

rear the flank of the mountain is quite inaccessible. It is connected with the mountain by a neck of land, on which are the remains of some ancient ruins, and is approached from the side.

I have also been able to decipher the only inscription I have yet found on Carmel ; it is over a rock-tomb at Kh, Raktiyeh (*see* article on "Khurbets of Carmel," *Q.S.*, p. 30, 1884), and is as follows :--

"MAPEINOY MNHMEION,"

on the tomb of Marinos, evidently from the crosses cut below the name, a Christian. It is interesting as showing that until the conquest of Palestine by the Moslems, these rock-tombs were used by Christians.

LAURENCE OLIPHANT.

August 2nd.

BOAT-SHAPED GRAVES OF SYRIA.

In the *Quarterly Statement* for October, 1887, I described some boat-shaped graves which I saw in the Anti-Lebanon. In the *Quarterly Statement* for January, 1888, Captain Conder suggests that these graves should be compared with the anthropoid sarcophagi of Phœnicia, and with the wooden mummy cases in Egypt. "The form," he says, "follows that of the human body." If he means the form of the anthropoid graves of Phœnicia, why, of course it does ; but if he means the form of the graves which I described, I must say distinctly that it does not. The form is boat-shaped, and not human-shaped. Captain Conder apparently has not seen the graves, and has not seen my drawings.

I observe also Captain Conder's present opinion, that "Charon was probably not connected with Horus, but with the Etruscan Charun, 'the black (or evil) god' of death." I did not mean to assert on my own authority that Charon was connected with Horus. I mentioned that a carnelian scarab found at Amrit, in Phœnicia, exhibits a ship with the sun above it, and letters which Perrot reads as Kheb, but which Captain Conder would read Kher and regard as the Semitic spelling of Horus. I said, also, that in the boat which was brought up to the lake side in the funeral ceremony in Egypt the boatman's name was Charon, and both Charon and his boat were adopted by the Greeks. This statement rests on the authority of Sir Gardner Wilkinson, who quotes Diodorus, and adds that both the name and character of Charon are taken from Horus, who had the peculiar office of steersman in the sacred boats of Egypt.

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