

Robinson's Arch.

(See *Frontispiece*.)

BENEATH the arch is an old disused cistern, the pavement of which was broken through, and a shaft sunk along the wall. The stones here were all in their original positions, and appeared to Captain Warren to be probably one of the oldest portions of the Sanctuary now existing. If so, they formed, without doubt, part of the original enclosure wall of the Temple. At a depth of 24 ft. they came upon a mass of masonry, apparently those of a fallen arch. Hence we may conclude that the present arch, which may be late Roman, stands upon the site of an older one. Lower down, they came to the foundations of the wall in the rock, and here running water was found; and observations, extended over a long period, proved that a fountain of water exists in the city, and is running to this day far below the surface. It ran along the wall; but no trace of the stream was found lower down at the excavations near Robinson's Arch. There is a tradition among the Jews that when flowing water has been found three times under the Temple walls, the Messiah is at hand. Now, according to their accounts, it had been found twice before, so that this made the third time; and the Rabbis came down to look at the discovery, with cries of joy and thanksgiving.

Mejr-ed-Deen, an Arabic writer of the thirteenth century, mentions a subterranean gallery, "which David caused to be made from the Gate of the Chain to the citadel." This subterranean passage was actually found in the course of their explorations at Wilson's Arch. It lies westward of the vaults' entrance just described. It was followed up by Captain Warren to a distance of 250 ft. from the wall of the Haram. It is a well-built arched passage, 10 ft. high and 14 ft. wide, and was evidently intended as a secret way of communication between the citadel and the Temple, by which troops could be brought, in case of an *émeute*, without exciting suspicion.

The next series of excavations were those at Robinson's Arch, which yielded discoveries perhaps the most important and interesting of any. First, the pier of the arch was found 51 ft. 6 in. long, and 12 ft. 2 in. thick, built of the same stone, with the same draft and chisel marks as in the wall at the south-west angle. There is a hollow of 5 ft. wide inside, a method of building adopted to save stone. Between the pier and the wall there was a pavement, on which lay the fallen voussoirs of the arch. At the north end of the pier a tank was found, and at the east of this a passage leading to the wall, where it branched off north and south. It was traced as far as the Gate of the Prophet, a distance of about 180 ft., where a breach occurred. This proved that the wall runs in an unbroken line from Robinson's Arch to the Prophet's Gate.

The pavement was broken through, and found to be placed over a mass of rubbish 23 ft. deep.

At the bottom of this there was found a canal cut in the rock, and running north and south. This very curious canal was traced north and south for a long distance. It may possibly have been the same down which ran the stream of water which Captain Warren discovered at Wilson's Arch. Several lamps, weights, jars, etc., were found in it. It runs occasionally into circular pools, one of which is cut across by the Haram wall, showing that the pool is older than this portion of the wall. The canal is arched over, and at intervals holes have been cut for buckets to be dropped through. The conclusions that Captain Warren came to are so important that we give them in his own words:—

"1. The winding aqueduct was cut in the rock.

"2. The Temple and Solomon's palace were constructed, and a bridge leading over the Tyropœon valley connected the palace with the Lower city in the plateau below and east of the upper city.

"3. The arch of the bridge fell, breaking in part of the arch of the aqueduct.

"4. The Temple was reconstructed by Herod, who took in the Palace of Solomon, and built the present south-west angle of the Sanctuary; and the new wall, cutting across portions of the rock-cut canal, connections were made by means of masonry passages. At this time, the rubbish had begun to choke up the valley at this point to 22 ft., and the wall to that height was built with rough-faced stones, the portion above being made to resemble the older parts of the wall. A pavement was laid on the rubbish, and the pier and arch of Robinson's Arch and viaduct were built. In order to obtain water readily, shafts, which still exist, were constructed at intervals from the pavement to the canal and pools."

Toronto Methodist S. S. Association.

THE Methodist Sabbath-school Association of Toronto held its semi-annual meeting in the Carlton Street Church on Thursday afternoon, the 15th ult. There were over 220 persons present, representing 22 schools. The officers appointed for the ensuing year are: John Kent, Esq., President; J. B. Boustead, Vice-President; J. J. McLaren, Q.C., Secretary; W. J. Crown, Treasurer, and an Executive Committee composed of the Superintendent and one member from each school. The association as now organized represents 35 schools, 790 officers and teachers, and nearly 8,000 scholars. It is proposed to hold the next meeting during the first week in March in the Metropolitan school-room, when special discussion will be had upon the work of the association. It is highly gratifying to know that good, earnest work is being done in the Methodist schools of this city, and this association gives promise that still greater efficiency and enthusiasm will be promoted. It is hoped that a general attendance will be had