

(51) The main results are (1) That there are no early villages to be found, agreeing with the lake having extended over all the basin in early times. (2) That the Roman cultivation extended 5 or 6 miles further on the E & the N of the Fayum than at present; and in fact I suspect that the old lake border was about 10 miles or more N. of the present cultivation. (3) That Ptolemais almost certainly stood at the present end of the south canal. (4) That the emporium for the trade to the Natron Lakes was probably at Kom Wezūm where the weights are. (5) I have fixed the position & the age of most of the towns round the Fayum now, & see none worth working at. (6) That it is just as well not to be too easily scared by queer news. This J^l was lost, crumpled & delayed by the Arabs. Now I shall probably stay on here for two or three weeks; doing some odd jobs, & buying in all the flow of small antikas from the hunters who now have free course. I got some good things from them. After that, if there is no news of Palestine, I may go & work that mastaba on the hill, or the Rubaiyat cemetery. I may not write next week if nothing occurs. Hughes leaves 28th.

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[The darker sentence was added by Anne Petrie, W. M. F. Petrie's mother.]

XIII.

Address care of Rev^d J. L. Hall, The Mission House, Jaffa, Syria.
6-19 Mar 1890

Having had the four days <on> which I had arranged to attend to the examination of the antiquities, entirely swallowed up by Grébaut['s] delays; and being informed by him, after he had seen all he wished of the things, that nothing could be decided until some of the Committee inspected those things at some uncertain time hence, I did not think it well to put off all my Syrian arrangements indefinitely by staying on in Cairo. So I left open four of the cases which Grébaut had inspected, beside leaving the altar of Usertesen & the XII dyn. stela, & the great wooden door; and left the money with Brugsch for forwarding the cases, beside sending directions to Moss, & so just managed to leave Cairo in time for the steamer. I wrote to Moncrieff as the Com^{ee} were involved in the inspection, & he could see pretty well how the matter stood. When I saw Moncrieff a little before, he said he really could not tell how the inspection was going to be arranged, evidently very much annoyed with the whole business; & I think he will be still more provoked at Grébaut's clumsiness.

At Alexandria I bid good bye to Ebsworth, & left at 4 on Friday. We thus just got out into a tolerable wind & rollers before dinner

Mrs Petrie, Bromley, Kent.

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Mrs Petrie, Bromley, Kent.

(53)
 which quite finished my capabilities. After a
 nasty night we anchored at Port Said. I
 staid on board all day & did some writing
 & accounts, & secured one meal. Just before
 dinner we left there, and though the storm
 had gone down there was a heavy swell
 rolling in which kept us lively all night, till
 we anchored at Jaffa at 3 a.m. There was
 so much sea on that we bumped heavily
 against the rocks in the usual anchorage,
 & steam was put ^{on} all in a scuffle, & we
 went & lay further out. Next day we
 all stood anxiously watching the heavy
 line of breakers in front of the harbour,
 & fully expected that we should have to go on
 to Beyrut, & take the next steamer back
 again. However a heavy rain that came
 up quieted the sea a little, & after
 waiting till 11 we at last saw the boats
 coming out to meet us. The boats here
 are large & massive to bear the rough seas;
 but they could not venture through the usual
 passage which was a mass of breakers, but
 came over the sand shoals at a risk of
 sticking & being swamped. The miseries
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 of the waiting in the boat to leave the ship, & the

long row into the harbour (such as it is) ^{in heavy showers} are
 untellable. For 24 hours after it I was ⁵⁴
 shaking inside & out, & even two or three days
 have hardly put me right again.
 After a long tussle with the extortionate
 boatmen, who tried everything short of open
 assault, I had to settle them by going to their
 nominal master above of the hotels. Thence
 I made my way to Mr Hall's; but found
 that he had been obliged to go to Jerusalem
 on business with some officials of the C.M.S.;
 Mrs Hall however welcomed me most
 kindly, & he had sent a letter down to meet
 me at the ship, which I did not get owing to
 all the confusion of the weather. This was
 Sunday, & I was only too glad to rest after
 my miseries of the morning. Mrs Hall is
 a patient, careworn, sweetly kind looking
 woman, who seems almost borne-down
 with all she has to do. There are four
 children, two boys & two girls, from 3½ to about
 12, and a governess to help with them, who
 is well suited to Mrs Hall I should think. The
 children are intelligent, & the eldest girl is
 very nice & will soon be a help to her
 mother. Next day I went round to the four

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post offices, Turkish, French, Austrian, & Russian
in search of letters, but one mail is
nowhere, & I only got two Academics.
I saw the agent about my cases, & set a customs
agent to pass them for me, as that is a
long affair here, & done much better by
some one who the officials know. I called on
Amzalek the Brit. Consul (a Spanish Jew
who knows no English); he was ill in bed, but
saw me for a little & was very polite; of
course we talked in Arabic. In the afternoon
I went down the coast southward for a
mile or so, & found remains of Roman pottery,
chipped flints, & strangest of all an attempt at
chipping a tool out of green glass, done in
quite the orthodox flint chipping way, &
proving that this chipping was in use in Roman
times when such glass was made.

Next morning I was out by 6 1/2 to take a
place that the Hall's man had secured for
me in a carriage going up to Jerusalem.
The omnibus that used to run has ceased,
& one must either take a carriage, or
get a seat in one going. I found that my
companions were three Italians, worthy folks, one from
a bakery in Cairo with a Triestese wife, who was
fluent in Cairene, & so we got on very well. The
journey is 37 miles & takes a whole day with the

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(2)

stoppages, at Ramleh, the foot of the hills, & again ⁽²⁾
 in one of the valleys. It is slow work toiling up
 half a mile vertically, & ¼ mile of this ascent is within
 5 miles of road. The greyness of everything is ⁽⁵⁶⁾
 oppressive; the hills are mainly bare grey
 limestone, the villages are equally grey stone
 houses, & the trees are grey olives. The wild flowers
 give some bright colour in parts, crimson poppies,
 & exquisite pale purple orchids; in one valley
 were many almond trees all fully out. In the
 plain the villages are indistinguishable at a
 distance, as the houses are covered with earth
 which is all green with grass, so that the
 village looks like a group of grassy hillocks. I saw
 the old was stick [↑], like the primeval Egyptian,
 in use here, as I had seen it at Ismailiyeh.

By about sunset we reached the outskirts of
 Jerusalem, which has spread in the last
 few years for about a mile out along the
 Jaffa road. We turned into the city by a new gate
 in the wall, which threw me out of my bearings.
 I soon found the Mediterranean Hotel however
 where the PEF stores are, but it was full &
 I went to a new branch of it just opened, the
 New Hotel. This has 50 rooms, & though only opened
 two or three months, it was quite full, as well
 as all the other hotels, such is the flood of
 tourists already; what it will be at Easter in
 the height of the season is an awkward matter.
 The landlord, whom I addressed in Arabic, declared there

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(57)
 was no room whatever; but after a while finding that I was English he offered to let me have a cupboard room of his own next the pantry. I only got 4 hours sleep, from the noise of the washing up &c, but he fairly warned me of it. Next day I got a good room.

While I was in the sitting room just after arriving, who should pass me but Prof. Hayter Lewis, & from him I found that Dr Chaplin was also here. In the evening I went to look up Mr. Hall who was up at another hotel, he was out; but next morning I went up & found him, & had a pleasant hour's talk before his return to Jaffa. He introduced me to Dr Zeller who had a talk, & tells me that the Turks have a fixed idea that the English want to take Syria, not from a wish for conquest, but to hinder the French & Russians from advancing here. Hence exploration in some parts is jealously watched. Most happily for me however the present Pasha of Jerusalem (who is governor of all the Palestine) is an excellent man; he has lived in Paris for some time, & thoroughly knows the European point of view, so that he will not have any ideas of our wanting to find treasure or having political aims. He is very good friends with the Consul, Mr. Moore, on whom I next called, & will certainly interpret every regulation as much as may be in our favour, and

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in case of any native obstruction we are certain to obtain just assistance. Mr. Moore was very polite, & gave me every information that I wanted from him with great cordiality. Then I called on Herr Schick the architect, who is now too infirm for much active work out of doors, but is still the recorder of all discoveries that are made here. He also talked over matters with me. From all these friends I carefully gleaned the needful details as to wages, change, living, & such points. In the afternoon, having seen all the people that I wanted on business, & finding that Mr. Moore has not yet received the firman, (I will telegraph if it does not arrive in two days by next mail) I was for once clear of the possibility of pushing on my business, & could fall back on making the most of my chances of seeing & learning here. And the opportunity was the best I could have; Prof. Lewis is one of the first authorities on Jerusalem architecture & history; he is here to renew his studies in a leisurely manner, & escorting Miss Smith, whose father - the vicar of Woodchester (the place of the great Roman pavement in Gloucester^{sh}) - ~~is~~ who is here with Dr Chaplin on business of the Jews' Society. Hence I am so fortunate as to be shewn all that ought

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make the most of it.

I shall not try to name all that I see here,
but some points outside of the guide book run.
I am much surprised with the geography of the
town. The temple hill is dominated on all
sides by the rock hills around; the city slopes
down from the high ridge by which the Jaffa
road reaches it, & then (anciently) the temple
hill was a separate low ridge (relatively
speaking) running from N to S. Then in place of
a continuous hill of Olivet along the east
of the city (as I had imagined) there is a steep
fall; so that though Olivet rises high over the
temple hill ^{on the NE}, it falls away to the south so
sharply as to leave a full view of the Jordan
valley & moat from the temple.



I spent a morning with my friends & Herr Schick
going over the Haram; but one rather learns
what a little can be seen: in every direction
the most essential questions remain
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(3

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 Herodian, Constantine, & Justinian. But what
 lies beneath these vaults is the great question:
 as we do not in the least know if the great
 outer wall is backed against a rock scarp, or
 filled by rubbish or vaults. →  or
 On this question turns the age of the wall. If against the rock, it must
 be on the site of Solomon's wall, & therefore the
 lower courses at least would be of Solomon's
 work. But if there is filling behind it, the
 whole might be of Herod, & Solomon's wall
 have been farther in  From what
 Prof. Lewis tells me of the dressing of the lowest blocks I should certainly
 suppose them to be Herod's. Excavation in the
 vaults would be impossible for us; but a great
 deal has been done by the last Pasha in
 removing the rubbish, for making it a prison:
 and it is possible that the Turks might be
 induced to clear more if cash was given.
 The so-called mosque, or dome over the rock,
 is most beautiful, the whole outside (nearly)
 being gorgeous with blue & green glazed tiles
 of about 3 centuries old, the effect of colour is
 fascinating. The oldest parts are the mosaic
 arches in the inside, in marvellous condition

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(61) as they date from 704 AD; and their colouring, which is in shades of green, is one of the most exquisite things I have seen. The dome itself is ^{inside} a mass of mosaic of Saladin's, which though very splendid is not so beautiful as the older work. And all this covers a rough rock, which rises 4 or 5 feet in the space under the dome; what that was no man can now say. It has been trimmed & dressed in parts; but when, no one knows. The cave under it is so filled with the sides & floor with plastering &c, that we cannot see where it goes; it seems like one of the natural caverns found about the hills here, & was very likely a rock dwelling before the Israelite invasion.

The mosque of El Aksa appears to me to be clearly a copy of a basilica built ^{by a Roman architect} for the Arabs out of older materials. I cannot imagine the present irregularity of columns & capitals to be Justinian's; but the form is purely the Roman basilica with arcades or clerestories  in the side walls, & section 

While later on the thick outer walls were cut through, & converting them into massive piers, between which the openings led into additional aisles or colonnades in the more usual mosque type.

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Miss Smith, who was with the party, is probably ⁶²the first woman who ever took photographs in the Haram: so little fanaticism is shewn now that there was no objection, & she met with cordial attention from the shekh-custodian. Of course her father & the kawass looked after her duly; as Lewis, Chaplin, Schick, & myself were away after architecture.


Another day we went to see the rock houses & chapels at Siloam, a village which is built on to the face of the cliff, most of the houses being half in the rock. Here was lately found an early chapel with an inscription naming Isaiah the prophet (who is said to have been killed near here).

ΚΤΥΘΗΡΕΡΩΙΚΑΙΑ ΠΡΟΦ ΤΟΥ

It has been taken by the Franciscans & made into a modern chapel, after a rude sort, which preserves it. There went down a rough way in the rock, polished by ages of wear, known as Zuweilah, the "Zohelath" of Kings.

I saw also the ancient rock scarping & steps which may belong to a very early date, now built on by Bp. Gobat's school. I was much interested when looking over the boys there to pick out two decided Hittites, quite different to the others: on enquiring, one came from Bethlehem, the other from Jerusalem, but they were related, & the common family came from Es Salt, E. of Jordan (latitude of Jaffa); so there is probably a Hittite branch

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⁽⁶³⁾ there. I have been stirring, both at the school & on Mr Hall, about getting photographs of the modern people here of the old types, & I think it may be done.

The firman has been issued, & a translation came from the Foreign Office, but where the original is we do not yet know. The terms are bad in some ways; everything to the Turkish museum, not even duplicates or rejected things for us, though possibly we may manage something afterwards; then the work is never to be interrupted for more than two months, so I can hardly return to England until the place is finished; & a Turkish official always to be on the place & to take charge of everything as found, & to be paid by us, which means £ 20-30 a month loss. This makes it desirable to dig on as large a scale as possible, so as to finish as soon as may be: the permission covers 2 years. I have got two good tents second hand from Cook, & cheap. And as soon as the firman arrives, & I can visit the Pasha with the Consul, I shall be off to Jaffa to pick up my baggage & go to the work. / The firman is to reach here about 26th from Stanbul. ~~Please~~ So I shall not leave here till abt 28th; & not be at work till abt 6th April. There are no letters as all are lying at the 4 offices in Jaffa.

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XIV-
19-26 Mar 90

19-26 Mar 90 The weather was so cold & wet (64) that I had a slight return of influenza, & had to keep indoors for two days, as warm as I could here. Happily warmer weather since has put me all right. After telegraphing to the embassy, a reply came from Stambul that the firman would be sent on the 20th, but that mail will not be in till the 30th, so I cannot leave till after that.

I measured the so-called "Tombs of the Kings" & find that they were excavated by the Roman fort; & this agrees with the usual opinion that they date about 40-50 A.D.

The remains of villages on the hills about here do not look very promising to excavate; there is hardly any depth of soil left. I went over two of them, but only picked up Roman pottery & tesserae.

I went through the great quarries under Jerusalem. They appear to occupy more than half of the area on the N.W. of the N. side of the Haram. From the water still trickling into a pool at the end, & the several waterworn hollows in the limestone, it seems evident that they originated in a long natural passage dissolved by the water, which was enlarged by quarries into the present caverns. There are many varieties of quarrying: the most regular

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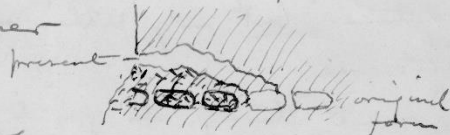
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(65) leaves symmetrical piers & a flat hewn roof; then there is rougher work without a regular roof, i.e. blocks broken out by side cuttings only; & there is very irregular scooping in the rock. The stone is mostly very soft, not harder than ordinary chalk. The present entrance is much higher than the general level of the quarry, & the space below it is filled with earth: the roof is very wide & irregular. It seems to me that originally the quarries were all of regular work with piers left; then later more careless quarriers cut away the piers as the easiest parts to remove, & so let down all the roof in the outer part in a cavernous manner.



There does not seem to be any quarry mark, nor inscription, nor finished dressing, in any part. There are often two levels of the quarry, irregularly worked one below the other.

I went down to Hebron, driving there & back in a day, with Dr Chaplin, Mr. Miss Smith, & Dr Kelk. Solomon's Pools (so called) are a fine work, partly cut in the rock, partly built. But the

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was full, the second nearly so, & the lowest
had only a small amount. The whole together
covered about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in length, 70 yds wide & 10 yards
deep.

Near Hebron is the lower part of a large
building, different in work from any other
about here. It is about 55 x 70 yards; &
still three courses high, one buried, & the other
two rising to about 6 ft. The blocks are large,
some 15 ft long, & each course of equal
height all round, & very flat & regular.
The stones have no drafting round the face,
but are quite flat, & without tool marks.
But the inside has been added to later, &
there are drafted stones. It looks to me very
ancient, either Solomonian or Amorite, either
ruined & then rebuilt in Herod's time or
later, & then again ruined. There are also
remains of other buildings & walls of rough stone
about there; and ~~near~~ the top of a hill by it are
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 be impossible that such high walls should have
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 there is no trace of rebuilding. I have ^{bought} some
 excellent photographs of it, including the inside, which
 was only taken by special order from the Sultan &
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 seen it.

I have been overhauling the Fund stores, ~~the~~
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The difficulties & risks of posting will be such
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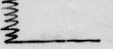

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

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XV

27 Mar - 2 April /90.

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mainly exploring & measuring the rock tombs about
the Kedron valley. Some of them are very fine,
the outer halls being about 15 x 45 feet, & the inner
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enlarged by galleries , concentric, & plastered
all over carefully; then 24 loculi & two
chambers & passages were cut for tombs through
the plastering.
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enough even if he should leave.

On Saturday after lunch, I got a note from Mr
Moore saying that my permission had arrived.
So I at once went to the consulate, & after a few
words he went with me to the governor's.
Reshad Pasha was as agreeable as could be
over the matter, willing to facilitate us in every
way, & not in the least grasping as to the
question of the pay of the government inspector;
I asked to have a native & not a Turk, as I wanted
to be able to use Arabic with him, & so he
appointed a relation of one of the Jerusalem
notables (known somewhat to Dr Chaplin); and as I hear
that he has an affection for the bottle, no doubt a
little supply of bakhshish will keep him happy.
Everything was settled in twenty minutes, & Mr Moore
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the digging. As Reshad read over the whole
permission aloud in Turkish, there can be
no possible question of his having overlooked any
point.

I bid good bye to Herr Schick, who was quite
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Jaffa. My man, who was waiting here for a
week past for me, seems a good fellow.
He had been to a fair & bought me a large
donkey in good condition for 4½ naps, as they
are cheap just now. I have been getting
various stores that I want, & hope that I shall
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The total of letters received here is; from
Bromley March 7, 12, 21, (the first one sent is not found) -

F.L.G. March 6 & 8 1 (which I will answer after consideration)

Bowdon March 18
also Nult, Talfourd Ely, Wallis, & Wiederman.
Academys, ^{Mar 1 & 8} ~~come~~ ^{not later} but only the Pub. Op & Nature sent March 21, all others nowhere. ^{No Longman ->}

No letters from the P.E.F., though I should have expected one: nor any proofs from Harrison.

// I am sorry about the R.T.S. application for photos. Harper has copyright of those he published, & that must be acknowledged; also I have their blocks & would supply them for use; also I wanted to do an article for the mags myself, using the blocks. The blocks are in left hand of 5th or 6th drawer from bottom of case behind my study door.

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XVI.

31 Mar - 6 April 1890.

I did not mention that as I went down to Jaffa (or Yafa as it should be called) the sky became clouded, & a strong E. wind that we had had broke; puffs from the SW came, & as I neared Ramleh I saw a low light cloud bowling forward from the S.W. below the black overcast, & was astonished at the rate it altered, (curls of it rolling up as I looked at it), & the rate it went along, 30 or 40 miles an hour apparently. Then came rain; most had passed to the north, nearer the sea, we only had the tail of the storm, but such rain I have seldom seen; and the curtains which formed half the side of my conveyance, being, one gone, & the other without fastenings, I had all my time occupied in holding something as a shelter, while my saddle-bag of clothes I gripped between my knees to keep it out of the water <which collected> in the carriage.

After I got to the Hall's I heard what a storm had raged there; wherever shutters were left loose the glass was all smashed, & they referred to it as a sufficient test of the security of their roof, which looks looser than it is → [R]

the top storey being smaller than the lower, with a deep verandah all round, leaving an open air promenade.


Every where, as I have gone over the country, I have seen the great effect of this storm; fields high up on the hills are washed over with mud; & paths are constantly cut by the waterfalls of the receding channels, surface drainage being thus - [R] (waterfall - path)

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(73)
 Wed^y 7, when I had intended to leave, was so wet in the morning that I could not go out; so I had to postpone, & finished shopping in the afternoon. Then there was an uncertainty about camels. It had been so wet that none had come from the country to be hired; & my man was very desirous of going off home in the evening, & getting up a man & camels whom he wished to employ. So after some bother, he hired a horse, & rode off to Jimzu beyond ~~Rea~~ Lydd that night, where he comes from. The camels came duly next morn, by 9, & we got loaded from the goods agent & the Halls & all off by 12. Thus we just got to Yebna by dark, & pitched by moonlight. Yebna - Jamnia - or Jabniel, is a dirty cluster of grass-topped mud huts which rises above the general level of the rolling plain of Philistia. This plain, or wide expanse of slightly wavy ground, is one of the greenest sights I have ever seen. Most of it is in corn, without a trace of break, or ditch, or hedge, from hill to hill. The separation of the different strips can just be traced by the growth; but each plot seems to be about 30 feet wide, & over $\frac{1}{2}$ mile long, & as it went on from the road up to the top of the next rise, & where to I know not. The straightness

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of the ploughing is striking; seldom could I see
 6 inches of bend in the line. Some regions are
 all left in pasture, some in heather or wild
 plants, some in fallow. Everywhere the west
 boundary is the mass of sand dunes which
 gradually eat up the land; now ^{covering} some four or
 five miles wide from the sea coast, & ending in
 steep slopes which stand up 20 feet or more
 above the cultivated plain.

Next day we went on, past Ashdod, which
 has been partly swallowed by the sand dunes,
 but still bears a mass of green topped houses
 on its heap. After looking over some sites on
 the way I pushed ahead of the camels to Burer,
 & looked out for the best camping. I could get
 no shade of trees, but found a wide meadow,
 east of the town beyond the well, which was
 good ground, & sloped down sharply into a
 little watercourse, so that it is well drained.
 Here we pitched, with some cactus-hedged
 gardens a little way off on three sides, & Burer
 on the west. During the night I was awake by
 a dog getting in; & again by a slight noise, &
 looking up, saw a gap in the tent ^{in it} a man's head
 & shoulders, & heard the intruder fumbling over
 the tool bag, too heavy to carry off & awkward to
 open. I challenged, he ran, & four bullets
 went over his head, to improve his pace. I had

of the ploughing is striking; seldom could I see
 6 inches of bend in the line. Some regions are
 all left in pasture, some in heather or wild
 plants, some in fallow. Everywhere the west
 boundary is the mass of sand dunes which
 gradually eat up the land; now <covering> some four or
 five miles wide from the sea coast, & ending in
 steep slopes which stand up 20 feet or more
 above the cultivated plain.

Next day we went on, past Ashdod, which
 has been partly swallowed by the sand dunes,
 but still bears a mass of green topped houses
 on its heap. After looking over some sites on
 the way I pushed ahead of the camels to Burer,
 & looked out for the best camping. I could get
 no shade of trees, but found a wide meadow,
 east of the town beyond the well, which was
 good ground, & sloped down sharply into a
 little watercourse, so that a[?] is well drained.
 Here we pitched, with some cactus-hedged
 gardens a little way off on three sides, & Burer
 on the west. During the night I was awake by
 a dog getting in; & again by a slight noise, &
 looking up, saw a gap in the tent, <in it> a man's head
 & shoulders, & heard the intruder fumbling over
 the tool bag, too heavy to carry off & awkward to
 open. I challenged, he ran, & four bullets
 went over his head, to improve his pace. I had

75. noticed the chance of an opening being tried there, & had put all small articles far from the place, which was an illsecured & needless doorway. Next day I sewed it all up, & generally improved the arrangements. I went to the shekh, & he much wanted me to pitch in a dirty courtyard with beasts & fowls about. I would not, but proposed to have two guards out near the tents, so as to make the village responsible. The shekh is an oldish man, quiet & sensible, & I think there will be no troubles there.

It is curious to hear not only of El Kuds (Jerusalem) but Kudes as some say, much nearer Kadesh. The Arabs in whose region Ajlan is, are not called Amarin so often as El Amar, exactly the Egyptian name of Amorites. I suspect it is the same name, & perhaps more from the locality than from the origin of this tribe. The people here use subterranean corn & fodder bins; & I saw several letting down baskets & pulling them up full of stuff. The places are much like the cisterns apparently, with a round hole flush with the ground. It suggests that many old cisterns, as we suppose them to be, in the ruins, may be granaries.

One of my guards was for four years servant to an English doctor in Constantin^{le}, as he says. I explained my objects & intentions to the folks; but I find trouble in understanding their Syrian with my Egyptian.

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Went off next day for a round, to see the (76)
 country. Umm Lakis, (supposed to be Lachish) is
 nearly all cultivated, and the surface stuff is
 Roman; so I do not see much to try for. Ajlan is
 worse; there is very little pottery about, what there is
 is Roman, & it is all cultivated with barley around,
 & on the top an onion garden, a hovel, & an old man.
 Then I went to Sukariyeh (where there are also
 Roman things) to see the head shekh of the Bedawin
 of the district - the Amarin. I found him a
 pleasant fellow, sitting under an enormous flat
 tent with a number of his following. I did a deal
 of silence, for that is orthodox; and in the intervals
 stated my business. Soon after I arrived, there
 was a chorus of dogs, & a man came up bearing
 a wide wooden bowl on his head, with the
 mid-day meal. It was set before us, & we
 gathered round, about half a dozen at once. The
 mixture was bread in sour curds, & plenty of butter
 melted amongst it, with a layer of pieces of fat
 mutton on the top. I smelt the sourness, &
 judiciously grabbed a good bit of plain meat,
 which kept me in play as long as the others. It
 was amusing to see them grasping handfuls
 of the fearful mixture, & stuffing it into their
 mouths. Then when one set had put down enough,
 they rose, & another party squatted round the big
 bowl, until at last there was little or nothing left.
 Some favoured folks not in the first circle, had
 bones & lumps handed over to them, before the

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second or later circles of squatters came on. (77)
Before beginning, the best society rinsed hands; &
when done, they went across & rubbed off the
grease on a flap of the black goats' hair tent,
& then rinsed again. After coffee I bid good bye,
slipping a napoleon into the shekh's hand, as a
smoothing for future business.

Then I went to Tell Hesi, a striking place.
The mound is about 60 or 80 feet high, cut
away on one side by an encroaching stream.
There was much pottery about, but none of pre-
Roman, all earlier; & I think this is worth a
dozen of all the other places put together. But
it is mostly cultivated, & is 6 miles from here, the
nearest village.

Khurbet Hazzarah is nothing to notice. Tell
abu Shukf has much pottery about, as its name
implies, but it is half cultivated. The pottery
seems to be mainly pre-Roman. Khurbet Summeily
has also some early pottery, but is not important.

The astonishing matter to me is, how closely these
Bedawin cultivate the ground; there is but a
small proportion of pasture, nearly all being
arable, some fallow, but mostly in barley. This
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buy out the crops.

Mrs Petrie, 8 Crescent Road -
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(17.
7-16. April, 1890-

A curious survival, or revival, is seen here in the pottery. The black pottery found in early Greek sites is considered Phoenician; here all the pottery in common use is black, & it is made at Gaza. Moreover the ancient was painted with red lines; & so is the modern, only with red lead instead of ochre.

Around modern tombs they do not build weli s as in Egypt [𐤒], but open courts or enclosures. Around the inside there are niches in the wall, in which fire is burnt on potsherds every Friday. Also stone tables are built [𐤒] against the wall, & within these, lamps or shards with fire are placed. These are identical with the curious arrangements all around the inside of the so called Phoenician temple at Hagiir Kim in Malta. Then on these tables, & also on graves, are placed old mill-centres or querns, [𐤒] <These all / are found in / old sites, I hear / on enquiry, / not made / now.> which do not appear to be worn out. These remind one of the conical black stone worshipped at Emesa, of which Elagabalus was priest.

I have been twice over to Gaza now, & made friends with the Rev^d R. Elliott, M.D., medical missionary there, & his wife & her sister. He is a north Irishman, capable & energetic, and as kind & helpful as he can possibly be. He is excellent friends with the kaimakam, (governor) & will attend to any official matters for me; & I am to stay with them any night that I may want to be in Gaza. His dispenser moreover is a most useful fellow; an Arab-Austrian, who writes & speaks Arabic, Turkish,

Mrs Petrie, Bromley, Kent.

English, &c. I am really more within "humanity's reach" here, than in the Fayum, with such friends (and a dispensary) only twelve miles off.

The present kaimakam, in whose district I am, is very favourable: he has been a journalist most of his life, & lived in Berlin, Vienna, &c. He has no fanaticism, & is much Europeanised in ways & feelings.

The effendi never turned up, until a note came from Gaza on Thursday, asking me to go there about the business. I went & found him at the kaimakam's. He began with every sort of objection to coming or doing anything; evidently wishing to spin out the time of all pay & no work. The old kaimakam quite took my part, & answered "a fool according to his folly" more than once. Indeed the effendi's objections to two requirements, which Mr. Moore (the Consul) had almost saddled me with providing, namely a tent & bedstead. So I saw that I must give up one of my two tents, at least till I see if I can get another. Afterwards they came to Dr. Elliott's, & we had another talk. Dr. E. said very soon to me that he had seen many men object to their work, but he never saw one so set against doing anything. All sorts of objections were made again, but reduced to the tent & bedstead, which I assured him would be ready next day. He declared he could not come for several
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days longer; so (at Dr E's suggestion) I said that if he did not like the work, I had better write to the Pasha & ask for some one else to be sent. This soon brought him down, & he offered to come ~~on~~ Monday, early. The kaimakam quite agreed to my beginning on Monday, effendi or none; so I don't care when he comes. He will be a fearful plague. He grumbles about the bread, about the supplies, about the distance, about a cook, although he has £ 15 a month, in order to pay liberally for horse, servants, & all he can want. He tried hard to fix himself on me, but my man not cooking, my store being in my own tent, (which he enquired about!) checkmated his move. If he does anything outrageous, I shall just report him, & request his removal, without telling him. We shall see. But for this fellow, every official & acquaintance in the country has been as favourable & as kind as could be. I am determined that he must either settle civilly, or else go.

At last - Monday 14th - I began at Umm Lakis (called Laggis); and it turned out much as I expected, all Roman & Cufic. I made trench-pits in many different parts, and every where the result is 4-8 ft of earth & burnt dust, &c, with Roman & Arab pottery. Beneath that is clean untouched red earth, veined with white infiltration, evidently undisturbed soil. The latest date of surface pottery is probably

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The effendi has come, & behaves so far much better. I think the kaimakam has given him a talk, & he also feels happier in having got over the details of getting here, & establishing himself. He is anxious to hunt up any antiquities around here in general, to make a show of results, so I shall get some use of him.

What with too much tea, & men talking, & dogs, & donkeys, & my man being inside my tent, because the effendi has the other, I only got two hours' sleep last night: and this morning was a steady ^{misty} drizzling rain, which makes it wretched for standing about in wet grass, & which did not clear for two or three hours. So far nothing offers which is probably pre-Roman, & we found a worn coin of Maximinus just about where I should have expected, about $\frac{2}{3}$ down to the soil.

As I have not had anything from Gaza yet, I have not any post since I left Jaffa. My address will be Gaza, Syria, & not Jaffa, as the Jaffa-Gaza post is very safe, & I shall always send to Gaza for letters. I have sent notice to Jaffa to forward my letters to Gaza, if they will.

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XVIII

16-21 April 1890

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


as in my outlook.

I had been intending to go to the principal shekh of the district, make friends with him & offer to pay liberally for Arab guards appointed by him, as a means of giving cash slice by slice

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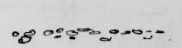
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83
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 hear of my saying anything to the Arabs, because of
 their rapacious expectations, but he would attend
 to all that by asserting his official authority.
 In fact it was just a question who was to get
 the pickings, the Arabs as de facto masters of the
 situation, or the authorities as de jure masters.
 And the effendi guessed that if I paid one party
 I should cold shoulder the other. So as he took
 all the responsibility I left the matter entirely
 to him, & he had to attend to it with a
 vengeance. For two whole days he was in
 constant parley with interminable shekhs
 of all the neighbourhood. Some decent &
 friendly, some demanding money, some
 threatening, and all feeling their way. He had
 once to begin a letter to the kaimakam at Gaza
 asking for some soldiers to be sent, before one
 fellow would knuckle under; for the one thing
 these Arabs dread is a party of even pacific
 soldiers, as their horses would be turned loose into
 the standing barley & wheat to feed. The
 final situation is that the Arabs will not get
 bakhshish, and our guards consist of two from the
 Burer (the ^{Constantinople} doctor's servant, & one who knows all the
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
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 though not unusually so. Only the other day a big
 effendi of Gaza & some others were stopped &
 stripped of everything within a few miles of the
 town. The work is over-run all day by
 lounging Arabs from the neighbourhood, whom
 I get on with very well, as they are pleasant &
 civil enough when not out for plunder. A few
 small jokes, & specially a little mimicry of any
 peculiar manner or ways, will set them
 all laughing & make us good friends for the
 time, & probably less touchy afterwards. So far
 there is no difficulty in getting people over from
 Burer to work, as I have increased their
 wages to 1^s a day for a man & woman or girl.
 But they are poor workers after the Egyptians,
 not doing more than $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$ of what my
 old hands in Egypt would have done. I am
 getting them better fixed to the work now; but
 at first they were all over the place, talking
 & smoking, anything but work. How we shall
 get on in Ramadan is doubtful; I want
 them to begin work directly after their last
 meal before sunrise, & (with a short pause)
 go on till 3 p.m., after which they can sleep
 on their hunger till sunset, when the
 feasting begins. They & the effendi all highly
 approve of such a plan, so I hope to get some


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
85
 work out of them.
 Now for the place & results. The plan roughly
 is  a high mound cut away on the
 E. by the stream, & a circuit
 of natural ridges around
 a slight valley on the south
 pit. All of this area has
 pottery scattered over it, & the mound itself is
 artificial, consisting of about 30 feet of
 successive town levels piled one on the other;
 the river-worn stones laid down for floors to
 the rooms shewing all over the sides of the
 mound as lines of blocks .
 All my digging in the mound is on some
 given floor, which we clear. The top of the
 mound is all cultivated, & if needful I shall
 buy up the crop, but the man wants £4
 which is rather much for it, so I wait to
 see what we can do around the wide
 sloping sides of the mound, & on the
 river face. This is an excellent place to
 work, as the storm floods have kept up
 so much scour as to leave the face a clean
 section from top to bottom of the mound, so
 I can work at any period that I wish. I have
 three parties (6 men) at the top level, & as many
 at the bottom level, besides others at the sides.
 We have already found plenty of potsherds &


work out of them.




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
is [] a high mound cut away on the
 E. by the stream, & a circuit
 of natural ridges around
 a slight valley on the south
 of it. All of this area has

pottery scattered over it, & the mound itself is
 artificial, consisting of about 30 feet of
 successive town levels piled one on the other;
 the river-worn stones laid down for floors to
 the rooms shewing all over the sides of the
 mound as lines of blocks []. Nearly
 All my digging in the mound is on some
 given floor, which we clear. The top of the
 mound is all cultivated, & if needful I shall
 buy up the crop, but the man wants E4
 which is rather much for it, so I wait to
 see what we can do around the wide
 sloping sides of the mound, & on the
 river face. This is an excellent place to
 work, as the storm floods have kept up
 so much scour as to leave the face a clean
 section from top to bottom of the mound, so
 I can work at any period that I wish. I have
 three parties (6 men) at the top level, & as many
 at the bottom level, besides others at the sides.
 We have already found plenty of potsherds &

16- IV.90 some walls of rough stones which we are following. Outside of the town circuit on the S.W. is a sand hill with much pottery buried in it, the purpose of which is not clear. The pots are intentionally buried, generally jars [] with a basin or cup [] on the top: often there is a smaller vase [] inside: they are altogether filled with clean white sand, like what they rest on, but cleaner than the brown humus sand around them. In one or two some small bones were found, & some bones also in the sand, without jars. It reminds me much of a great burial of jars at Zuwelên near Tanis, ^{of about 1000 BC} which contained animal bones; & probably this is a cemetery of the sacred animals of Amorite age. Perhaps where no bones can be found they buried the sacred flies of Baal-zebub!

Now as to chronology. This cemetery pottery is mainly of little brown flasks [] which I have this season precisely dated by finding them in a tomb about 1100 BC at Illahun. So that pretty well dates the cemetery to the time of the judges. Then certain peculiar handles in this pottery are also found in the lowest part of the town, which is therefore probably quite as old. Then in the top of the town is peculiar pottery which I know, at Naukratis, to be of about 600 B.C. & two bits of black Greek ware have been found, about

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(87)
 the same age. I conclude therefore that the place is as old or older than the judges, & was destroyed at Nebuchadnezzar's invasions. This tallies very well with what we know of Lachish. Certainly, out of thousands of sherds that I have looked at here, I have seen only one stray piece of Roman age, lying on the surface. As we have only worked for two days yet, too much must not be expected of me as to preciseness or details of history.


We are badly off for water, our three sources being (1) springs here, clear but too brackish to drink comfortably; (2) surface ponds of rain water contaminated, at Burer, to be brought 6 miles on donkey; & (3) deep well at Burer, stagnant & very green & rather salt, but probably not contaminated. The last is what we trust to; & though I boil it well, yet the colour & taste of it is almost too much for me. When boiled it is three courses in one, soup, fish, & greens.

It is very curious how akin the pottery on the top of the tell here is to the Naukratite; and strangely ^{so much} ~~not~~ like the Daphniote which is so much nearer. There are the same large jars with sliced surface ~~at~~ around the lower end, & massive loop handles; the same

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drab dishes of thick stuff ; the same ⁽⁸⁸⁾
pinched up saucer lamps; and some purely
Greek pottery of black glaze & red face. So
far as these give a date I should say between
600 & 550 B.C. And being like Naukratis &
unlike Defneh, it appears like a Greek
settlement & not a geographical link
across from Egypt. I have suspected that
the Jews may have employed Greek mercenaries
like the Egyptians; and long ago thought it
possible that the general Johanan the son of
Kareah might be Jewish form of Yunani
the Karian. It is a special point to look
for Greek traces here, as we find the pottery.

He says he is now as well as
usual, & has quite got over
his illness. He has got all our
letters, & M^r D.'s of March & April. He
does not expect to be home
till end of June, when he has
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
[The darker final paragraph was added by Anne Petrie, W.M.F. Petrie's mother.]




[R]

19th Journal
22-29 April 90.

22-29 April 90. At last I got down here ^{19th Journal} ^{another} ⁽⁸⁹⁾
tent from Jerusalem, to supply for the one I had to
give up to the effendi. For more than two weeks I had
never had an uninterrupted night's sleep, & generally
had to go out to silence the guards & men about.
Having to be about all day as well, I was becoming
rather helpless in consequence; & so I pitched the
fresh tent about 100 yards off, with a slight rise
between it & our present camp. There was a great
talk about the insecurity of my sleeping there, &
the effendi said he would go rather than assent
to it; but I calmed him by agreeing to two ~~of~~ ^{of}
the four guards extending their region out to
there under promise of strict silence at night; &
so now I have necessary sleep. The constant
noise, & impossibility of shutting it out, is the great
trouble of tents, instead of walled dwellings.

The town is developing. On the north side at the
base I have found the wall of the first, (Amorite?),
town, thirty feet thick of brickwork; we are now
clearing along the inside of it. There at the top of
the same side I have the wall of the last town, possibly
Rehoboam's fortification, but most likely rather
later; and there is the gap of a gateway, &
outside it a platform of stones & probably steps leading
down the mound, the section being somewhat thus 
Then on the east-(river)-face I found
a part of this same wall remaining, though
most of it has fallen away by the scour of the
watercourse. On the south I find the first

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

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down the mound, the section being somewhat thus [] (wall
platform)

Then on the east-(river)-face I found
a part of this same wall remaining, though
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watercourse. On the south I find the first

town⁹⁰ wall, I believe, again; and I am tracing other walls on that side also.

I have begun a plan of the place, but it is not much time that I can take from looking after the men.




It is an unpromising place for a temple or sculptures. During the Jewish period it is not likely that there was any shrine here; and to reach the temple of the Amorite time we should need to remove all the Jewish stuff, many months work & heavy cost, before baring the Amorite level. The only reason that I can work in all periods at once is by the denudation of the river face; but that only touches one side of the town, & there may likely enough be no important buildings just there.


I search all the potsherds (and from 500 to 1000 a day we turn out) to look for marks; but as yet only three have been found, all of the later period, in & by the last wall. This cannot be later than the reoccupation after Sennacherib's attack ^{713 B.C.} (2 K. XVIII 13, 14; XIX, 8) & may be possibly Rehoboam's wall ^{960 B.C.} (2 Chr. XI, 9). In it was a pot marked , & a bit of pot marked  and X; all of these are potter's marks not owner's. Unfortunately I know nothing in detail of Egyptian pottery between 1000 & 650 B.C. so the difference can hardly be settled, but I incline to the earlier date. ~~or I do not~~

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Our further work has suggested that there is
 a series of walls one over the other, which I can
 trace by clearing down the E face
 section, somewhat thus, -  (91)
 from the 30 ft Amorite wall
 the lowest of all, to a thinnish
 wall at the top, probably about 700 B.C.


I am happy to say the effendi is taking a reasonable
 view of affairs. At first he said that every
 pot must go to Stambul, & I must pack them. &c.
 He found that was not my view, that I stopped
 finding such things, & that I did nothing with
 what was in hand. So after a while he
 suggests that there is no need to trouble about
 all the pots, pack a few, & he will give the
 rest a coup de grace; & as for potsherds I can
 pack what I like, with some elasticity in
 the definition. This is just what I aimed
 at, & I think we shall have no difficulties;
 there is a great scope for mending up sherds
 as my friends know.

One mark is found on the earliest pottery, but
 imperfect.

I find that there is another great & important
 town near here, Tell Najileh, which - like this -

Our further work has suggested that there is
 a series of walls one over the other, which I can
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 section, somewhat thus, - native / soil)
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 town near here, Tell Najileh, which - like this -

(92)
 was never occupied since Nebuchadnezzar, or
 more probably Sennacherib. Unluckily the
 whole pit is covered with an Arab cemetery;
 so only just the edge of the slope could be
 dug into, until the day when these useless Arabs
 are cleared out, & a reasonable people settled
 here. I dined at the biggest sheikh's the other
 night, & could not but feel what total
 barbarians they all were. Manners & customs
 I set aside, as they depend on taste; but the
 utter ignorance, & lack of all ideas outside of their
 daily life, & impossibility of talking on any matter
 but what they had already talked of hundreds of
 times, was crushing. I urged on the sheikh that if
 they would only dam the deep watercourses, & hold
 up the winter rains (which all run down to the
 sea at present) they would have good water
 & could cultivate as they liked with it, instead
 of being dependant on showers. He only said that
 no one had a head to do that, & they did not
 care to cultivate (beyond the interminable barley) as
 they might go anywhere at any time. So the
 sooner they are moved off the better. They pay
 £5000 a year to the Govt, for what might bring in
 5 million in proper hands.

I sent in my letters last by a camel man, & I fear for them;
 I wrote to F.L.G., Mr Armstrong, & many others.

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

all safe

Mrs Petrie, 8. Crescent Rd Bromley,
 Kent-

XX

30 April - 7 May 1890.



The post brought in not only its regular allowance but a lot of arrears, papers, letters from home 11 & 17 April, Pub. Op. 28 Feb, 7 Mar, 11 & 18 April, Nature for 13 & 27 Feb, but none of the right weeks, & Academy of 12 April. Probably these had been detained for the Turkish Censor to examine, for there is a long list of proscribed papers & books in this enlightened rule, & prohibited journals have to be sought for.

On the tell we have been tracing the fortifications on the north & west sides, where walling 10 or 12 feet high remains, buried in rubbish. Also I found ~~the~~ a wall to the great outline of the enclosure about 1000 feet across, which I must trace out. On the tell one or two dated things have turned up; a Greek vase [] with [] pattern which looks as late as the V.th cent B.C. & a chip of early red figured vase about 450, B.C. or 400 probably, shewing that the tell was reoccupied after the captivity, though only very slightly. Also a small coin, Persian or of Tarsos? Bearded head Rev. king attacking a ramping lion. But as yet no sculpture, inscription or metal work, has been found. I see from Perrot & Chipiez however how very little is known about Syrian pottery, & how much the work here will help to put that on a firm basis.

On the river face of the tell, I have had the surface all cleared down at the north end, & have spent hours there tracing out the sections of the various brick wall fortifications of the town.

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(94)
 These are far the best source for its history,
 when combined with the notices in the O.T. of
 Lachish. I can find 9 successive wallings; a
 huge Amorite wall 28 feet thick, two Amorite
 rebuildings on that; then a period of no walls
 but ruined habitations of rough stone overthrown
 & spread about, probably of the Judges period.
 Then a fairly stout wall 13 feet thick, which
 must be Rehoboam's; then four small walls
 rebuilt on the ruins of that by different kings; &
 lastly a thin & hasty wall on the top of all,
 which must I think be due to Josiah when he
 tried to keep out A Hophra in 610 B.C. No one later
 than that would fortify down here probably, and
 the Persian coin was some feet above the bottom of
 this wall. The artificial mound is altogether 75
 feet high, & the hill under it 45 feet, making
 120 feet altogether, in one slope down to the
 stream.

The weather has been very tolerable till today, when
 it is 104° in the shade: and as you may see I cannot
 touch my writing without smudging the ink, & am
 so moist. I have finished a plan of the place,
 with 20 ft contours all over, which I have sent
 to the P.E.F.

There are some stirrings here; for when I came
 there were 150 soldiers down in the Gaza district
 after some unruly Arabs, & they seized & carried

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 there were 150 soldiers down in the Gaza district
 after some unruly Arabs, & they seized & carried

off 13 shekhs to Jerusalem in irons. Now the
 other day there was a skirmish between the (95)
 Terabin & the Azizin down at Nejileh where
 I went last Sunday, with the result of 8 killed,
 5 of one & 3 of the other, only leaving happily a
 blood balance of 2 to be wiped out in future. The
 effendi is no doubt of considerable use here, as he
 is well known to be a pasha's man at Jerusalem,
 & they would think twice before getting into a
 scrape by interfering with him. So far we are
 on very good terms with the shekhs here, though
 the underlings do continually steal our mens
 donkeys, & try to screw a ransom for them when
 discovered: the four donkeys taken have all been
 recovered. The country will never be worth
 anything until all these savages are thrust
 back into the deserts they came from, & kept
 there by a border garrison. Then, with proper
 water storage, which would cost next to nothing,
 this might be a thickly populated land, & very
 profitable. As it is most of its profit goes
 into the hands of corn dealers of Gaza, who buy
 up the Bedawin crops & export to France, &c.
 Oh! joy! here is a cool wind down to 98°, and I
 am feeling quite lively.

Next day is better, a pleasant west wind
 only about 95°. It is miserable work driving

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(96)
 these wretchedly lazy Syrians this hot weather
 in Ramadan. They are desperately thirsty,
 & constantly find a man lying down asleep.
 Sometimes a fellow who is out of the way does
 absolutely nothing for hours, between one visit
 to him & another; and dismissals seem to have
 no effect on the survivors, for I clear off about
 $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the men every week & have fresh ones,
 who prove even lazier. It is most untoward
 that I should have just been cast on a hot
 Ramadan to work such people.

We have had a fine pair of snakes dug out in
 the work, 7 feet long each, ~~the~~ bright & steely
 grey.

Though hot it is very dry, as may be imagined
 when the wet bulb is 28° below dry, 94° , & 68° .

Have said nothing yet about the awful subject
 of coinage here. It stands thus. Every place has
 its own valuation of all the coins in an arbitrary
 standard which does not exist. Thus the sovereign is
 137 piastres at Jerusalem, 154 at Jaffa, 274 here. And
 every other coin varied in proportion. That there is
 no such thing as the nominal piastre in existence
 is a fearful puzzle to the beginner. Why the rate
 varies thus in each place no one can tell; it
 is supposed to somehow be a device of the Jewish changers
 for screwing profits, but no one knows why or how.
 Then the small coins are all odd fractions of the nominal
~~the~~ piastre, 6, 3 piastres, $\frac{1}{5}$, $\frac{3}{5}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{6}$, $\frac{1}{12}$, worth
 respectively about $5\frac{1}{2}$ | $2\frac{1}{2}$ | 1^d | $\frac{1}{2}^d$ | $\frac{1}{4}$ | $\frac{1}{8}$ | $\frac{1}{16}^d$
 though I always think of them in Egyptian piastres or francs.

these wretchedly lazy Syrians this hot weather
 in Ramadan. They are desperately thirsty,
 & I constantly find a man lying down asleep.
 Sometimes a fellow who is out of the way does
 absolutely nothing for hours, between one visit
 to him & another; and dismissals seem to have
 no effect on the survivors, for I clear off about
 $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the men every week & have fresh ones,
 who prove even lazier. It is most untoward
 that I should have just been cast on a hot
 Ramadan to work such people.

We have had a fine pair of snakes dug out in
 the work, 7 feet long each, ~~an~~ bright & steely
 grey.


Though hot it is very dry, as may be imagined
 when the wet bulb is 28° below dry, 94° , & 68° .

I have said nothing yet about the awful subject
 of coinage here. It stands thus. Every place has
 its own valuation of all the coins in an arbitrary
 standard which does not exist. Thus the sovereign is
 137 piastres at Jerusalem, 154 at Jaffa, 274 here. And
 every other coin varied in proportion. That there is
 no such thing as the nominal piastre in existence
 is a fearful puzzle to the beginner. Why the rate
 varies thus in each place no one can tell; it
 is supposed to somehow be a device of the Jewish changers
 for screwing profits, but no one knows why or how.
 Then the small coins are all odd fractions of the nominal
 Please send piastre, 6, 3 piastres, $\frac{1}{5}$, $\frac{3}{5}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{6}$, $\frac{1}{12}$, worth
 respectively about $5d$ | $2\frac{1}{2}^d$ | 1^d | $\frac{1}{2}^d$ | $\frac{1}{4}$ | $\frac{1}{8}$ | $\frac{1}{16}^d$
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XXI.

6-12 May 1890.

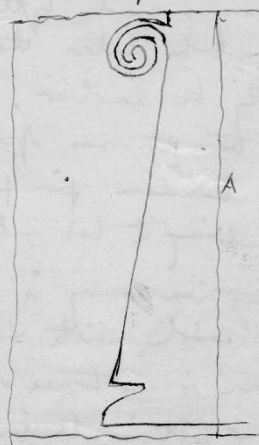
6-12 May 1890. ^{XXI} - Around the walls on the N.W. we have done a good deal. The whole of the main wall of fortification (Rehoboams?) is now found at that part & planned: we have also found the thickness of it at several parts, and I am clearing out the NW tower, which is a good piece of ground to work as it is clear of crops, a steep fall around it to carry away the stuff, & some large stones already uncovered there in our work. Outside & below that I am tracking along the outside of the first Amorite wall, mainly for the sake of the chance of early pottery in the black ash earth outside of it. It would be too heavy a business to work it all along as ^{the earth} is about 20 feet deep outside it.

On the south side, just at the edge of the cliff washed away by the wady, we hit on some masonry; and by the level I should say it could not be later than Rehoboam, & might probably be earlier. There is but little left about two courses of small stones on each side of an entrance five feet wide; unhappily most of the building it led into has been washed away. But this masonry is very valuable as it is drafted work with rough central lump  but there is no trace of comb-pick dressing, it is all the hammerwork which

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(98)
 I already believe to be Phoenician. At last we have some positive datum as to stone dressing, which is absolutely clear of the suspicion of Herodian origin. I have photographed the stones.
 There are two steps above side of this masonry, which we are clearing & following.
 There is a rather higher level, but well within the mound in level strata, & about halfway up, or not later than the early kings, we found more masonry. Some fine white limestone paving, broken blocks, & a slab of wall-facing turned ^{face} ~~up~~ down from some older building & used for a door sill, or possibly thus degraded when this building fell to ruin. On this block is a precious example of architectural decoration, about 3 feet high. In low relief, about an inch ^{forward} ~~high~~ is half of a pilaster with volute top, of this form → and as down the edge A. the block is slightly projecting it shows that this was a corner ornament



I already believe to be Phoenician. At last we have some positive datum as to stone dressing, which is absolutely clear of the suspicion of Herodian origin. I have photographed the stones.

There are two steps at one side of this masonry, which we are clearing & following.

Then at a rather higher level, but well within the mound in level strata, & about halfway up, or not later than the early kings, we found more masonry. Some fine white limestone paving; broken blocks, & a slab of wall-facing turned ~~up side~~ / <face> down from some older building & used for a door sill, or possibly thus degraded when this building fell to ruin. On this block is a precious example of architectural decoration, about 3 feet high. In low relief, about an inch ~~high~~ / <forward> is half of a pilaster with volute top, of this form → [R] (A) and as down the edge A. the block is slightly projecting it shows that this was a corner ornament

of a room, with a similar half on the other wall. I had a paper mould on it within a couple of hours; & so I shall be able to make a plaster slab cast in London. The block itself is broken in two, & happily the effendi & the kaimakam are not impressed with it, & will probably not want it removed. If it could go straight to any safe museum, it would be well, but probably it would never reach Stambul, & if it did it would be used for old stone in building. So I contemned it to the authorities, & probably shall be able to leave it buried here for some future opportunity. It is too large & heavy for me to wish to do anything with it at present. But it is a very interesting find as we have no such complete piece of early Jewish decoration before. It is most like the pilaster in the chamber in the Haram at Jerusalem but the main value is its completeness showing the base & the volute entire. I cannot photograph it until the work hole is larger, so I have turned it face down for the present to avoid injury.

On a bit of pottery about 600, B.C. I found the owner's name $\Psi\eta\epsilon\lambda$ "Of Hemek"; but I do not know the variety \exists of $\exists = \eta$; and Ψ is

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(100) unusual for 7.

The chamber fallen in, as I thought it to be, now proves to be a well, but I am uncertain about clearing it out as it will be 60 ft deep to water, & I have no rope ladders, as they were borrowed long ago by Schumacher. Moreover I see the side of it still extends up to the level of about 700, B.C., & may have been higher still, so that we should not get any early things from it.

To my surprise Dr Coburn (from London waiting to go to M. Naville) turned up on Thursday & has stayed on with me for five days, a very pleasant change of society from the continual effendi. Then Count D'Hulst & Dr Goddard came on ~~Saturday~~ Friday, & stayed a day, on their way to Jerusalem. And then the kaimakam & officer in command at Gaza came over to stay a day or two with the effendi. Happily the ~~latter~~ K. quite agrees with the effendi that the broken pottery is quite useless & insignificant.

Mrs Petrie, 8. Crescent Rd
Bromley, Kent.

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