

LIMESTONE COLUMN DISCOVERED IN THE RUSSIAN BUILDINGS AT JERUSALEM TO THE WEST OF THE NEW CHURCH.

MR. TYERWHITT DRAKE reports (May, 1871) the discovery of a column in this place. It is 40ft. 5in. in length (including base, lin. in relief and 18in. broad); its diameter at base is 6ft. 3in. It lies in direction N.N.W. and S.S.E., in a reddish soil, with broken stone and a few fragments of pottery. It is at present only uncovered at its N.N.W. end, for about 6ft. in the centre, and sufficiently at the S.S.E. end to show how far it extends. The top is only 6 to 10 in. below the present surface of the soil.

Mr. Drake adds:—

“The column has only recently been discovered, and I have urged upon the Russian authorities the desirability of uncovering it, which could be done at a very trifling expense. The length of the column, if I remember right, agrees with that given by Josephus as the height of the columns of Herod’s temple.”

THE MOABITE STONE.

THE following statement by Herr H. Petermann, late Prussian Consul in Jerusalem, is translated from a communication in the *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* for 1870, Part IV. :—

“In the end of August, 1868, my friend, the Rev. Mr. Klein, one of the agents of the English Mission, returned to Jerusalem from a journey round the Dead Sea; and on the following day he reported to me, in the presence of three friends, on the subject of a stone which had been shown to him by the Bedouins in the neighbourhood of Diban (the ancient Dibon), with the express assurance that he was the first European by whom it had been seen. According to the entry in his diary it was 3 spans broad, 5 spans long, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ thick; or accurately 70 centimètres broad, 1·13 metre long, and 35 centimètres thick; probably of basalt; and with a very distinct inscription of 33 lines, in excellent condition, except a few lines at the top, which were somewhat defaced. Mr. Klein, not being prepared for such a discovery, had no squeeze-paper with him; and as he had been obliged to proceed immediately on his journey, he had not been able to make a transcript of the inscription, but had copied only certain letters, which I immediately recognised as Phœnician. By the next post, on the 29th of August, I wrote on the subject to Berlin; and as I saw danger in delay, I begged to know by telegraph whether the Direction of the Royal Museum were inclined to pay 100 napoleons, if necessary, for acquiring the stone. On the