

NINTH REPORT OF THE EXCAVATIONS AT JERUSALEM.

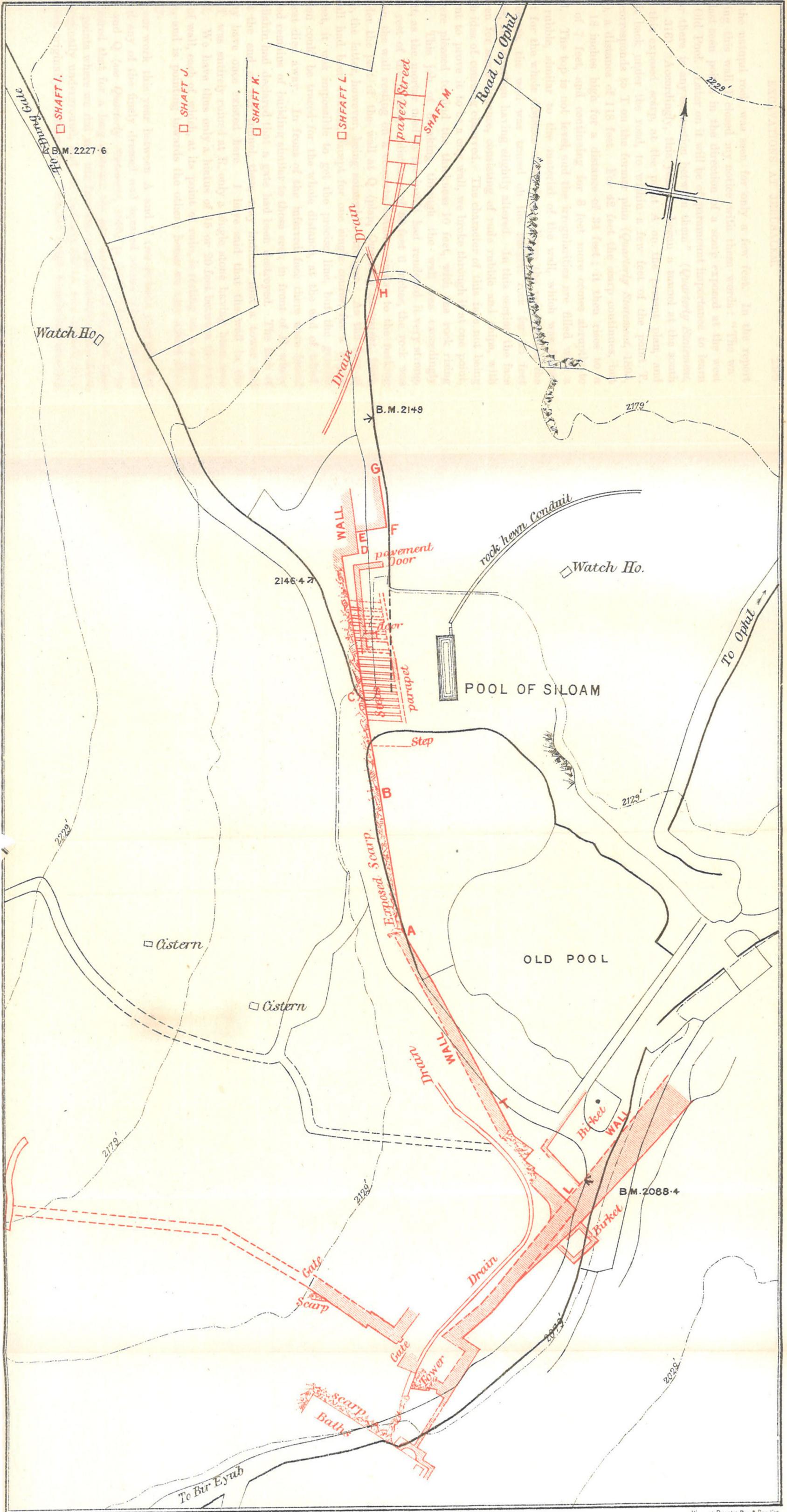
By F. J. BLISS, Ph.D.

It is my sad duty to begin this report with a chronicle of death. On March 29th our foreman, Yusif Abu Şelim Khazin, died of pneumonia, after a week's illness. He was carried to the grave by our own workmen, and lies buried in the Protestant cemetery in Mount Zion, within a few yards of the spot where he had so faithfully superintended our excavations. Hardly had we begun to realise our great loss when another blow fell. On April 16th I had invited our Commissioner, Ibrahim Effendi, to meet at lunch, in our camp, Dr. Chaplin and other guests. We waited some time, and then sat down without him. In a few minutes came a messenger announcing that he had been found dead in his bed that morning. The doctor pronounced it aneurism of the heart. Only the day before he had been to the camp, in the best of spirits and apparently in good health. He had spent the evening with his family and had retired without complaining of any illness. He was buried in the cemetery outside St. Stephen's Gate.

Ibrahim Effendi was a member of that noble family of the Khaldi, who have lived in Jerusalem since the days of Khalia, their great ancestor. He was not much over fifty years of age, and for six years was Imperial Commissioner for the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund. At Tell-el-Hesy, by his wise and firm way in dealing with the Arabs during Dr. Petrie's season of work, he made it possible for us to live in the wilderness as safely as we might at home. Thrown together for companionship, we became warm friends, and I learned his character intimately. Its key-note was nobility. So great was his generosity that he usually gave away all he had. As to his scrupulous honesty, no one dared to question it. He was so frank that he always spoke out his opinion without regard of consequences. His mind was active and alert after new knowledge. Mingled with his interest in the excavations I think there was a regret that his lack of training in the subject prevented his seeing their full historical bearing. And yet the amount of miscellaneous information he had gathered from his wide intercourse with men was wonderful. Many a knotty problem of history and theology have we discussed together in our tents. His individuality, however, came out best in his practical philosophy of life, expressed in brief, witty sayings, quite *impromptu*, which have become recognised proverbs among my family and friends who understand the Arabic. Unfortunately, these epigrams necessarily lose much by translation. As a *raconteur* I have never known his equal, and his stock of stories was inexhaustible. He understood the dramatic possibilities of an anecdote, knew when to go

PLAN TO ILLUSTRATE DR. BLISS'S TENTH REPORT.
 The Detail in Black from the Enlarged Ordnance Survey Plan, the Excavations in red.

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into detail and when to stop. His personal bearing was dignified but charming, and I have known him to go out of his way to do a simple act of kindness.

As to his connection with our work, I have dwelt upon this so often in former reports that I need hardly say here that in him the Fund has lost a warm and valuable friend. This attitude he consistently maintained with a perfect loyalty to his Imperial Master. In large measure is it due to him that our work has gone so smoothly in Jerusalem. The trip across the Jordan could not have been accomplished successfully without him. He insisted on accompanying me on every detour to visit ruins, no matter how fatigued he might be. And while ready to assist in every way in the general work, he never attempted to enter into matters that belonged to my department. It was a great satisfaction, both to his family and to me, that Shauket Effendi, his son, has been nominated as his successor.

The name of Yusif Abu Selim is well known to readers of the *Quarterly*. He came from that sturdy Lebanon stock (I do not know whether to call it peasant or yeoman) that has produced most of the Syrians who are now taking so prominent a part in Egypt and elsewhere, as physicians, editors, lawyers, &c. Unfortunately for him, he had not the advantage of a thorough early education. For almost 20 years he was associated with my family. My late brother-in-law, the Rev. Gerald Fitzgerald Dale, of Zahleh, and the Rev. M. March, now of Tripoli, Syria, always felt that Yusif was a man to rely upon. Whatever he put his hand to he did well. He served these missionaries variously as cook, colporteur, school steward, and teacher. At times he would preach. When I was appointed to the work of the Fund, my first thought was that Yusif was the man to help me. And for five years he has been my helper in many ways. In managing the workmen he combined firmness with kindness, with the result of getting the very best out of them. He was strictly impartial, and I have heard him say: "I would dismiss my own brother if his work were not up to the mark." He was known to all the people of Siloam, where, as a peace-maker, he was the best possible missionary, and after a long, hard day of work, he would sometimes spend an hour with a sick man. With the landowners he showed tact and diplomacy, always leaving them good-natured when the bargain was closed. "Abu Selim is a magician," said one of them, "one can't resist him." In the organisation of an expedition he was in his element, showing true economy. But the quality of peculiar value to us was his remarkable archæological instinct. Several times his quick observation picked up a lost clue, or explained the connection of bits of walling, before I had made anything out of the matter. He was almost too fertile in theories, but I encouraged this tendency, for out of a dozen of his suggestions one would prove valuable. In the work of mining he was daring, and inspired confidence in a timid workman, just by the reassuring sound of his voice. He much preferred to avoid the use of frames unless they were absolutely necessary, as their fitting in took so much time, but he

never had an accident. His eye was almost unerring. When, at the end of a long twisting tunnel the air had become so bad that it was necessary for us to open a new shaft from above, with no aid but a tape and his eye he would pick out the spot immediately above, verifying it by pounding the ground and getting the men in the tunnel to do the same. Our angles, taken carefully below and above, would bring us to the same place, much to his quiet triumph.

During my illness his devotion to me was that of a friend. He knew that he possessed our full confidence, and it was his pride to endeavour to deserve it in the smallest particulars. With all his cleverness he was always respectful, always modest. His piety was simple and genuine, and the manner in which he tried to live up to his standards commanded respect. Mr. Dickie and I like to think of him as we saw him in his own Lebanon home last winter, surrounded by his wife and children—as neat a home and as well brought-up children as could be found anywhere.

To replace such a man is impossible, but it is pleasant to report that whereas the son of Ibrahim Effendi is with us to carry on his father's excellent traditions, so one who was like a son to Abu Selim, Yusif, our former cook, who for five years has been observing all his ways, and during off-hours has been taking an interest in the excavations, has been chosen as the most available foreman.

In speaking of Ibrahim Effendi and Abu Selim I may have appeared to use extravagant language, but the fact of the matter is that each in his way was a man uniquely well fitted for his position. Over and over again have I been congratulated on my association with these men by those best fitted to know what they were saying.

This report must chiefly concern itself with the late wall surrounding the summit of the western hill. This wall has been described as far as the point A, where I said it gave signs of turning eastwards, at the road, to enter the ground of the Augustinians. Inside these grounds the Superior, Père Gelmer-Durand, had observed remains of a wall at various points, but had not determined their connection. With his cordial consent I began to trace the wall in this property. In our very first shaft at B the wall was found and traced for some 16 feet, when it became much worn away. At C it had been seen before, and we verified its continuation for some 30 feet. A little further east Père Gelmer had supposed there was a tower as he had come across a mass of masonry, but neither its faces nor its junction with the wall had been determined. At D we found the interior angle it makes with the wall, into which it was bonded. In the western side of the tower we found the mouth of a cistern or birkeh, the greater part of which was outside. It had probably been vaulted once. Most of this western side, DE, was destroyed, but enough was left to determine the line. The face, EF, is 44 feet in length. The corner, E, is wanting, but beyond this the lowest course remains for about 15 feet in length, when an interruption occurs. The corner stone at F, however, is still *in situ*. Where the break occurs we found a pavement set on the

rock, evidently older than the tower which had been built over it. The corner-stone, F, stands on a scarp, 9 feet 6 inches high, which runs northward, being 12 inches high at G. At G, however, the east face of the tower does not stand on the scarp but is built up against it, being 3 feet out. This suggests that the scarp is older, and this is further proved by the fact that the scarp runs on north, the wall, GI, butting up against it, or, to speak more strictly, the wall, GI, joins the wall, FG, 3 feet out from the scarp. At G, ten courses of the wall, GI, still remain standing. At H there are six courses. At I the wall runs out, as the rock is very near the surface. The proprietors informed us that while searching for stones to build up terraces they had removed a mass of masonry at O, and another at J, both appearing to point north. The masonry at O was without mortar. We trenched considerably about the point, J, but we found nothing, the rock being only 7 feet below the surface. It seems probable that the wall turned north-east at J to join a ruined tower, which stands still exposed just below the modern Burj el Kebrit on the present city wall. This tower is similar in masonry to the two towers on the wall we are tracing. Signs of masonry have been found north of J, and we propose to trench the ground near K in hopes of finding the continuation of our wall, which, if it was built to enclose the summit of the western hill, would naturally run to Burj el Kebrit. As it is, we have traced the course of the wall for 650 feet.

The part of this wall traced this season from B to I resembles in every way the portion discovered in my last report. It always rests on the rock but usually stands to a considerable height, its summit being buried under only from 3 to 6 feet of soil. The thickness of the part excavated last month varied from 9 to 13 feet. At B we find the breadth on the rock to be 13 feet, but the foundations are stepped out, leaving the upper part narrower. At C the facing stones are gone, but there still remains a thickness of 7 feet. At H and I the inside face has been evidently robbed, leaving a thickness of from 7 to 8 feet. The masonry consists of roughly squared rubble set in weak, black lime, the courses ranging from 11 to 14 inches, and the stones averaging 15 inches in length.

We noticed in our last report that whereas the wall consisted of rough rubble, the tower near B.M. 2479 was built of well-dressed masonry down to the rock. This peculiarity is repeated in tower DEFG. Only the lowest course remains of the face EG, but the character of the masonry could be studied from many stones fallen outside. They resemble the stones of the other tower, of which some are plain-faced, others margined with flat projections. Many of them show the fine diagonal comb-pick dressing peculiar to Crusading work. They average about 22 inches in height. The course *in situ* follows the level of the rock, which is partly sloping; where it is level, the stones are 33 inches high, and average 19 inches in breadth. One has certainly been re-used, as it has a boltel-moulding worked on the angle. They are well-squared and jointed and set in fine lime.

North of C, Père Gelmer found a Roman atrium, the south part of

which has evidently been destroyed to make place for the wall. We tore the wall to pieces at B in hopes of finding old ornamental material re-used, but nothing except fragments of arched stones appeared. The bit of Gothic zigzag moulding built in the wall-foundations at N has been sketched by Mr. Dickie, but as his right arm has unfortunately been broken, the drawing must wait till the next report.

We have noticed that the east face of the tower made use of part of a previously-hewn scarp. This scarp, FGP, is about 100 feet long, and averages 10 feet in height. It is roughly and unevenly worked. It has not been traced further north than P, but if it continues it must turn to the east, as a rock-hewn cistern stands in the way of an immediate northward direction. We have not yet determined what becomes of it immediately beyond F. At this point it is about 9 feet high, and an angle has been cut back a few feet to give a good corner to the tower, but between E and the pavement the rock is found level for 11 feet south of the tower; hence the scarp does not run in the line FE. Finding work somewhat difficult at F we sunk a shaft at L and drove tunnels east and west for 40 feet, but found no scarp. Hence, if it continues beyond F it must have greatly changed its direction. There are many scarps on this western hill and I am inclined to think that this one has no especial significance, but we shall make the matter sure by working southward from the point F.

The pavement at P was described by Mr. Schick in the *Statement* for January, 1894, p. 18. It is 18 feet broad, and 50 feet of its length are seen. The paving stones vary in size, the largest being 6 feet by 4 feet, and the smallest I noticed is 29 inches by 18 inches. On the west side runs a coping 10 inches high. It slopes very gently to the north. Mr. Schick thought it was an open place or piazza, as the scarp appeared to stand in the way of its being a street continuing further south. But further work done here by the Augustinians showed how the difficulty of the scarp was overcome. The scarp had been cut back to form parts of cisterns, the east side being formed by a wall, 3 feet from the scarp, and the flagging stones spanned the distance between the top of the scarp and the wall. When the cistern cuttings had reached the top of the scarp the pavement was carried upon arches. That it represents an ancient street is made probable by the finding of four bits of pavement in line with it. The portion at F, over which the tower was built, has been mentioned before. The flagstones correspond in appearance to the smaller ones found at P. Here 12 feet of breadth were seen. While searching for a scarp at L, another bit was found. At this point part of the pavement was made by levelling the rock, as was noticed by Mr. Schick, at P. A similar coping was observed, but on the east side. The street may have been 12 feet wide at this point. In our work last winter, at M, we found a similar pavement, as described in my last report, p. 110. At this point it was 4 feet from the rock, but under it were two floorings of white tesserae. We shall follow the pavement at L, both north and south, and endeavour to ascertain whether the parts at P, F, L and M

belong to the same street. Unfortunately a continuation south of the line PM to the line of the city wall would strike this at a point west of the Jewish Cemetery, where we found it ruined down to its rough foundations; hence there is little hope of its leading us to a gate.

In our work at B we again came across the drain which we had struck several times further south.

As a good part of our work this season has been taken up in the following of clues, which we are still pursuing, I must leave other details for the next report. It will be remembered that near the Pool of Siloam we have two walls, one crossing the valley, thus including the pool in the city, and the other branching off from it, before it crosses the valley and running north-west. On the plan in the *Quarterly* for October, 1895, it may be seen as far as the point T. One hundred feet from T is an exposed scarp. This we have followed north-west for 250 feet, partly by an open trench, partly in a tunnel to a point opposite the real Pool of Siloam. This scarp is well worked, and at one point was found to be 17 feet high. No wall was found upon it, but we shall work back under the road to determine whether it runs to the point T, where the wall, LT, was last seen.

We have already begun one of a series of shafts across the Tyropœon Valley north of the Pool of Siloam, to ascertain its true depth. This shaft is now about 40 feet deep, but we have not reached the bottom. Considerable work has also been done on Ophel, west of the Virgin's Fountain, near the top of the slope. At this point Dr. Guthrie found traces of a wall. We were led to work here by the fact that the proprietors were digging for stones and removing stones *in situ*. We traced a scarp for some distance, and since our work it has been blasted away. Incidentally remains of baths were found. Full measurements were taken, but as we expect to reach this place again in the course of our tracing the wall up Ophel, the description is reserved for a later report, as the account of detached remains is apt to be confusing.

The season has been unfortunate in the loss of time. Owing to various causes—death, an unusually late wet season, and a month's waiting for the arrival of the Permit to continue the excavations—we have done less than half a season's work. It has, however, been good work, as the men are loyal to Abu Selim's memory and take to their new young foreman. Our camp is pitched just outside the line BD in the Augustinian land. Having captured a city wall it seemed quite fitting that we should encamp within it.

JERUSALEM, June 8th, 1896.