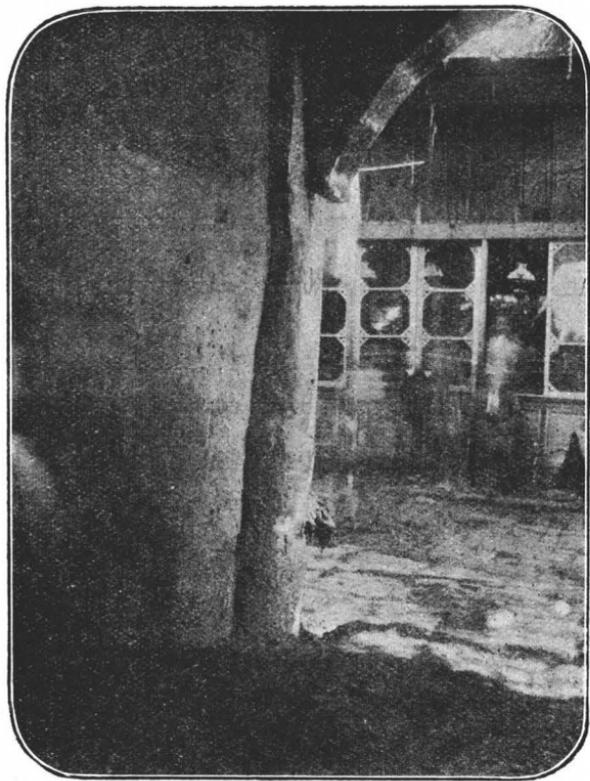


Fig. 2.—Column *a*, in the Harat el-Kaymariyeh.

of Roman times, the northern side of the street being actually in line with the southern side-pier of the southern doorway to the eastern triple gate, discovered, drawn and described by Mr. Dickie, in the *Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement* for April, 1897.

2. This fact, in itself significant, was rendered still more so by the observation that at different points along this line were the remains of columns *in situ*, similar in every respect to those of the great corridors running along the inside of the large enclosure. That these columns in the Harat el-Kaymariyeh should have, till then, escaped the notice of antiquaries and explorers was very natural. In the first place, because at least four of them were in shops and partly hidden under plaster which had recently fallen away, and secondly, because, when the doors of these shops were open, the columns are concealed from the passer-by by the shop-doors being folded back against them. These first noticed columns I have marked *a, b, c, d, e* on the plan (*see* Photo 2 of Col. *a*). Later on I found two more of the same series, namely, *j*, in the Medreseh of Sheikh Abdallah el-Manganee; and *l*, about half-way between *a* and the triple gateway. This last, *l*, is now re-buried.

The discovery of these columns in line, as already stated, with the southern side of the small south doorway, naturally led me to infer that a similar series must have existed running parallel with it and in line with the *northern pier* of the *northern door-way* of the triple gate, and I accordingly began a search which had the following results :—

(*a.*) At the point marked *f* on plan, in a street running at right angles northward from the Harat el-Kaymariyeh, is a column exactly similar to the others (*see* Photo 3). Its distance from the line they follow is 20 paces, *i.e.*, 50 feet, outside measurement. As the diameter of these columns is about thirty inches, it follows that the inner measurement between the two outer lines of columns would be 45 feet. I have been told that in the house just west of *f* there are other columns, but they cannot be seen now, being buried under plaster and masonry.

(*b.*) Proceeding farther west, there is a small street running parallel with Harat el-Kaymariyeh; and the southern side of this street, by another curious coincidence, happens to be also exactly 20 paces from the first observed line of columns. In this small street, and at the points marked *g* and *h*, are other columns, apparently *in situ*. However, *h* is covered from top to bottom with a coat of plaster, and can only be recognized as a column by its prominently bulging out from the wall of which it now forms part, and by its position. The inter-columnar distance between the columns *b, c, d, e*, I found

to be 4 paces, *i.e.*, 10 feet, which is about the same as that between the columns of the corridors inside the Temple enclosure.

(*c.*) Measuring the distance along the triple gate, between its two great flanking columns, I found it also to be just 20 paces, that is exactly fifty feet. I would here remark, that, when I took these measurements in paces, I was on one occasion accompanied by the

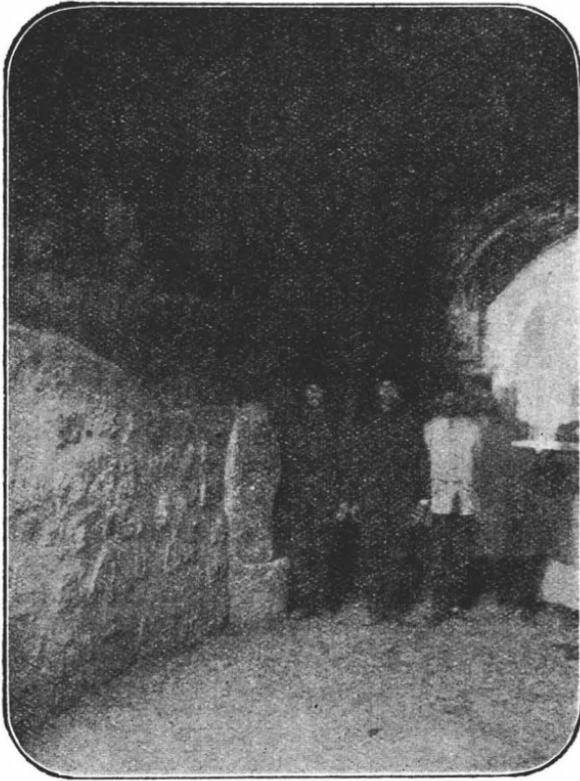


Fig. 3.—Column *f*, off the Harat el-Kaymariyeh.

Rev. E. H. Garland, M.A., and on another by the Rev. W. A. Wigram, M.A. Both these gentlemen verified my observations. It may, perhaps, not be irrelevant to point out that 20 paces or 50 feet seems to have been a conventional measure for important thoroughfares during the Roman period. It is about the width,

I believe (if my memory serves me right), both of Wilson's and Robinson's Arches.¹

(d.) Some weeks after I had remarked the above-stated facts, I made two other curious discoveries which have led me to infer that the colonnades running eastward from the triple gate were composed of four parallel lines of columns, forming a middle thoroughfare 20 feet wide, leading up to the great central door-way, and two side ones, each about 10 feet wide, leading up respectively to the smaller gateways north and south of the central door-way. My reason for this inference is that in a dark corner inside a starch factory, just opposite to, and east of, the small northern doorway of the eastern triple gate is another column, marked *i* on plan. In size it is like the others, and its *centre*, as far as I could ascertain, is about 5 feet south of the axis of the north door-way over which is the inscription reported in *Q.S.*, 1910, pp. 40, 85. Column *i*, therefore, does not belong to the series *j, g, h*, but to another which, as I think, ran eastward in line with the great northern monolithic gate post of the middle door-way. If this be correct then a similar corresponding and parallel inner line of columns must be inferred as running eastward from the southern monolithic gate-post, and this seems to be confirmed by the fact that at the other end of the Harat el-Kaymariyeh, and exactly 4 paces, *i.e.*, 10 feet, north of the column marked *j*, inside the Medreseh Sheikh Abdallah el-Manganee, is the column *k*. Though covered with plaster, it is detached from the rest of the building, and in thickness similar to the others. I have marked the position of the Medreseh by the letter *C*.

The street corner at the turning opposite the entrance to the Medreseh is also just about 20 feet north of the column *k*. This street corner is remarkable for the massive stones of which it is built, and which, I think, were originally parts of a column now hewn to form a three-sided corner.

The street passing the Medreseh winds away north-east till it reaches another short straight street ending at a fountain, marked *E on plan, and where Dr. Masterman found a Greek inscription with the name, I think, of Apollodorus. Just opposite, and at the spot marked F, inside a deserted mosque, recently re-roofed, are

¹ [Robinson's Arch is 41 feet 6 inches between piers, and the piers are 12 feet 2 inches wide. The width from centre to centre is, therefore, 53 feet 8 inches. Wilson's Arch is 42 feet between piers.]

two other columns *in situ*. They are much worn, stand up to a height of about 6 feet from the floor, and at present support the arches bearing the ceiling. They stand east and west, 6 paces, *i.e.*, 15 feet apart. I have not been able as yet to find other columns in line with these, but shall be on the watch for such when the houses in line to the west of the mosque are pulled down, as I hear they will be a few months hence.

I mention these two columns because I have been asked whether I thought it not improbable that the great colonnade of which the

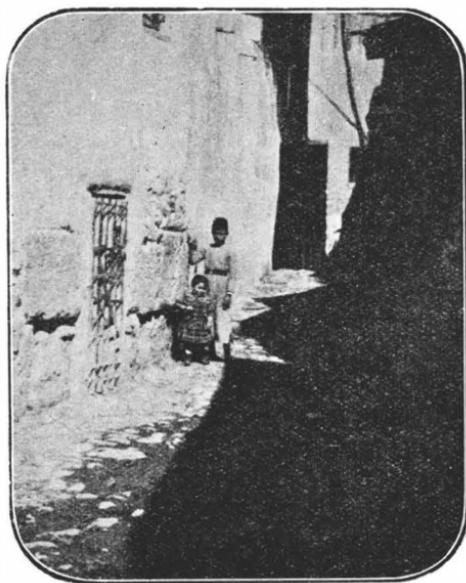


Fig. 4.—Fragment of Heavy Masonry.

vestiges have been above described may have turned northwards and then eastwards, approaching the Bab Tuma.

In reply I would say that I think that it ran eastward, traversing the city parallel to Straight Street, which, for nearly fifty years past, has been known to have been lined with colonnades in four rows from Bab esh-Shurki westwards. A few of these columns are still visible and others are exposed from time to time; some having been seen by me last year when the water pipes from 'Ain Fijeh were laid along Straight Street.

My reason for believing that the colonnades from the eastern gate of the Temple traversed the city is, that, as the plan shows, though the line of the Harat el-Kaymariyeh is interrupted by the encroachment upon it of Medreseh Sheikh Abdallah, etc., yet, the street running eastward through the Christian Quarter, and known now as "Harat ed-Deir" or "Ez Zikak el-Imballata," was originally, as I think, a prolongation of Harat el-Kaymariyeh.

The gate (there probably was one) in the city-wall no longer exists. I have carefully examined this wall from outside the city, searching for traces of it, but have hitherto found none.

The street passing Sheikh Abdallah's Medreseh has another winding eastward from it, and ending in a *cul de sac*, but just here are the remains (marked D^{xx} on plan) of what seems to have been a gateway 24 feet wide between the gate-piers. Of the northern gate-pier (*see* Photo 4) two courses, 27 inches high, are visible above ground; of the southern pier, only two stones of the same size.

Repeated searching along the southern side of Harat el-Kaymariyeh has, as yet, failed to reveal the existence of any line of columns or single ones. There are, indeed, two in the porch of the Kaymariyeh mosque itself (marked B on plan, and said by local tradition to occupy the site of a temple to Venus; and, as I may remark in passing, analogous, as regards direction, to that of the Venus-Temple at Baalbek), but they are evidently not *in situ*. The Harat is only about fifteen feet wide. No traces of columns have been found (those at F excepted) farther east than the Medreseh of Sheikh Abdallah.

Leaving the eastern side of the Temple enclosure and proceeding to the northern, we find, 45 paces, or 112 feet, north-west of the little north gate and piece of enclosure wall discovered by Mr. Dickie, a heavy Roman arch, marked G on plan, resting on massive piers, the courses of stone being 3 feet high (*see* Photo 1). This was probably a city gate, and it seems not unlikely that others connected with it, *viz.*, a great central and another side doorway may some day be found, if the buildings round it be ever pulled down or burned. This part of the town is known as Bayn es-Surayn, *i.e.*, "between the two walls," that is, the walls of the city and the Temple.

An examination of the plan will show that the street leading southwards from Mr. Dickie's north gate, if prolonged in a straight

line, would (in all probability it anciently did) lead through the *inner* eastern colonnade of the former Temple. It is continued in a street which, now starting just south of Madinet 'Isa, leads directly to the street called "Straight." I believe that there was another gate in the southern enclosure wall corresponding with and opposite to Mr. Dickie's northern one.

Just beyond the point where the street coming from Madinet 'Isa intersects "Straight" Street, and at the point I have marked H

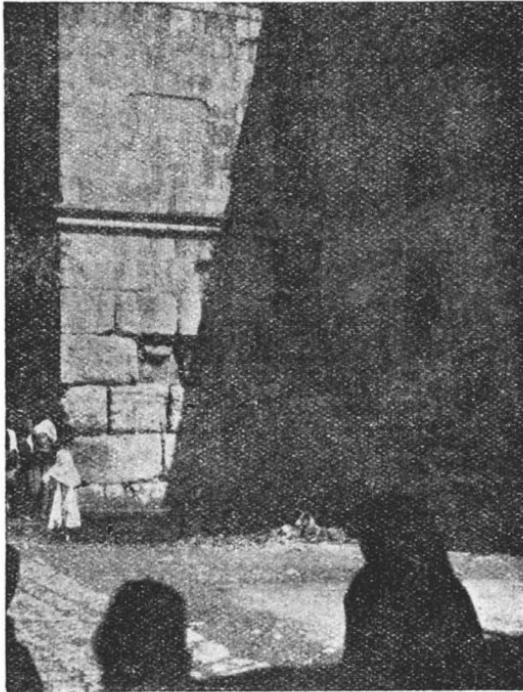


Fig. 5.—Remains of an Ancient Pier.

on plan, there is a tall minaret, remarkable because standing on what seems to have been an ancient pier, the massive courses of which are 27 inches high (*see* Photo 5), and resemble the masonry found elsewhere in the city—the lower courses at Bab Tuma, for instance. At Jerash and also at Palmyra, sets of four massive masonry piers exist at points where important thoroughfares intersect, it is therefore possible that the heavy base of the above-

mentioned minaret may belong to such a set, the companion piers being hidden beneath modern buildings close by, west, east and south.

Further examination of the plan shows that the axial line of the sweet-meat bazaar, if prolonged northward would lead directly to the great but now walled-up triple gateway with the celebrated inscription in the southern wall of the present mosque. May we not therefore also infer that, at the point where this line crossed the outer enclosure wall, there must have been another gate which has now disappeared?

In conclusion, and at the risk of being prolix, I would remark that the impression I have gained from observations noted in the foregoing, is that material exists for a rough reconstruction of the plan of Roman Damascus.

The ancient city was traversed by two long streets running east and west, ending in great triple gates, and lined with grand colonnades. These streets were intersected by others at right angles, and also ended in city-gates, some of which can still be identified: Bab Kisan, Bab Shaghur, etc. The palace and military quarter was where the present citadel stands; the agora, forum, or market south of the latter and south and west of the Temple enclosure. The theatre still needs locating. Perhaps the name of the "Midan" (or theatre) suburb will furnish the clue.

Lastly, I must record my obligation to Mr. Prumann, of the Electric Company, who kindly furnished a blue print from which the plan was traced.

THE MEANING OF THE NAME "THE OPHEL."

By THE REV. C. F. BURNEY, D.Litt.

RECENT literature dealing with the topography of Jerusalem appears to show that, many as are the unsettled and debatable questions, the meaning of the term Ophel is generally believed by investigators to be finally settled. Thus, Dr. Smith remarks that "the meaning of the word is well known. It signifies *lump* or *swelling*, and was