

work terminated towards the north. From time to time large pieces of the mosaic pavement have been found in that place. During the last week a great deal of rubbish has been removed with the intention of building an outhouse; this has laid bare a considerable portion of pavement perfectly horizontal in position. About three yards below this the top of a cistern was discovered with two well-worn rock-cut steps leading to it. The cistern was filled with rubbish fallen in from above; it is apparently a large one, though an accurate estimate cannot be formed from the small part excavated; it seems to be of the beehive shape, but it may prove to be square. There are portions of fine cement still adhering to its sides. The cement is formed of lime, sand, and pottery, though only a very small proportion of the latter.

Rude masonry, which possibly may have been the foundation of more steps, is built upon the edge of the cistern which comes immediately below the boundary wall. The cistern will be about four yards from the outer face of the scarp exposed in the Greek Catholic Cemetery. It is at a higher level than the other cisterns found in the school, and judging from its appearance is most probably of the same date.

In examining the tool-marks left on the Rock Scarp of Zion, and also those of the so-called tombs of the Kings and Judges on the north of Jerusalem, I have been surprised to find a great similarity of workmanship. The water-channels which are cut in the face of the solid rock are also on a similar pattern. Might I ask if attention has been drawn to this?

FRANK T. ELLIS.

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## THE LACHISH INSCRIPTION.

Note by Professor A. NEUBAUER.

ACCORDING to Professor Sayce's communication the original of the Hebrew inscription from Tell-el-Hesy is **לסמך** and not as Professor Clermont-Ganneau states, with too much assurance, a word in which the second letter is a *heth*. *Hasšk* is unknown as a proper name, whilst **סמך** occurs in the Bible as a composite proper name in **אחויסמך** (Exodus xxxi, 6, xxxv, 34, and xxxviii, 23) and in **סמכיהו** (1 Chronicles xxvi, 7).

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