

similar to this. On the other hand, ancient Arab geographers speak of a locality which from the onomastic point of view would answer perfectly. It is *Ghamr*. Mukadessi mentions it on the road from Ramleh in Palestine to the Desert of Arabia: "from Sukkariyeh¹ to Tuleil, two days' march; from Tuleil to Ghamr, two days; thence to Waila,² two days. At Ghamr, he says elsewhere, bad water is procured by digging in the sand. I do not hesitate to identify the Ghamr with the Ain Ghamr of modern times, situated in the Arabah at the entrance of the Wady Ghamr, about twenty leagues south of the Dead Sea.

If objection is taken to placing Gomorrah at so great a distance from the Dead Sea, it must not be forgotten that according to the way in which the Book of Genesis (x, 19) proceeds with its enumeration, Gomorrah, as well as Seboim and Adamah, seems to have been south of Sodom. In this case the cities would occupy the southern part of the basin of the Dead Sea—Sodom and Segor being to right and left the most northerly. This would very well conform with the Arabic tradition, which is not to be despised, and which places in this very region what it calls the "cities of the people of Lot," which also clearly results from the enumeration of Mukadessi, who thus describes the limit of the Arabian desert, going from south to north: "Waila (Elath on the Red Sea), the cities of the people of Lot, Moab, Ammán, Edra'at, Damascus, and Palmyra."

RECENT DISCOVERIES AT JERUSALEM.

BY SELAH MERRILL, D.D., LL.D.

THE broad space between the castle, the buildings opposite, the barracks and the Mediterranean Hotel, also the street between the Jaffa gate and the entrance to the Mediterranean Hotel at the head of David Street, have during the past summer been torn to pieces, graded, and paved, and even side-walks have been built. When the workmen began in the middle of April last to tear up the rubble pavement, they said they were going to make streets and side-walks "like Europe." What they proposed to do could have been done in Europe in six weeks, but five months have elapsed since they commenced operations, and the work is not yet completed.

In grading the streets some of the houses have been endangered, because they were built almost on the top of the ground, and it has been necessary to supply patchwork foundations; consequently the walls near the ground are unsightly in the extreme. The pavement, however, so far as it goes, is certainly a great improvement upon the rough pavement which has been displaced. Unfortunately, the new pavement extends only about 110 yards from north to south, and about the same distance from east to west.

¹ About half-way between Gaza and Hebron.

² Which is Elath at the head of the Gulf of Akabah.

What I wish to call attention to at present are the remains of old houses, cisterns, and other structures that have been brought to light by the workmen who are making these so-called "modern improvements." These are shown on the plan of this part of the city which accompanies these notes. Before the work of grading the streets began, these remains were not known to exist; many of them were wholly or partially destroyed in the process of grading, and now that the streets have been re-paved no visible traces of their existence can be found.

As these remains were exposed one after another, I marked them on the plan, and was about to forward the same to the Palestine Exploration Fund, but delayed doing so for some weeks; meantime the Greeks began to clear the *débris* from the place marked "open field," and here discoveries have been made of more importance than any of the others. Nothing less has been brought to light than the actual foundations of the second wall described by Josephus as beginning at the gate Gennath and encircling the northern quarter of the town ("Wars," V, vi, 2).

Before speaking further of these I will describe briefly the remains which were brought to light by the grading of the street.

The places marked with the letter *A* represent old houses. Six or more feet of the tops of these were exposed, cut off, and levelled. All of these old houses or magazines were found to be nearly filled with earth and rubbish, and some of them showed excellent workmanship in their walls and roofs.

The places marked with the letter *B* represent old cisterns. Some of them may have been vats, but the cement on the walls of all of them was very thick and strong. These were all filled and the ground levelled. The two marked with the letter *C* are still in use.

At *D* there was a large pier or platform built of finely hewn stones.

E represents a large bevelled stone, 5 feet by 3 feet, and 2 feet in thickness. This was broken up in order to move it the more easily.

The broken line in front of the Mediterranean Hotel represents a continuous wall that was uncovered to a depth of 6 feet, since along this street they were digging a sewer. The wall was built of large hewn stones, and at intervals there were doorways.

When nearly opposite Duisberg's store a wall running obliquely to the other was encountered, but of a much larger and stronger character. This was with difficulty broken through, which must be done in order to open the sewer further along towards the Jaffa gate. This wall is also represented by a broken line.

Another wall was met with opposite Frutiger's Bank, which is represented on the plan in the same manner. Here the stones were larger than those already mentioned, and some of them were bevelled. Although they were displaced, one could not help thinking that they were on the line of an old wall of which they once formed a part. Nearly opposite Frutiger's Bank a stone ball, 11 inches in diameter, was found, the same as those used by the Romans in the siege of Jerusalem.

All these remains are interesting as showing what exists below the

surface of the ground. As the foregoing remarks close what may be called the first chapter in the history of these excavations, I will repeat what I have said, that all traces of them have now been obliterated.

II.

The Greeks, as I stated, began to clear the rubbish from the place marked "open field," with the design of surrounding this plot of ground on each of its four sides with commodious modern buildings, two storeys high, these to be surmounted in the course of two years by a third storey, which is to be used as a "Grand Hotel." This is the reported proposition.

A little below the surface a cistern and two houses or extensive magazines were exposed. These are marked by a circle and by oblong squares on the "open field." I ought to say that this field was 8 or 10 feet above the level of the street, and that the earth was supported by a wall.

Near the western angle of this field, and 10 feet below the level of the street, a large structure was found apparently of Roman work. Still lower, on the west side of this structure, there was a well-built canal, 20 inches square, which descended from the north-west. The character of this building I could not determine, nor could I ascertain where the canal led to. Somewhere near this point, however, there seems to have been a way of conveying water to the tower of Hippicus ("Wars," V, vii, 3).

The excavations all along the southern line of this field were carried down nearly 20 feet below the level of the street in order to secure the foundations of the new building.

Just at the right, or east of the remains marked on the "open field," a massive wall was exposed not far below the level of the street, and followed down about 15 feet. The line of this would be nearly parallel with the line of the broken wall opposite Frutiger's Bank. This wall was not vertical, but inclined like the wall of a deep trench around a castle, yet I should not judge that it had any such use. Near this, two smaller canals were found running in the same direction as the large one already mentioned.

It was below the eastern boundary of this field that the most important remains were found. Here at a depth of 15 feet from the surface of the ground, or rather of the street, a portion of the ancient second wall was exposed. Two layers of stone, and at two or three points three layers, were found still in position. These were of the same size and character in every way as the largest of the stones in the so-called Tower of David opposite. About 30 yards of this wall was uncovered. The large displaced stones represented by the heavy broken line opposite Frutiger's Bank, which were found when grading the street, would be on the line of the old wall beneath them.

These massive stones and all these old remains in this piece of ground have been worked into the foundations of the new buildings, and although they were not broken they are now covered and for ever lost from sight. It is a great satisfaction, however, to have seen these solid foundations of old Jerusalem uncovered after they had been buried for so many centuries.

It will be understood that I have not attempted to represent any of these more ancient ruins on the accompanying plan.

Besides the stone ball, three relics of the tenth legion were found, consisting of broken bits of pottery with the stamp of this legion upon them. Great quantities of broken pottery were thrown up from the trenches, mostly Roman.

Those who have made plans of Jerusalem now have an opportunity to verify their work. From what I have written above, the line of the second wall for a distance of 40 or 50 yards can be traced on any good map of the city, and as one result it seems to me more improbable than ever that the Holy Sepulchre should have been outside the second wall.

Jerusalem, September 15th, 1885.

KHURBET 'ORMA.

THE fact that during a residence of several months at 'Artouf I was in the immediate vicinity, and indeed within view, of a site which Captain Conder has attempted to identify with that of Kirjath-jearim, induces me to ask consideration for a few remarks which will, I trust, not be deemed out of place, though they may throw only a negative light on the Kirjath Yearim controversy in which the well-known Imperial German Baurath, C. Schick, upholds the views of Robinson in favour of Abu Ghosh or Kuryet-el Anab, the Rev. W. F. Birch advocates the claims of Soba as the site of the City of Rocky Mountain-side Thickets, whilst, as above stated, Captain Conder suggests the ruined site, called (for want of knowledge of the real name) Khurbet 'Erma, or, more correctly, Khurbet 'Orma, by the fellahin. Captain Conder's reasons for making this suggestion are stated at length in the *Quarterly Statement* for April, 1879 (pp. 95-99), and he is seconded in his views by the Rev. A. Henderson, whilst Herr Schick (pp. 181-187, *Quarterly Statement* for July, 1884) and the Rev. W. F. Birch (p. 61, *Quarterly Statement* for January, 1882) show, on topographical grounds, the serious objections to which this view is open. In the following I would deal with the statement of Captain Conder that the word 'Erma "preserves the principal letters of Jarim, which means 'thickets,' &c."

At first sight this argument appears very plausible, but a closer examination at once reveals its speciousness. The word 'Orma ^{عَرْمَة} means nothing more or less than "heap." The root is ^ع ^ر ^م = ^ع ^ر ^م, aw ord not used in the Kal form, but cognate to the verbs ^ר ^א ^ם, ^ר ^א ^ם, ^ר ^א ^ם, meaning to be high, elevated, &c. From this root ^ע ^ר ^מ = ^ע ^ר ^מ comes the word ^ע ^ר ^מ = ^ע ^ר ^מ, 'Orma, which is applied to "a 'heap' of wheat or grain on the threshing-floor," and which, used in this sense, occurs in Canticles vii, 3. In this passage the Hebrew word given is ^ע ^ר ^מ,