

I should be sorry to pass a decided opinion; but this stone appears to me to be an old lintel used during a period of re-construction, and not to be *in situ*, as Mr. Schick supposes. There seems no valid reason for believing it to be Jewish.

(4) That the new cistern made by the Russians is in the ditch of the second wall. The truth of this speculation can only be proved by excavation; it is not impossible, but the space cleared is so small that it is rash to base any theory upon it, and there may have been an old cistern on the spot. Mr. Schick's view of the further course of the ditch is open to greater objection. He places the chapel and cistern of Helena in the excavation. It is true that no rock can be seen in the chapel, on account of the plaster, but what we know of the lie of the rock near it would lead us to believe that a portion of the walls are of rock. As regards the cistern, I find in the "O.S. Notes" (p. 54), that is described as being "of irregular shape, hewn out of the *Malaki* bed, with the overlying bed of *Missae* left as a roof, one of the most ancient types of cisterns, and similar to those in front of the *Masjed al-Aksa*." If this description be correct, and I have no reason at present to doubt it, the ditch could not have run in that direction. There are other objections to Mr. Schick's theory, the discussion of which would occupy too much space.

(5) The pavements are not the least interesting of the discoveries. The lower pavement is on the same level as the floor of the Rotunda in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; the upper one at a slightly lower level than the floor of the Chapel of the Exaltation of the Cross, which is almost due west of it. How far either or both are the work of Constantine is a question; the lower one may in part be the street pavement of the city of *Ælia*; the upper possibly connected with the platform of the Temple that preceded the Church of Constantine.

It is so important that researches should be carried on at this spot, that the Committee have taken steps which they hope will be successful to work in co-operation with the Russian Society.

C. W. W.

LINE OF SECOND WALL.

Jerusalem, February 14th, 1888.

I.

IN the *Quarterly Statement*, 1888, page 16, Dr. Merrill pointed out that my Statements and Plan in *Quarterly Statement*, 1887, page 217, were wrong in two important points.

First, that the ancient remains of the so-called "second wall" are not in its right position and direction; and secondly, that I have not given it in full length!

To this I have only to say:—It is not my custom to go into any controversy at length, but only stating facts for my defence. In respect of

the second point I wish to say that the gentleman he calls the "Engineer" showed me the exact spot of the ancient stones towards north, at a point a little south, opposite of the corner of the street going eastwards (or the home of the Sisters of Zion), and that in the *Quarterly Statement*, 1886, page 23, Dr. Merrill himself gives its length to about 30 yards, that is 90 feet, and my drawing in *Quarterly Statement*, 1887, page 217, shows 108 feet; and in respect of its "prolongation towards north-west," the "Engineer," the mason, and other people who had seen it, told me that it was a wall of quite another description, and not grounded on the rock but standing on earth; further, in that region all foundations for the new building were made new—as I myself have repeatedly observed, and the "Engineer" told me.

In regard to the first point, the old wall shown in my plan as not giving its right position or direction I have to say: that the street had formerly been at an average of 10 feet wide, but now, after the new building is made, is now on an average of 15 feet wide. When the street was altered, see *Quarterly Statement*, 1886, page 23, for the description in the last 8 lines: "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 stones formed, as it was plainly perceivable, the inside of the ancient wall, and was partly under the narrow (old) street. As the ancient wall was of considerable breadth, its western face certainly fell "inside," i.e., towards west of the old boundary wall of the "open field"—but as the new building was put backwards, and the street made 5 feet wider, it fell nearer the edge of the new wall. The "Engineer," the mason, and others told me plainly, in the south, the *whole new wall stands on the old*, in the middle not fully the half, and in the north *nothing at all*—"not one inch," as the "Engineer" said—and accordingly, as I have seen the remains, consider the plan to be correct.

Finally, when my plan in 1887, page 217, does not agree with the one the "Engineer" had given to Dr. Merrill, this I can believe, and understand that I was not able to get also such a one from him, although it was promised to me repeatedly, but I was obliged to make my own, which every one may compare with its object.

The "cistern" spoken of in *Quarterly Statement*, 1888, page 16, I would not call it a "large one." It ends towards west, in about the middle of the (former) street, not going fully to the boundary wall at that time (i.e., to the ancient wall), and its greater part extends eastwards under the building of the Joseph Sisters.

This I thought to be my duty to explain to the Palestine Exploration Fund.

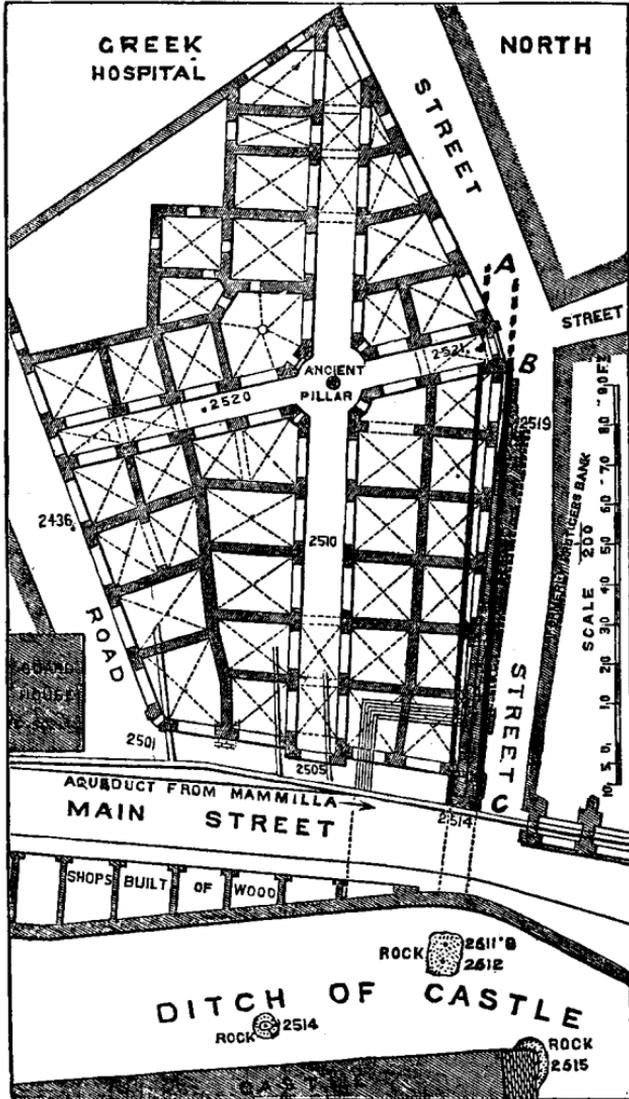
C. SCHICK.

II.

I have indicated on the inclosed plan, which you kindly sent me, the direction of the old wall according to my notes and observations. From C to B the line was nearly complete. From B to A it was broken.

Looking over my notes, and comparing them with the line which the engineer made (indicated in pencil lines on the inclosed plan) of the course

PLAN OF NEW BUILDING NEAR JAFFA GATE, SHOWING LINE OF SECOND WALL.



Thick black lines A, B, C, Dr. MERRILL. Thin lines with shading, HERB SCHICK.

The figures apply to the Rock levels, not the surface of the ground.

of the old wall, I am inclined to think that there may have been a slight angle at or near the point B, the wall beyond B, in the direction of A, turning to the left. If the question lies between Schick, Merrill, and the Engineer, I should say, were I appointed to decide upon it officially, that the Engineer's testimony should have the first consideration.

SELAH MERRILL.

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NOTES ON A JOURNEY FROM ISKANDERÛN TO TRIPOLI.

BY GREVILLE J. CHESTER, B.A.

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ON the 20th of November, 1886, I arrived by the Russian steamer at Iskanderûn, which, although an open roadstead, is, from its position, the only tolerably safe anchorage in Northern Syria. The small town of mean dwellings is beautifully situated under the steep but forest-clad range of Mount Amanus, which is an offshoot of the still higher mountains of the Cilician Taurus, whose towering heights are seen in the distance across the gulf. Iskanderûn is malarious and fever-stricken, on account of an undrained and pestilential marsh which festers immediately behind the houses of the town. Drainage would be easy, and would conduce enormously to the welfare of the place, which is almost uninhabitable in summer and early autumn; but the Turks are averse from improvements of any kind, so nothing is done.

In a wonderfully short space of time my excellent servant, Yusuf Basil, of Beirût, had struck a bargain for two horses and a mule for the journey to Tripoli, and by 3 o'clock I was in the saddle. My muleteer, Mohammed, had never before been beyond Antioch.

Crossing the marshy plain, whose stagnant pools abound with freshwater turtles, and their rushy banks with tree-frogs greener than the reeds to which they cling, I speedily reached the base of the mountain, up which a well-engineered road, constructed by a foreign company, winds on its way to Aleppo, and in three hours reached Beilân, a populous village of Christian Armenians, situated a little below the watershed. I found fair accommodation at a new Khân most picturesquely placed, its stone substructions being thrown across a rocky ravine, and supporting a wooden veranda, out of which the guest-chambers open. The view down the defile, with its precipitous rocky sides, to the tranquil gulf below, with the huge snow-capped mountains of Asia Minor, and in the neighbourhood of Tarsus, is beautiful in the extreme. Below the village the ravine is vocal with falling water, and is full of pomegranates and other fruit trees. The houses of Beilân are flat-roofed, with projecting wooden galleries, and are built in terraces one above the other. The village street