

At first sight it appears to be covered with cracks, which on examination are found to be regular grooves, each about  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch deep and about  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch wide, made by a tool of that breadth, as its marks can still be recognised. These furrows run obliquely downwards towards the centre of the stone. About half-way down is a natural curved cleft *across*; the others, or at least the greater part, are artificial. On another day I excavated the spot and found that the stone ended about 20 inches below, and that it stands on a layer of roughly-hewn stones, and is not *in situ*. It was used as a door-post to a room which was built here, the threshold of which is still on the ground, and a stone found against it in a slanting situation appears to have been the lintel. The bearings of the stone were north  $33^\circ$  west, the line just going to the Minaret on the Neby Dâûd buildings; but of course as the stone is no more *in situ* the bearings are of no value.

After reading Captain Conder's report on these old stone monuments (*Quarterly Statement*, 1882, p. 69), I became the more convinced that we have here a stone, belonging once to a Canaanitic altar of offerings, which may perhaps have stood in connection with the Seba Rujum, or seven large stone heaps.

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### THE WATERS OF GIBEON.

I SEND drawings, plan, and section of the well or spring at El Jib, the ancient Gibeon. Respecting this the Memoir to the Survey, vol. iii., p. 94, says:—"There are eight springs, which issue from the sides of the hill, the most important being 'Ain el Belled ("Spring of the Village"). This is on the south-east, at the foot of the steep hill-side, and issues in a rock chamber, about 30 feet long, 7 feet wide, and 7 feet high. The water is clear and abundant in a pool within the cave, said to be 3 or 4 feet deep. On the right, at the back, a passage is said to exist, and on the left steps leading to the surface of the hill above. These cannot now be seen, and the passage is blocked up. . . . The cave is reached by a descent of several steps. . . . There is a recess at the mouth of the cave, as if for a bar, probably showing that the spring was once closed with a door, when it could no doubt be reached from above within the city (as at Jerusalem)." A few months ago a Russian gentleman carefully examined the locality, and according to the statements and descriptions which he gave me I have made these drawings. He went up the steps and incline until he came to a place where the passage is walled up. He found two shafts, the openings of which are covered with flat stones. He also went to the source of the spring, taking off his garments and walking through the water, and measured the length of the passage. The measurements may be right, but I doubt the correctness of the bearings. These observations are important. The arrangement resembles that of the Siloah spring at Jerusalem.

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