

Fount, is a more modern excavation? This entire length from the masonry of the spring to the Siloam Pool is about 1,758 feet.

Captain Warren	1,708·0 + 50·8 = 1,758·8
Captain Conder	1,706·8 + 50·8 = 1,757·6
Dr. Robinson = 1,758

Captain Conder says: "Robinson's measurement includes in his 1,758 feet that portion of the cross passage which leads from the Siloam tunnel to the *back* of the Virgin's Pool, and which measures 50·8 feet by the chain." (*Quarterly Statement*, April, 1882, p. 122.) The above three measurements are taken from the same paragraph. But they all begin with the "back" of the masonry of the Virgin's Spring, some feet distant from the actual spring itself. The excavator who made the inscription probably never saw any masonry around the spring, neither should we allow it to interfere with our measurement "from the spring to the pool." The spring is fully 10 feet from the back masonry, where the above measurements began. The true length would therefore be about 1,768 feet "from spring to pool." This is the exact length given by the value of our cubit:

$$1,200 \times 17\cdot6798 \text{ inches} = 1,767\cdot98 \text{ feet.}$$

The accuracy of any value given to a cubit is always best seen when the number of cubits are large, for trifling errors are then multiplied into impossible values.

S. BESWICK.

Strathroy, Ontario, Canada,
November, 1883.

NOTE ON KADESH BARNEA.

In the *Quarterly Statement* for July there is an extract from a contribution to the "Sunday School Times" by Dr. H. Clay Trumbull, in which he refers to the inability of the recent Expedition of the Palestine Exploration Society to visit 'Ayn Qadees ('Ain Kadeis), the site identified by the Rev. John Rolands as Kadesh Barnea. Perhaps it may be desirable that I should offer a short explanation on this matter in anticipation of the much fuller account which will appear in the narrative of the Expedition shortly to be published.

Dr. Trumbull is correct in saying that the discovery of Kadesh Barnea was one of the objects to be kept in view by our party, but the question was, where was it to be found? It would have been manifestly impossible for us to go into the Badiet et Tih on a roving expedition in search of this or any other site, unless we had had unlimited time and means, both of men and money, at our disposal. Some of us thought that perhaps the

Springs of 'Ain Abu Werideh, at the western side of the Wâdy el Arabah, which we visited, might be the desired site of Kadesh, and plausible reasons might be adduced for this view; but, for myself, I am disposed to accept the identification advocated by Dr. Trumbull with great ability in his recent work in favour of 'Ain Kadeis. This spot has already been visited, and its position marked on the maps,¹ such as that of the Rev. F. W. Holland;² but it lies a long way off the line of our survey, and to have attempted to reach it under the circumstances in which we were placed, would have seriously risked the success of the main objects of our Expedition, namely, the topographical and geological surveys of the great Valley of the Arabah, and of its bordering hills on either side.

Nothing would have induced our Alowin Arabs to deviate from our line of march, which, as at first arranged with Mohammed Ibu Jhad, was to take us towards Gaza, by forced marches, from a point in the Arabah Valley one day's journey north of Jebel Haroun. This course, which we only agreed to with the greatest reluctance, was afterwards altered by his brother Ali, to that which we actually took down to the shores of the Salt Sea, and which enabled us to complete in its entirety the examination of the whole valley. The account of this change of plan will be found in the forthcoming narrative; when it will be seen how close was the risk we ran of leaving the survey of the Arabah Valley in a mutilated and incomplete condition owing to the fears, real or pretended, of our Arab escort. No one has ever carried out similar work with greater zeal and labour than did Major Kitchener and his assistant, Mr. Armstrong, and if any one could have reached 'Ain Kadeis while traversing the Arabah Valley, they would have done so; but I feel sure they will concur with me in saying, that to have wandered away into the Tih country in search of 'Ain Kadeis would have endangered the success of the whole survey, even had it been practicable.

In conclusion, allow me to say, that after having carefully read and considered Dr. Trumbull's arguments in his work "Kadesh Barnea," I am quite disposed to agree with him as regards this site; but I cannot go so far as to accept another mountain in the vicinity of 'Ain Kadeis for "Mount Hor," in favour of whose identity as Aaron's Tomb there is strong circumstantial, as well as traditional, evidence. I may have more to say at another time on this point.

Dublin, 24th July, 1884.

EDWARD HULL.

¹ Such as Smith and Grove's Ancient Atlas (J. Murray).

² *Quarterly Statement* for January, 1884, p. 9, with sketch of the Wâdy Kadeis.