

# BURIED CITIES, LAYER UPON LAYER!

Rev. J. L. Thomas Describes the Interesting Discoveries Made by Recent Explorations in Palestine.

The search for the hidden archaeological treasures of the Holy Land goes on with unflagging energy and with the earnest support of the sultan, who, so far from opposing the work that Christians are prosecuting in his territory, regards them with favor. Since the issue of the last firman, the agents of the Palestine exploration fund have continued with fresh vim the work that they have so successfully carried on during the past few years. Their explorations have proved conclusively the important fact that a great mound that has been under cultivation for centuries and which is called Tell-el-Hesi, is identical with the Amorite city of Lachish. Dr. Bliss has demonstrated that Tell-el-Hesi consists of the debris of several cities, many times destroyed and rebuilt. The first town was built, it has been proved, as long as 2000 B. C., and the last it is supposed was erected in the fourth century before the birth of Christ.

The remains of some nine cities in all exist between the first and the last, each town having for its foundations the ruins of the one which immediately preceded it on the same site. All traces of the city last erected had been long obliterated when the explorers commenced their excavations on the mound, the only evidence that the spot was once the site of a town being an occasional stray potsherd turned up by the hoe or plowshare of a farmer. The round knoll known as Tell-el-Hesi had for centuries been under cultivation, and one of the preliminaries to excavation on the site was the purchase of the crops with which it was covered.

Then the remains of the various cities were unearthed, one after the other. It was found that the houses were built of sun-dried bricks, still used in the east, being blocks of mud held together by chopped straw. Dr. Bliss prepared elaborate plans and measurements of eight of the cities, the buildings and rooms of which were well defined and easily traced, but he recognized as many as eleven cities in all. It is believed that a layer of charcoal dust and white lime, found near the bottom, which is regarded as the mystery of the tell, represents the burning of the city by the Israelites.

The excavations brought to light a most interesting relic in the ruins of the third city. It is a tablet of burnt clay, measuring 2 1/2 inches by two inches, similar to the celebrated Tell-el-Amarna tablets, bearing a message in cuneiform characters, and ascribed to the fifteenth century B. C. It is now in the Imperial museum at Constantinople. In it occurs the name of Zimridi, who, we learn from the Tell-el-Amarna tablets, was governor of Lachish, and who was murdered there by emissaries from his Egyptian overlord.

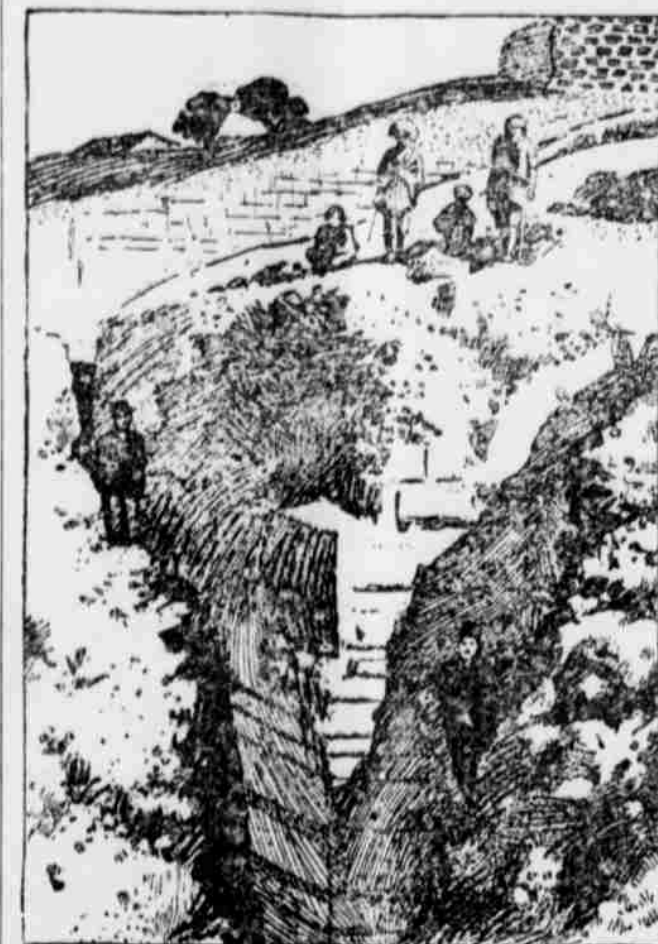
The translation of the tablet is unusually difficult, and the text, uncertain. This important find leads those interested in Palestine research to hope that future exploration will bring to light the other part of the Tell-el-Amarna correspondence which relates to Syria, and that it is reserved for Dr. Bliss to come upon an archive chamber containing records of the past which will tell us (in the words of Prof. Sayce) of days "when Abram, the Hebrew, pitched his tent in the neighbor hood of Hebron and paid tithes to the king of Jerusalem."

Through excavations at Jerusalem, the most interesting relics have been discovered, and the account given by the historian Josephus regarding the area of the city has been shown to be correct. Various rock-cut dwellings were laid bare, and probably date from the period of the Jebusites. A rock-hewn base of a tower and an aqueduct which were traced may be referred to Solomon. The rock-hewn walls of Pool of Siloam, together with rock-cut steps leading down to it, may it is suggested, be the work of Hezekiah, while the remains of an arcade around the pool, together with a built stairway connecting it with the street may be referred to Herod. Numerous house walls and mosaic frag-

ments were discovered, and are probably the remains of extramural villas of Hadrian's time.

During the excavations in the Tyropoeon valley the explorers came upon the remains of a church, which, it was known, once existed at Siloam. The original church is supposed to have been the work of the Empress Eudocia, the wife of Theodosius, who spent the last ten or eleven years of her life in exile at Jerusalem. At a later date the church was rebuilt and enlarged, probably by Justinian. The church, which consisted of a nave, terminating in an apse and two aisles, was found to be remarkably well preserved for a building which had been buried for so many

centuries, some parts of it being almost intact. The floor was found to be largely covered with mosaics.



EXCAVATIONS IN PALESTINE.

centuries, some parts of it being almost intact. The floor was found to be largely covered with mosaics.

Near the Pool of Siloam an unsuccessful search was made for the tomb of David. Traditional, but spurious, "Tombs of the Kings" and an equally spurious "Tomb of David" are already among the sights of the Holy City; but the real sepulchre of the kings of Judaea has yet to be recovered, if it still exists. Among those who believe in its continued existence beneath the present surface is that eminent French archaeologist, Prof. Clermont Ganneau, who has done so much for Palestine research. He has indicated with some confidence, by means of a schematic plan, the exact spot where the tomb of the kings may be looked for. In a bend of the tunnel which connects the Virgin's Fountain with the Pool of Siloam he believes the royal vault to be concealed.

We are told by Josephus that Herod the Great, in search of treasure, opened the tomb of the kings by night, and, entering secretly with a few friends, saw a flame burst out from the sacred spot, and two of his guards fell down

but without success. M. Clermont Ganneau was the first to suggest that the entrance to David's Tomb was not the ordinary Jewish doorway cut in the vertical rock, but a pit similar to the entrance to sepulchres found in Egypt and Phoenicia. Before a complete test can be made of the theory it will be necessary to clear an extensive area in the bend caused by the tunnel—which bend the archaeologist attributes to the necessity of avoiding the royal vault. That, we may hope, will be done.

A discovery was made which supports the view that the tomb of David was of the shaft type. Near the so-called "Tombs of the Kings" to the north of the Damascus gate, on property belonging to the Anglican college, a tomb was discovered entirely sunk in the rock, and resembling those found in the north. It shows that that style of sepulchre was used further south than had been previously supposed.

During Dr. Bliss' prosecution of his researches in the south of Jerusalem, a discovery of exceptional interest was made near the scene of his labors, but in this case the discovery was brought about by no human agency, but was entirely due to the elements. During a violent storm the Zion gate (Bab Naby Daud), a massive iron-bound door, in the modern wall, was blown down, and revealed an in-

scribed stone set in the wall behind, about fifteen feet above the ground. Every inch almost of Suleiman the Magnificent's great wall had been examined for inscriptions, but the inscribed stone at the Zion gate had escaped the observations of the keen-eyed antiquaries till the storm rendered it visible to all.

It is in Latin, and is one of the very few Roman inscriptions discovered at Jerusalem. It is a votive tablet to Jupiter, on behalf of the welfare and victory of the Emperor Trajan, of the Roman people, erected by the Third Legion, and thus takes us back to the interval between the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus and the founding of Aelia Capitolina. From it we learn the interesting fact that the Third Legion, as well as the Tenth, was at Jerusalem between the time of Titus and Hadrian. The inscription is as follows:

"To Jupiter Sarapis, Best and Greatest, for the safety and victory of the Emperor Trajan and the Roman people, a standard bearer of the THIRD LEGION (Cyrenaeo) has made this."

J. L. THOMAS, M. A., F. R. G. S.



THE EXPLORING PARTY IN PALESTINE.

dead. Herod scrambled out in terror, and, in memory of the occasion, erected at the mouth of the vault a propitiatory monument. Near the spot indicated, but apparently not exactly on it, Dr. Bliss caused a search to be made,

which would have had to go hungry. And cats are the same today.

Spanish Hebrews Aliens. In Spain Hebrews are not permitted to erect and maintain houses of worship. They have no civil rights and exist in the kingdom only as aliens.

Norwegians Live Longest. In Norway the average length of life is greater than in any other country on the globe.

## WHY THEY DO IT.

Some Queer Things Done by Pets and the Reason.

Did you ever see your dog walking around and around in a circle? Of course you have, but I don't expect you know why they do it. Years and years ago, more years than you can count, perhaps, the dogs were all wild, like their cousins, the wolves, and had to beat out a hole in the grass or the snow before they could lie down. And the dogs have done the same way ever

since. They had to keep their noses clean, too, so they could smell the rabbits and other animals they ate, a long ways off, so they never let their noses touch the ground, going to sleep with their noses resting on their paws. And they have done that ever since. The cat is always washing herself and is known to be the cleanest of all the animals. Well, away back long ago the cats had to keep clean or the little animals she waited patiently for would smell her a long ways off and Kitty

would have had to go hungry. And cats are the same today.

Spanish Hebrews Aliens. In Spain Hebrews are not permitted to erect and maintain houses of worship. They have no civil rights and exist in the kingdom only as aliens.

Norwegians Live Longest. In Norway the average length of life is greater than in any other country on the globe.

## COLLEGES TURN OUT SPINSTERS

Educated Girls Think Longer and Look on Marriage Seriously.

Investigators who have been studying the college girl versus marriage make the extraordinary assertion that the percentage of marriages among women collegians falls far below that of the less highly educated woman, says the New York Mail and Express. For example, take one college—Bryn Mawr—and the classes of '89 and '94 for illustration. Class '89—Ten years out of school, averaging now 32-33 years of age; twenty-six members, eleven married, two studied three years post-graduate to take the degree of Ph. D. Neither of these has married. Class '94—Five years out of school, averaging now 27-28 years of age; twenty in class; three have married; three studied one year extra to take degree of A. M., one stayed three years to take Ph. D. Of seventy-eight women who have held fellowships ten have married, or 13 per cent; of 161 graduates thirty-nine have married, or 24 per cent; of 255 girls who did not stay to take their degrees thirty-eight have married, or 17 per cent; of 234 A. B.'s, thirty-two married, or 14 per cent. Very few women will agree, however, with the conclusions of the Rev. Dr. E. Winchester Donald, made public in a speech delivered at Abbott academy, Andover, that the "methods of education followed in nearly all the female colleges make pupils unwomanly and too erudite." They may make them critical and develop their discernment and discretion, two attributes which women greatly need to get along in the world, whether married or single, but in the sensible words of one undergraduate is found the true solution of the problem. She says: "Graduates leave college at the age of 21 or 22, and are less likely to rush into marriage. They think longer and look at matrimony more seriously. While I must admit that there is a great difference in the percentage of married women who graduate compared to those who do not, I do not think that a girl's erudition scares a young man or creates a desire to remain single, but makes a woman more sensible and restrains her from rushing unheedingly into wedlock."

## THE FIRST CAMP-MEETING.

It Was Held at Russellville, Ky., a Century Ago.

"The effect of the McGee brothers' preaching—especially of John McGee—at a Presbyterian quarterly meeting on the banks of the Red river, Kentucky, was so startling and seemed so clearly to indicate that it was the result of divine agency or some mysterious force possessed by the preacher, that the news of the occurrence spread rapidly in all directions throughout that part of the state and attracted unbounded interest," writes Clifford Howard in the Ladies' Home Journal. "If it did not at once awaken a responsive religious feeling, it at least excited curiosity and when it was learned that the McGee brothers were to hold a meeting at Russellville, Ky., a newly settled town in Logan county, near the Muddy river, persons from all parts of the adjoining country, irrespective of their religious beliefs or church allegiance, prepared to attend. It soon became evident that the four walls of a country meeting house would not suffice to hold the large numbers that were making ready to go to Russellville. The problem thus presented was solved by determining to hold the meeting in the open air. Those coming from a distance were prepared to camp; it would be no hardship to them to remain out of doors. The recent experience at Red river had proved this. It was not expected by those who were coming that the lodging accommodation at the village of Russellville would be sufficient by any means. Why, therefore, attempt to house the people? Prepare a camping ground and let the meeting be a 'camp meeting.' This, then, was the origin of camp meetings; and the first one held in America was on the banks of the Muddy, near Russellville, Ky., in the month of August, 1799—100 years ago. Not that religious worship had never before been held in the open air, but the special feature of camping out and the nature of the services made the camp meeting a distinctive institution and characterized this particular gathering on Muddy river as the first of its kind."

## Not Mere Obstinacy.

An amusing story of amateur sports comes to the London Academy from the far east, all the way from Perak, in the Malay Peninsula. The sun was blazing down on a field of hot, excited horses and men, all waiting for a tall, raw-boned beast to yield to the importunities of the starter and get into line. The patience of the latter was nearly exhausted. "Bring up that horse!" he shouted. "Bring up that beast! You'll get into trouble over this, I tell you that!" The rider of the refractory beast, a youthful lightweight, replied, patiently: "I'm as tired of it as you are, sir, but I can't help it. This is a cab-horse, this horse is. He won't start till the door shuts and I haven't got a door."

## Naval Officer's Sword.

The sword of a naval officer is one of the most peaceful and useless tools on board a ship. Orders cannot be given with it, and it cannot reach the enemy that is being shelled.

## CHANGED HER MIND.

It was a delightful afternoon in summer. Elsie Leroy sat on the porch; near her sat his little sister's governess, Agnes Wayland.

There was a striking contrast between these two. Elsie looked the picture of loveliness in her white muslin and cherry colored ribbons. One glance at her bright face with its ever varying expression, told you that so far her path through life lay in the broad sunshine.

But not so with Agnes Wayland. She was clad in sober gray and looked as cool as an icicle this warm afternoon. Her pale, handsome face wore its habitual expression of sadness. You looked at that face once, and you knew instinctively that the governess walked in the shade.

There was a footstep on the gravel path. Elsie looked to see who was coming. It was her lover, Walter Thornton, and her face brightened instantly.

"Here comes Walter, Agnes. Wait until you see him go away crazy jealous."

"Take care, dear," came a warning voice from the governess.

Elsie paid no heed to Agnes, for the moment Walter approached the steps she exclaimed:

"Oh, Walter, I called on Ella May down at the hotel this morning, and I was introduced to Mr. Gilbert Downing, whose coming has created such a furor—and, oh, he is so nice!" and Elsie's hands came together in a clasp of delight, just as Walter set his foot on the porch.

"Oh dear, he is so nice!" and Walter mimicked Elsie's tones as he bowed smilingly to the governess.

"Yes, he's so nice! I suppose you're angry because I like him!" cried Elsie, indignantly.

"Oh, yes, awful angry," and Walter laughed good naturedly. "My dear Elsie, I expected you'd agree with the general verdict 'perfectly splendid.' Why can't I squeeze my hand into a six glove and my foot into a four boot?" and Walter looked ruefully at his hands and feet, which were in pro-

portion with his splendidly built six feet of manhood.

"Why can't you? I should think you'd know at a glance, sir. Because your hands and feet are too large," said Elsie, coolly.

"Oh, are they?" and for a moment Walter looked surprised; then, in a more earnest tone, he said: "So, you really like the perfumed dandy, Elsie?"

"Of course I like Mr. Downing. Who could help liking him? Don't call him a perfumed dandy, Walter, it sounds spiteful," and there was a twinkle of triumph in Elsie's eyes.

"Does it? Then I will never again call Gilbert Downing a dandy," said Walter, in a voice that puzzled Elsie.

There was a moment's silence, and then Walter said:

"I think I will be going."

"I suppose you will be over this evening?" said Elsie.

"I'm not certain that I will. Good afternoon, ladies," and the next moment Walter was running lightly down the steps.

"Well, if that isn't cool," said Elsie, turning to the governess, who had been a silent listener. "What did I tell you, Agnes? He's gone off just as jealous as he can be."

"Be careful, Elsie. Walter Thornton doesn't look like a man you could trifle with."

"Oh, dear, here comes Mr. Downing now. I hope Walter didn't see him!" interrupted Elsie in a voice of deep alarm.

The governess quickly raised her eyes. She saw a gentleman coming in the gate, and she was on her feet in an instant. Great cords had risen on her temples, for a moment her face was crimson from brow to chin, then the blood flowed back in its proper channels, and left her face an ashen hue.

"Don't go away, Agnes. I want you yet you think he is perfectly splendid."

"I think the monster you married is perfectly splendid!" cried Elsie, in astonishment.

"Yes, Elsie, you do, but perhaps it is not your fault. I never told you that monster's name—it is Gilbert Downing."

"Oh, Agnes! Can this be true?" and Elsie's arms went round the governess' neck.

"I thought you weren't coming this evening, Walter," said Elsie, a couple of hours after, as she sat, radiant and smiling, in the cozy drawing-room when Walter entered.

"Well, I think I oughtn't to have come, Elsie, but I couldn't stay away," and Walter entered.

Before Elsie had time to reply, the servant entered with Gilbert Downing's card.

"I am not at home to Mr. Downing," said Elsie, and as the servant disappeared to deliver her message, she turned to her lover, and putting her arm around his neck, she said:

"Walter, I told you today I thought Mr. Downing was splendid. Well, I've changed my mind. I think he is a conceited wretch—worse than that, in fact, and nothing can induce me to speak to him again."

Elsie didn't tell Walter why she had changed her mind, but when Mr. Downing saw her in the street next day with her sister's governess he knew why Miss Leroy was not at home to him the night before, and in a few hours he had left his hotel and was seen at the watering-place no more.—New York Evening News.

Charlotte Would Feel It. She—"Father, would it hurt you much if I married without your consent?" He—"It might hurt the young man more."—West End.



"DON'T GO AWAY, AGNES."