



The City of David and Acra

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THE CITY OF DAVID AND ACRA.

IN the *Quarterly Statement* for 1886, p. 27, I stated that Josephus described the part north of the Upper City (the Acra of Sir Charles Warren and Captain Conder) as the *suburb* (προάστειον), but I omitted to point out the evidence.

In reference to this part Josephus says (Wars v, iv, 2) that the second wall only encompassed the northern quarter (τὸ προσάρκτιον κλίμα). But again in reference to a particular part of Jerusalem, Josephus speaks of it as the northern quarter (τὸ προσάρκτιον) in Wars i, xiii, 3, but as the *suburb* in the parallel passage in the Ant. xiv, xiii, 4, thus identifying the two. With this agrees the statement in Ant. xv, xi, 5, that two of the *western* gates of the temple led to the *suburb*; inasmuch as the part north of the Upper City was on the *western* side of the temple.

Thus Josephus places the *suburb* north and the Acra east of the Upper City, on Ophel (so called, 1886, 27), hereby unconsciously admitting that Ophel was the site of the City of David. This is clear, since Josephus identifies his Acra with that of the Maccabees (Wars v iv, 1), which was the City of David (1. Macc. 1, 33), which was on Ophel (Old Test., 1885, 100). The City-of-David-question is really as clear as noon, and as easy as A, B, C, until Josephus' guesses at truth are weakly taken to be truth.

For critics in search of the true position of the City of David and Acra, it seems indeed an odd device to disregard entirely the Old Testament and to go to Josephus for its City of David, and to modern theorists for his Acra; instead of going to him for his Acra, and to it for its City of David. My topographical opponents are welcome to confide in Josephus or not, as they like; but it is nothing less than infatuation to *believe* him when he contradicts the Old Testament, writing of what he may have heard, read or thought, but certainly had not seen, and then to disbelieve him when he writes of what he had actually seen.

W. F. BIRCH.

ERRATA.

- October, 1887.—Page 210, line 9, *for* Tibnite, *read* Tabnite.
 „ Page 210, line 15, *for* Dodorus, *read* Diodorous.
 „ Page 213, line 37, *for* 6 in plan, *read* b in plan.
 „ Pages 217, 218, *for* rock level 2411'6, *read* 2511'8.
 „ „ 2412' *read* 2512.
 „ „ 2414' *read* 2514.
 „ „ 2415' *read* 2515.
 „ Page 239, line 24, *for* Disopolis, *read* Diospolis.
 „ Page 240, line 14 from bottom, *for* Atakak, *read* Ataka.
 „ Page 240, line 4 from bottom, *for* then, *read* there.