

Christians something more than a sentimental or scientific interest. From researches, conducted by truthful and scientific men, light has been often shed on Scripture doctrine and demonstrative certainty imparted to Scripture history. A great deal was expected in this way from the Palestine Exploring Party that was organized some years ago to conduct their investigations after a careful scientific fashion. It is not much they can show, in comparison with exploration parties on the Euphrates, in the way of disentombing temples and palaces, for within the bounds of the Holy Land there is not what can be called one respectable ruin. They have done something, however, in the way of bringing things to view that shed interesting light on Scripture history and Scripture doctrine.

The water supply of the city, especially of Solomon's temple, and its connection with the Pool of Siloam, has always been a question of interest to Bible students. There has ever been a strong presumption that a living spring or springs exist under the temple area on which now stands the Mosque of Omar. It cannot be otherwise because we find that the besiegers of Jerusalem always suffered more from want of water than the besieged. If living water did exist under the temple area, was it—another question of interest—by the Pool of Siloam, which lies in the valley outside the walls of Jerusalem, it found an outlet?

On opening the volume whose title we have here given, our first act was to ascertain whether Capt. Warren and his party had been able to throw more light on this point. To some extent one is disappointed, for there is no distinct statement as to the discovery of a spring under the temple area: but there is new evidence of a good kind that points in that direction, at least. One interesting item of discovery is an immense reservoir, not however of Solomon's time, that may have been intended, according to Captain Warren, not simply for the

collection of rain water but for receiving a living stream from the north side or perhaps from a fountain near at hand.

"I tried to descend," says Captain Warren, in describing this reservoir, "but to no purpose, until I had nearly stripped to the skin; and even then, in my contortions, I managed to slip the rope over one arm. The narrow passage was only for 3 feet; and 10 feet from the surface I came on the floor of a little chamber, about 6 feet square, apparently on a level with the Haram area. The shaft down to the cistern continues through the floor of this chamber and is a moderate sized opening. On getting down to the water (12 feet from opening) I found it only 3 feet deep, and concluding from the size of the cistern that help would be required, I signalled for Sergeant Birtles to come down. On lighting up the magnesium wire and looking about me I was astonished, my first impression being that I had got into a church similar to that of the Cathedral (formerly a mosque) at Caradova. I could see arch upon arch to north and east, apparently rows of them."

This reservoir on being measured was found to be 63 feet long, by 57 feet broad; and 32 feet from the bottom to the crown of the arches. It is built in the bottom of the deep natural valley that runs here, and is in the very position it should occupy to collect and keep running water.

Its position indicates also the direction its surplus water must have taken—right in the direction of the Pool of Siloam. The opinion of the explorers on this point also is very clear. There was no other course, they say, for the waters of the temple than to seek this depression and emerge without the walls, somewhere in the place occupied by the Pool of Siloam.

In all this there is therefore a striking confirmation, (though no distinct proof) of the popular opinion of which Stanley takes notice. "All accounts combine,"