



Khan Ez Zeit

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similar in design to the standards ran along the top of the redstone slab.

It is impossible to give an adequate idea of the character of the mouldings and other carving without detailed drawings, but these will be furnished later. The mouldings found—*in situ*—belonging to the earlier church are :—The cap of the antæ pier of the stair colonnade (*see* section CD), and the base mould of the south pier of the chapel entrance which extends behind the later pier, added at that point as shown on plan. Both of these examples are similar in character, shallow unstudied copies of classic work, as rude in execution as they are weak in design. The column bases—*in situ*—at the entrance to the choir and in the atrium are equally rude and class with the general bad workmanship of the whole building. Three large column bases and one carved cap were found within the body of the church—not *in situ*. The base moulds are of a much finer class than those I have just described, they are well worked and are late imitations of the attic base so commonly used in this country even in the time of the Crusaders. The cap is of the same character and is a debased imitation of a Roman Corinthian cap possibly stolen from some earlier structure. None of these mouldings and carvings, except the large column bases, are such as might be expected from an erection by Justinian.

JERUSALEM, December 15th, 1896.

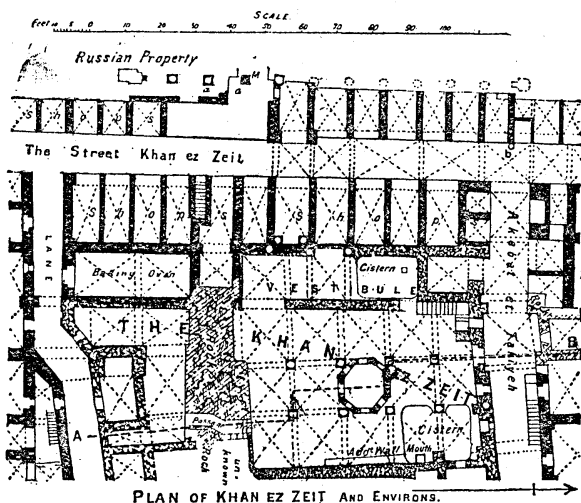
KHAN EZ ZEIT.

By Dr. CONRAD SCHICK.

THE Calvary question demands a great part of the time I can give to such matters. The many visitors who come to me, asking information or to see my models, generally bring also the Calvary question forward. When for an hour, or even more, I have been explaining the models, they say at the end : "Please, now only one more question : What do you think of the new Calvary ?" which opens a new field, with many things to be said *pro* and *contra* as to both Calvaries, that is the *new* one and the *old* one, or the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. So in order to simplify matters, I resolved to make a model of the site of the said church ; as it had been in ancient times, and for the tourist is no more visible, viz., that there was a large rocky eminence, or platform, as I have pointed out already on some former occasions (*see Quarterly Statement*, 1890, p. 20, and 1887, p. 154, *et seq.*). So when shown this rocky height in a model they would get a better idea of the locality, and save me much explanation. In order to do this well, I examined once more the whole neighbourhood of the church, and also the *Khan ez Zeit* situated east of it. I had known for a long time that there are pillars there, but thought

them to be simply old broken materials, used again when the Khan was built. Now, by going more into the details I found the site much more interesting than I had formerly supposed.

The khan is actually a large Hall with four aisles, each of five yokes, or arches, and vaulted with 20 cross archings, supported, besides the outside walls round about, in the inner with a wall and two rows of four pillars (*see plan*). The point of the springing of the arches from the top of the capitals of the pillars is now only about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet above the present main level of the flooring. As there are two cisterns having now very little water in them, we let down by a rope a man to ascertain the size and depth, &c. The depth was found to be 15 feet, and the neighbouring pillar ascertained to have its base at the bottom of the cistern, but as it is plastered no mouldings could be seen on it. As there



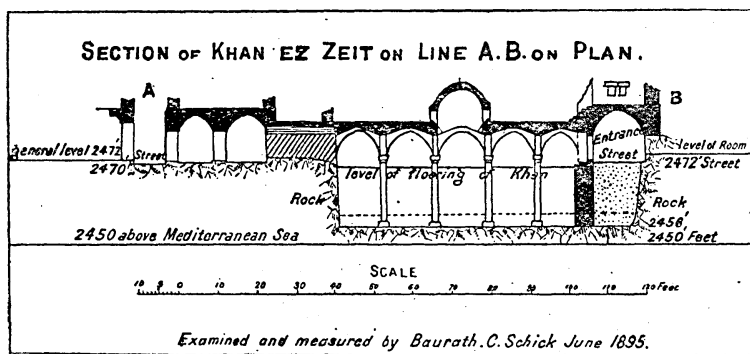
is by the west wall another cistern, which proved to be nearly the same depth, it is clear that the pillars, with their bases, stand 14 or 15 feet underground, and the space is filled up with these two cisterns and with other smaller ones, not for water but for oil, as for a time there was a soap manufactory here, and with earth and dung from horses and donkeys kept here, which was never removed. But what was most striking to me was to find that the whole is sunk into the rock, like a kind of pool, as round about the rock is either very near to the surface of the streets, or even rising several feet higher. In the street on the north it rises on the north side 6 feet high, and at the south end of this sunken ground (or pool) even a little higher, forming there a rock embankment, through which a passage $18\frac{1}{2}$ feet long is cut,¹ as shown in the plan. The western part of this passage (which is not straight, but crooked) is entirely rock,

¹ Some rock steps lead up to it.

the eastern part chiefly masonry. The passage is covered with a low tunnel arch of common stones.

On the west wall of this great Hall there are two more pillars, and outside of it, in one of the shops, are another pair of pillars, but put nearer together than those of the Hall. The capitals of all these pillars are, with a few exceptions, alike, worked out of red mizzeh stone, without any foliage, simply a kind of cube, on which the sides of the upper part is ornamented with horizontal mouldings, and the lower part with rounded mouldings, beginning with a large round ogee (not square, but round shaped), with some other additions, as the figure shows. The abacus is 2 feet broad each side, and the shafts 1 foot $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter.

As there are windows (three) only on the north side, of which one opens into the covered street, and all are near the ground, the Hall would be rather dark, if there was not towards the centre an opening in the roof, with an eight-sided tambour, having small windows round about, and covered with a small dome, so when the sun shines there is

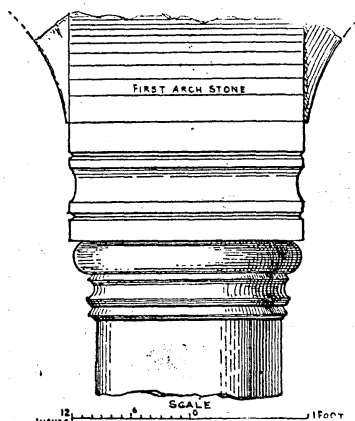


in the centre and the northern part some light, but in the west, behind the wall, and in the south, beyond the rock embankment, it is entirely dark, even at noontime. Near the north-west corner of the Hall there is a staircase leading up to its roof and to some buildings erected over it, and in the neighbourhood.

Seeing this pillar, one is inclined to think this building may have been a church, but I found nothing to justify such an idea. The more I consider the matter, the more I become convinced that there was here a Market Hall, and that it was originally built for such. The deepening (or pool) was of course already there at the time of the erection of the present building, on which I could not see any alterations or restorations, except that the walling-up of the shops in front of it on the west was done in a later time, and at the east wall an additional wall was made, of about 23 feet long, for a support to build a house upon (*see plan*).

The quarrying of this deep and large place was done apparently in

the Jewish time, and belonged to ancient Jerusalem (being inside the second wall). Most likely it was then a pool for water,¹ collected there, and for the use of the people residing in this fortified elevated place—which I consider to have been one of the Akras, if not *the* Akra. If they had wished to cover it up, they could have done this best and most easily by making square piers, and not pillars. So in finding these pillars, I think the covering was done at some later time, and not for keeping water, but for creating a covered Market Hall. When putting into it some walls a public road was made on its north and west sides and a kind of vestibule formed, covered perhaps only as far as the pillars go. In the corner a separate shop or office was made, and close to it a cistern in the open air. The chief entrance to this Market Hall would have been at that time on the western side, with a broad flight of steps, and the two outer pillars belonged to the chief gate of the vestibule.



CAPITAL OF PILLAR AT KHAN EZ ZEIT.

It is remarkable that in the west opposite stood once the Basilica of Constantine. Of its propylæum three pillars² are still standing on the Russian ground. One pillar (marked *a* on the plan) I saw 40 years ago, but it was removed when the opening *M* was made there. I found that Constantine's propylæum must have had 10 pillars,³ which I have shown in the plan by dots. Eusebius speaks of a Market place east of the propylæum, which was certainly of some extent. Now from the plan one can easily see that from the propylæum pillars to the pillars of the vestibule of the Market Hall there was a free space of 45 feet

¹ About 80 feet long, 60 feet wide, and 20 feet deep.

² One stands in the wall of the first shop.

³ See "Zeitschrift des Deutschen Pal. Vereins," 1885, Plate XI. Cf. also Professor Hayter Lewis, "Introduction to the Churches of Constantine at Jerusalem," Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society, 1891, pp. xi-xxix, and Sir Charles Wilson's plan, p. 34.

wide, and three times as long, or 135 feet from one road to the other. This "Market place" was nicely paved—a piece of the pavement was found when the Russians cleared their property. It is now occupied by the main street and the row of shops on each side.

I may add that the basement of one of the pillars, marked *a*, is hewn out from the solid rock, and the flooring there is rock well smoothed, like a pavement.

This Market Hall was not built by the Crusaders; it is, I think, anterior, and must have stood when Constantine's Basilica was built, although the arches are to some degree pointed.

I have to add, that in the street Khan ez Zeit, on its west side, at one of the shops, stands also a pillar, *b*, which has lost its capital. I have an impression that the paved market place was perhaps bounded there by a colonnade, in a line as shown by red dots.

REMARKABLE SCULPTURE AT MEJDEL.

By Rev. J. E. HANAUER.

WHILST itinerating lately amongst the Jewish colonies in Philistia, I stopped for the night of May 25th at the town of Mejdel, situated about 2 miles from the ruins of Ascalon. There being no hotel in the place, my companions and I knocked for admission at the door of a stone house, which was pointed out to us as rented by the English C.M.S. missionaries working at Gaza, and occupied by a dispensary.



SKETCH OF SCULPTURE FROM ASCALON BUILT INTO A HOUSE AT MEJDEL.

Observed May 25th, 1896.

J. E. Hanauer.

Whilst awaiting the arrival of the native caretaker I noticed, built into the wall over the house door, and at the height of from 10 to 12 feet from the ground, a white marble stone 0·73 centimetre long and 0·33 high. Sculptured upon it in very low relief was a striking picture which I at once sketched, and of which I send you two squeezes. The carving is divided into three sections or circular panels surrounded