

## APPENDIX I.



### SILOAM INSCRIPTION.

THIS inscription is about 27 in. square. It is carved on the native rock on the wall of the water-conduit leading from the Virgin's Spring to the Pool of Siloam, about 19 ft. from the Siloam end.

It was discovered in 1880 by native boys who were playing in the water. They informed Mr. C. Shick, who published an account of it in the Palestine Exploration Fund Statement for that year. Later on squeezes were taken by Sayce, Guthe, and others. Driver in his *Samuel* gives facsimile, transcription into Hebrew, and translation. There is a good article, "Siloah," on the

## TEXT OF SILOAM INSCRIPTION

(TRANSLITERATED INTO SQUARE HEBREW).

Letters in square brackets are conjectural restorations of lost or indistinct portions.

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1	* * * * הנקבה . וזה . היה . דבר . הנקבה . בעוד * * * *	1
2	הגרזן . אש . אל . רעו . ובעוד . שלש . אמת . להכ[ת] . נשמ[ע] . קל . אש . ק	2
3	רא . אל . רעו . כי . הית . זדה . בצר . מימן * * * * ובים . ה	3
4	נקבה . הכו . החצבם . אש . לקרת . רעו . גרזן . על . [גרזן] . וילכו	4
5	המים . מן . המוצא . אל . הברכה . במאתים . ואלף . אמה . ומ[א]	5
6	ת אמה . היה . גבה . הצר . על . ראש . החצבם	6

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## SILOAM INSCRIPTION

conduit, with useful diagrams by Guthe in his *Kurzes Bibelwörterbuch*. The inscription is now in the Imperial Museum at Constantinople.<sup>1</sup> It is written in ancient Hebrew characters similar to those of the Moabite Stone.<sup>2</sup>

The date is uncertain, but it probably belongs to the closing period of the Jewish monarchy. There are three or four passages in the Old Testament which may refer to it, viz., Isa. 8<sup>6</sup> "the waters of Shiloah that go softly," a passage written in the reign of Ahaz; 2 Kings 20<sup>20</sup> "Hezekiah.... made.....the conduit" (= 2 Chron. 32<sup>30</sup>); Isa. 22<sup>9, 11</sup> "ye gathered together the waters of the lower pool.....ye made also a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the old pool," a passage written in the reign of Hezekiah.

It will be seen that the inscription does not state when or by whom it was written. The absence of names, the inconspicuous

<sup>1</sup> *L* (cf. p. 64), p. 439.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 68.

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position, and the rude style of the writing, suggest that it may have been written unofficially by the foreman of the workmen who made the conduit.

The words are divided by dots as on the Moabite Stone ; these dots are placed irregularly, sometimes lower, sometimes higher.

### NOTES.

Line 2, *אש קל*. This inscription, like the Stone, uses the *Scriptio Defectiva* ; cf. p. 72.

Line 3, *הית* ; OT., *היתה*.

Line 4, *לקרת* ; OT., *לקראת*.

### TRANSLATION.

Words in italics are supplied for the sake of the English idiom.

1. . . . .the boring. Now this was the manner of the boring. While yet . . . . .

2. the pick each towards his fellow ; and while *there were* yet three cubits to strike *through*, the voice of each [was heard]

## NOTES ON THE TRANSLATION

3. calling to his fellows, for there was ZDH in the rock on the right hand . . . . . and on the day of the

4. boring, the hewers struck *through* each opposite his fellow, pick to pick, and came

5. the waters from the spring to the pool, 1200 cubits. And 100

6. cubits was the height of the rock above the head of the hewers.

## NOTES ON THE TRANSLATION.

Line 1. *boring*; the Heb. *nḵbh* is not found in OT. in this sense, but the root *nḵb* is used for "pierce."

Line 2. *each towards his fellow*. The boring was made by two parties working from opposite ends. Guthe's diagram of the conduit shows *culs-de-sac*; apparently the workmen sometimes went too far in one direction, and went a little way back and started afresh.

*three cubits*, etc., about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

Line 3. ZDH, not in OT., which, however, has the root ZWD, to boil, be proud,

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exceed in pride, whence the meaning "excess" has been suggested, *i.e.*, at this point the two parties had gone a little too much to the right of each other and might have gone past each other, if they had not heard a noise; "excess" is the rendering given by Sayce, *Fresh Light*, etc., 86. Possibly "fissure" would suit the context; this is suggested by *L* (cf. p. 64); S. A. Cook, *Encyc. Bibl.* i. 883; Driver, *Sam.*

Lines 3, 4. *the day of the boring*, the day when the boring was finished.

Line 5. *the spring*, *i.e.* the Virgin's Pool; so Driver, *Sam.*, "source"; so 2 Kings 2<sup>21</sup>.

1200 *cubits*; according to Col. Conder the distance is 1758 ft. If the number 1200 were exact, it would give us 17.58 in. for the cubit; but 1200 is obviously a round number (A. R. S. Kennedy, *Dict. of the Bible*, T. & T. Clark, iv. 907<sup>b</sup>). The statement, however, confirms the indications afforded by other data that the cubit was about 18 in

Lines 5, 6. 100 *cubits*, etc., *i.e.* the surface of the rock was 100 cubits above

## NOTES ON THE TRANSLATION

the conduit ; but it is not clear at what point, whether at the point where the two parties met, or at the point where the distance was greatest.