

then verily the Philistines were upon us. It was very discouraging to have to begin with a raw, rude lot who cared nothing for us and for whom we cared nothing. With the Bureir people we had the advantage of Petrie's picked men and we had the pick of the town besides. The Fâltjeh horde was an untried one, and tired us in consequence. Their laziness, dulness, and incapacity soon taught me to understand the strictures made by Petrie on the Syrian workmen, criticisms which I had resented as severe during our blessed Bureir period. However, in time we secured some good results even from the Fâltjeh people. Hassan, who began as a labourer and ended ~~as~~ a guard, was a real addition to our camp force. He had a splendid physique, was honest and gentle. Years ago when journeying among the Arabs he took the fancy of a Bedawy who offered him his little girl in marriage. Hassan could not refuse the offer, and paid a camel and fifty goats for her. She was then under ten, and for several years he was a father to his little wife, caring for her with all tenderness, dressing her and putting her to sleep. He is still very fond of her, though he is now engaged to a second girl and is preparing to extend his harem. He already regrets this, but when asked why he did it, he smiles apologetically, shrugs his shoulders, and says, "What shall I do? The man would offer her to me."

We had several visitors at the excavations. My father came for ten days. Mr. and Mrs. Gray Hill called on their way from Egypt to Jerusalem, and four other parties saw the place. As I have said before, we made many friends among the Arabs, and it was very pleasant the last evening to hear from the distant camps the improvised chants sung in our honour, full of wishes for a safe journey.

ADDITIONAL NOTE ON THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN.

By Professor HAYTER LEWIS, F.S.A.

SINCE I wrote the description of the church at Jerusalem which I believed to be that of St. Stephen, I have learned from Dr. Edwin Freshfield that another example of the receptacle for liquids which I there described as being level with the paving and occupying the usual site of the altar, exists in the church of St. Eirene at Constantinople. This church is specially alluded to by me in a note to the P. P. Text Society's translation of Procopius (page 14) and it was, no doubt, rebuilt by Justinian late in his reign.

It has three aisles and an apse at the east end.

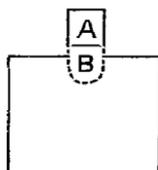
It has been for many years used by the Turks as an armoury, and was and is, an excessively difficult place to visit owing to their foolish jealousy; but it was cleared out in 1881, and fortunately Dr. Freshfield was enabled to see it so cleared.

He describes the apse (v. *Athenæum*, 15th August, 1885) as having marble benches, somewhat similar to those at Torcello, near Venice.

By an unexpected stroke of good fortune he was enabled to obtain two excellent photographs of the interior, showing the receptacle for liquids, to which I referred above.

These he has kindly lent to me.

The shape was clearly this: but the exact connection between the



large part and the lip is concealed by a large pump at A and a stone cistern at B, with which the Turks have adorned it. This is the only existing example, other than that of St. Stephen's, which I have been enabled to find.

8th September, 1891.

RUINS ABOUT MERJ HÎN IN SUBALPINE LEBANON.

By the Rev. GEORGE E. POST, M.A., M.D., F.L.S.

ON the morning of the 22nd of July of this year, Professor Robert H. West, M.A., of the Syrian Protestant College, Rev. J. Stewart Crawford, of Damascus, and myself left our camp at Merj Hîn, a beautiful meadow in the northern part of Lebanon, just north-east of the Dohr-el-Qodib range, and rode up the Wadi Şifşâf towards Rijâl-el-'Asherah, the northernmost two mamillary projections of the Dohr. When half way up the valley we were informed that there was a ruined village above. At the head of the valley is a meadow about half a mile long and a quarter wide, in the middle of which is a tarn. This meadow is called *Merj Buswâyyeh* or *Buswâye*h or *Buswâyyeh*. The average pronunciation is *Buswâye*h, which I have adopted. There was an Arab tent in the upper part of the Merj. Taking a couple of the cheesemakers as guides, we