

## THE WATERS OF SHILOAH.

IN *Quarterly Statement*, 1884, p. 75, I put forward the theory that these waters flowed along an aqueduct on the east side of Ophel from the Virgin's Fountain to the mouth of the Tyropœon. I am anxious for my theory to be tested (and (?) proved) by excavation. Meanwhile, it will be well to dispose of the objections raised against my aqueduct in the last two numbers.

Captain Conder seems to object—

(1) That it has left no known traces of its existence. As the same might have been said of the Moabite Stone before 1868, and the Siloam Inscription in 1879, the objection has obviously no weight. Only let traces be looked for where they may be supposed to exist, and then no doubt they will be found.

(2) That it is so drawn on my plan that it apparently joins on to an existing channel, in which water runs the opposite way. This objection, I consider, was answered by anticipation in the three queries placed in my plan against this part of the aqueduct.

Whether the aqueduct within the Tyropœon ran on the line marked, or on another line, or on no line at all, does not really affect my theory that there used to be an aqueduct on the east side of Ophel between the Virgin's Fount and Siloam.

Professor Sayce offers a curious objection. He says, Sir Charles Warren failed to find any traces of it in his galleries (or shafts) on Ophel, but he does not add (as he rightly might have done) that all these shafts, except possibly two, were *north* of the point whence my supposed aqueduct ran southwards, and that the two exceptions were at least 40 feet higher in elevation than the level of the supposed aqueduct. Under these circumstances it was impossible for Sir C. Warren to discover the aqueduct; he wrote to me, however, in November, 1883, as follows:—"I think it quite possible that there was an aqueduct on the east side of Ophel, as you suggest."

To sum up—

Professor Sayce, in connecting the waters of Shiloah with the Siloam Tunnel, is driven to attribute the latter to Solomon, and not to Hezekiah whom Captain Conder and others (myself among the number) regard as its author.

Captain Conder, by rejecting both Professor Sayce's tunnel and my aqueduct, has the *waters* of Shiloah left on his hands *without any water* at all. For water flowing down the Tyropœon could not be said to go softly, and waters flowing in a natural channel down the Kedron could not be the waters of *Shiloah*, as the meaning of this word shows that they ran through an aqueduct.

Here my supposed aqueduct affords a happy way out of the dilemma. It is most probable that the mouth of the Tyropœon was turned into well-irrigated gardens by means of such an aqueduct, centuries before the gigantic undertaking of making the Siloam Tunnel was ever dreamt of.

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