

A GREEK INSCRIPTION FROM A COLUMN AT DAMASCUS.

By E. W. G. MASTERMAN, Esq., F.R.C.S.

THE following short Greek inscription I have found inscribed upon the exposed surface of a half buried hexagonal column in Damascus. The column is fixed end-up to form a seat at the side of a street fountain about 50 yards inside the "Bab Tûma" (Gate of Thomas), and the inscription is just below a sort of rim at the upper end. All the other sides of the column but one are hidden by surrounding masonry, and the greater part of the length of the column is buried deeply so that it is impossible to say whether more is inscribed on other surfaces. As I was taking a squeeze the people around told me that some years ago some "Frangees" tried to arrange for the removal of the whole column, but apparently it came to nothing through opposition of the people.



.....
'Α] πολλοδώρου
εὐσεβ[αῦ]
ἀνέθηκεν

Dedication by
son of Apollodorus.

INSCRIPTION ON HEXAGONAL COLUMN AT DAMASCUS.

NOTES ON "QUARTERLY STATEMENT," JULY, 1896.

By Lieut.-Colonel CONDER, LL.D., R.E.

P. 211. It appears to be clear that the wall on Zion is of the time of the Crusaders, or built with materials hewn by them.

P. 226. The question of a few feet in the levels of the Temple, or even of 2 inches in the length of the cubit, is not of very great importance. In the "Handbook of the Bible" I have explained how a 16-inch cubit agrees with careful measurements of Syrian barleycorns, as well as with the dimensions of the Temple, and of the Galilean Synagogues. The level 2432 was ascertained under the pavement of the Dome of the

Rock in 1874. The level 2421 is on the east wall of the present platform. We can hardly suppose that the ground outside the Womens' Court was 5 feet to 7 feet higher than within.

P. 228. My plans of the Temple were prepared on a large scale in 1879, and the published plans reduced from these.

P. 250. Thothmes III does not, to my knowledge, record any expedition into the hill country of Palestine, nor is there any notice of "tribes of Jacob-el and Joseph-el," in his records. The latter is a proposed reading of the name of a town, but Maireth reads *Isphar*, and connects with Saphir (*Sudfir*) in Philistia. Jacob-el is equally problematical.

P. 252. The letter *Kh* is not a prefix. It is an integral radical in all cases, but the cuneiform character, not being originally intended for Semitic speech, does not clearly distinguish the letters *Cheth* and *Ain*. The word for "Hebonites" would, I think, be *Āhabiruni*, and I see no reason why the *n* should be omitted.

P. 254. The Philistines were connected with Mizraim, or Egypt, according to the Bible; but in the time of the Eighteenth Dynasty the names of their chiefs are Semitic, as are those of the towns of Philistia.

P. 260. The identification of the land of Suethe, given by Rey, which I have followed, agrees well with the account of the Crusader's frontiers at Baniâs, and at *el'Aal* in the Jaulân.

P. 260. The existence of the sun-god Aumo could certainly not be derived from the texts given by Waddington. I found the name in ancient Arab inscriptions, but cannot for the moment give the reference, not having the required note-book with me. There is, however, I think, no doubt of the fact.

P. 204. In looking through the MS. of the new translation of Boha ed Din, I find that several interesting additions to the topography will result from the Palestine Exploration Fund's surveys—such as the sites of *Kuseir*, *Sennabra*, &c. The most curious case is that of *Fakhwâneh*, spoken of as near the Jordan bridge. Evidently the region called *Kakhwâneh* is intended, but the second dot was placed a little too far to the left in the MS.

P. 213. "Dr. Guthrie" is apparently a printer's error for Dr. Gütthe.

BIBLE COINS.

By Lieut.-Colonel ALFRED PORCELLI, R.E.

THE *Quarterly Statement* for April, 1896, contains a description of certain coins found in Palestine. On p. 156 there is portrayed a coin which is attributed to Herod I. On the reverse of this coin appears "the monogram $\frac{P}{T}$."