

two dozen men ; none had ever heard of such a name. Since then the superior of the convent of Mount Carmel, who knows the district most thoroughly, has assured me that no such name occurs. I can therefore only assume that the name does not exist, and that our map is therefore right in not putting it on. How other maps have procured the name seems difficult to understand ; but, as in some other case, it may have been supplied by some too enthusiastic traveller, who looked more for what ought to be in the country than what is.

Lieutenant Conder appears to have got over the difficulty of the want of the name in the case of the identification of Kalamon, *vide Quarterly Statement*, January, 1876, p. 20.

I hope to-morrow to move my camp to Hattin, and from thence, and the camp after, to survey the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

H. H. KITCHENER, Lieut. R.E.,  
Commanding Survey of Palestine.

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### JACOB'S WELL.

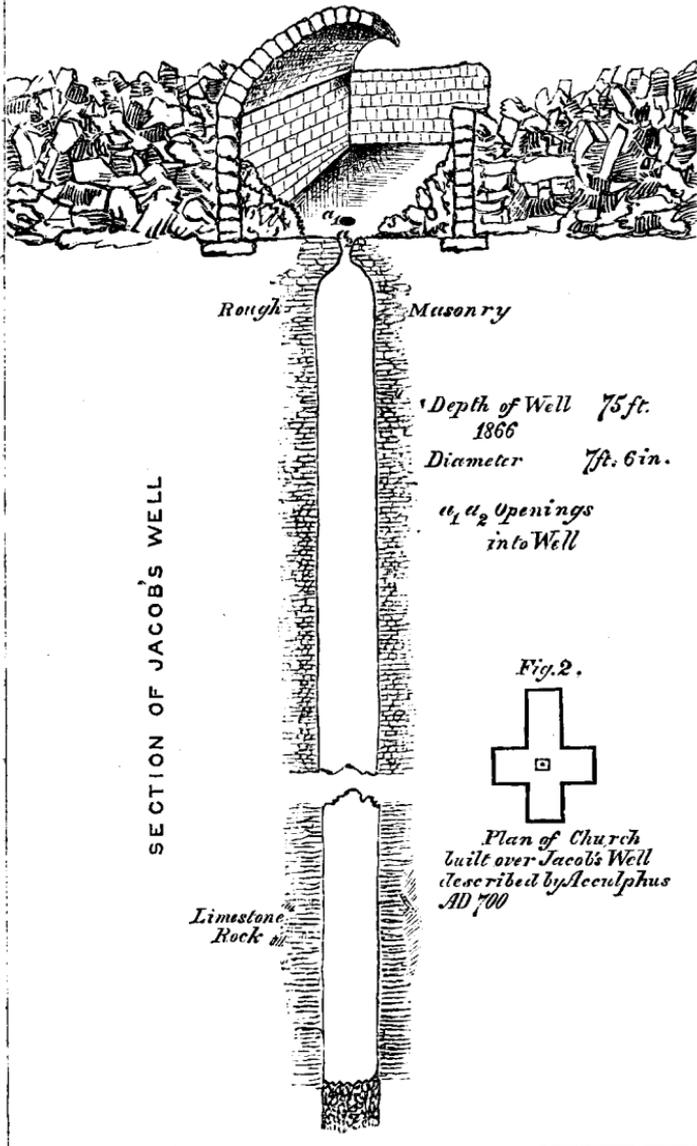
A PARAGRAPH in the last *Quarterly Statement* informed subscribers that Dr. Nathaniel Rogers, of Exeter, had contributed £50, and Miss Peache, of Wimbledon, £100, for the purpose of clearing out Jacob's Well, and for surrounding and protecting the well with stonework. Before this can be done it is necessary that a careful examination should be made of the site, and this will be carried out at the earliest opportunity by Lieutenant Kitchener, who is now in Palestine. Pending the receipt of Lieutenant Kitchener's report, it may be interesting to the subscribers to have before them an account of the well and the adjacent site from notes taken on the spot by our explorer, Captain Anderson, in 1866.

“*March 31st*, 1877.

“Jacob's Well is situated at the spot where the Vale of Shechem merges into the Plain of El Mukna, and the site is acknowledged by Jews, Moslems, and Christians. The existence of a well sunk to a great depth in a place where watersprings on the surface are abundant is sufficiently remarkable to give this well a peculiar history. It is remarkably characteristic of the prudence and forethought of the great Patriarch, who, having purchased a parcel of ground at the entrance of the vale, secured on his own property, by dint of great toil, a perennial supply of water at a time when the adjacent watersprings were in the hands of unfriendly, if not actually hostile neighbours.

“In the midst of a mass of ruined stones, among which are two or three columns still standing, is a vaulted chamber about fifteen feet square, and in the floor of the chamber are two openings four feet apart, one of which is the proper mouth of the well. The other opening is either an accidental breach, or has been designedly made in a rough and ready way for the convenience of having two mouths, by which pitchers

RUINED VAULT OVER  
JACOBS' WELL.



SECTION OF JACOBS' WELL

Rough

Masonry

Depth of Well 75 ft.  
1866

Diameter 7 ft. 6 in.

a, a<sub>2</sub> Openings  
into Well

Limestone  
Rock

Fig. 2.



Plan of Church  
built over Jacobs' Well  
described by Seculphus  
AD 700

could be lowered into the well simultaneously. The true mouth of the well has a narrow opening just wide enough to allow the body of a man to pass through with arms uplifted, and this narrow neck, which is about four feet long, opens out into the well itself, which is cylindrically shaped and about seven feet six inches in diameter. The mouth and upper part of the well is built of masonry, and the well appears to have been sunk through a mixture of alluvial soil and limestone fragments till a compact bed of mountain limestone was reached, having horizontal strata which could be easily worked, and the interior of the well presents the appearance of being lined throughout with rough masonry.

"The well, when examined in 1866, was only seventy-five feet deep, but there can be no doubt that the original depth was much greater, as quantities of rubbish have fallen into the well from the ruins of the buildings that formerly covered it, and passers-by for many centuries have probably thrown stones into it. Robinson states that the well in 1838 was 105 feet deep, and if his measurement is correct, *débris* to a depth of thirty feet has accumulated in thirty-eight years. In 1875 the depth was found by Lieutenant Conder to be seventy-five feet, the same as in 1866. The well was undoubtedly sunk to a great depth for the purpose of securing, even in exceptionally dry seasons, a supply of water, which at great depths would always be filtering through the sides of the well and would collect at the bottom. When examined in April, 1866, the well was dry, but an earthenware pitcher was found at the bottom of the well and not broken, which would indicate that water still collects in the well at some seasons, as the pitcher would have been broken had it fallen upon the stones.

"The vaulted chamber over the well might possibly be the crypt of the church built over the well about the fourth century.\* Arculphus, one of the early travellers in Palestine, describes the church in the form of a cross and the well in the middle; but by the time of the Crusaders the church was destroyed, and subsequent travellers who visited the well mention only the ruins around it.

"It would be a matter of the greatest interest if the Committee were enabled, through the liberality of Dr. Rogers and Miss Peache, not only to clear out the well, but to excavate and disclose to view the foundations of one of the earliest cruciform churches. It would then be for consideration how to give effect to the proposal to surround and protect the well with stonework.

"The accompanying woodcut illustrates the state of the vault as it appeared nine years ago, but since then many of the stones composing it, and probably all the well-cut stones in the adjacent ruins,

\* In *Quarterly Statement*, Jan. 1874, page 6, reference is made to the church at Abu Ghôsh, named after St. Jerome, where excavations have disclosed a crypt, forming a complete subterranean church, which contains a cave or cistern filled with water.

have been removed to supply materials for the new Turkish barrack, situated half a mile distant in the direction of Nablûs.

“S. A.”

Mr. H. A. Harper, another member of the Executive Committee, has kindly consented to contribute to the next *Quarterly Statement* a sketch, taken in 1875, of Jacob's Well and the adjacent slope of Mount Gerizim.

### AGE OF THE TEMPLE WALL.

A QUESTION having arisen as to the possible date of the small jar of Phœnician pottery found by Captain Warren in a hole scooped in the rock, three feet east of the corner foundation-stone of the south-east angle of the Temple wall, the Committee have referred the jar itself to their colleague, Dr. Birch, probably the highest living authority in relation to such matters. Dr. Birch's report is as follows:—

“January 10th, 1877.

“MY DEAR SIR,—The little vase which you left accompanies the



present letter. It is of rather rude shape and coarse terra-cotta, and closely resembles some in the British Museum, said to have been found in Rachel's tomb at Bethlehem. As there was also found at the same site a shell engraved with figures, and partly carved, which might be as old as the fourth or fifth century B.C., it is just possible that the vase, which resembles Egyptian ware in shape, might be as old as that period, but there are no data to my knowledge from inscriptions on this class of pottery to determine its actual age.

“Believe me,

“Yours very truly,

“WALTER BESANT, Esq.”

“SAMUEL BIRCH.