

causeway, probably to assist in this engineering operation. One of these appears in the photograph.

The animals carved on the upper course of stones are supposed to be lions. They are mentioned by Josephus, and this reference leaves no doubt as to the identity of the present ruin with the palace of Hyrcanus.

A. M. M.

THE ROCK RIMMON.

To the Editor of Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement.

IN your last *Quarterly Statement*, the Rev. W. F. Birch so winnowed with his critical pen Captain Conder's communication *in re* the Rock Rimmon, that I am left with a very little wheat and a great deal of chaff. I have no wish to be drawn into controversy, but should like to silence for ever any insinuations that the name Rummar, or Rummân, which was obtained by me from the Fellahin of Jebâ, when visiting the cave "Mughâret el Jâi," was the result of my first letting them know the place I wanted, and then, in the Eastern fashion, finding it given to me.

Mr. Salami, the Vice-Consul of Jerusalem, knew a thing or two about the Fellahin mind, and as we rode together to Jebâ he more than once said to me, "Whatever we do we must not give the shepherds a notion of the names of the cliffs or caves we wish to know about." And this caution was most conscientiously acted upon the day we explored the Wâdy Suweinit, entered the cave, and heard the name Rummân, in the valley of Michmash.

H. D. RAWNSLEY.

THE BODIES OF THE PATRIARCHS.

DEAR SIR,—I see in yesterday's *Times* Lieutenant Conder lately visited with the Princes the mosque at Hebron. I should like to point out, as a matter for discussion in the *Quarterly Report*, that the bodies of the patriarchs, with Jacob—if not those of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, and Leah—were transferred from Hebron to Shechem. (*See Acts vii, 15, 16.*) No reason for the removal is assigned, nor the time when it took place. Still, the fact is undoubted, though commonly overlooked. Could not search be made at Shechem for the spot to which the patriarchs were thus, as S. Stephen says, *μετετέθησαν*?

Yours faithfully,
CLERICUS.