

Syrian Protestant College,
Beirut, Syria.

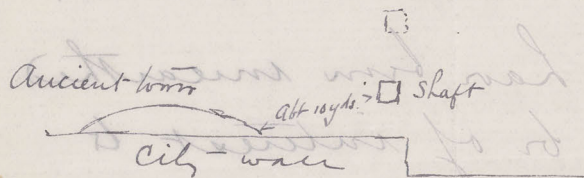
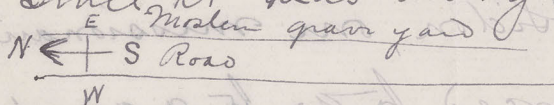
June 13, 1884.

Dear Sir:

In digging for the foundations of the new Mission buildings at Sidon, our missionaries have been forced to go to a great depth to get to the solid rock.

Some things have been unearthed which may be of interest to you. Mr. Ford noticed, one day, a number of flint knives among the earth thrown out from one of the shafts; he immediately stopped work in that shaft and examined it himself and sent

for some one to go down from the college. That fell to my lot; and I was in the shaft the greater part of last Monday (the 9th). The lot on which they are building is just outside the city - to the East. It was formerly part of a Moslem burying place, and has certainly not been disturbed since it has belonged to them -



The foundations of the old tower were unearthened in the digging; and the shaft in which the remains were found was about 10 yds. distant from it.

The shaft in which the remains

Shaft $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. square -

Debris -

m
10.50

m
0.50

Pure ocean sand

m
0.40

m
0.30

Earth

m
0.30

Burnt earth

m
1.20

dark earth, quite solid, with flints, bones
shells, and broken pottery with sharp edges.
Streaks of burnt earth

m
1.10

Sandy loam with a few rounded pieces
of pottery; part of a shell of "murex".

Red Sandstone Rock.

10.50
3.70
6.80

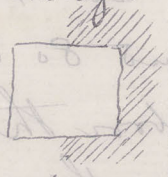
50
60
30
1.20
1.10
3.70

were found is $10\frac{1}{2}$ metres deep. The
sandstone at the bottom corresponds
with the older sandstones around
Bezyout, and is, as near as I could
judge about 3 metres above the sea
level; but I had no means of
ascertaining that exactly.

The stratum immediately above it
is almost barren; I found nothing
in it but a few pieces of ~~pottery~~^{pottery}
rounded at the edge as though by
the action of water, a fragment of
a "murex" shell, the same, I think
as those ~~use~~ from which Tyrian
purple was procured, and a
few scallop shells. There were
quite a number of large rounded
stones here and there in the earth.

Almost all that was found
comes from the layer immediately
above this. Here we found some
beautiful flint knives, some
so shaped as to make me think
they were meant for saws; numerous
pieces of bone, ^{including} one jaw bone with
teeth, and one of a bird; several
varieties of shells among which I
recognized the large Helix which
you found at Antelias, and a
number of sea shells which are

Common along the coast today - a
Duro, a Cypria, and others; pieces
of broken pottery, which differ from
those lower down in having sharp
edges. Most of them were made
of red clay and are plain; only
one or two have any attempt at
decoration these are very rude.
Here and there are horizontal
streaks of charred earth.

Immediately above this is a
layer of burnt earth 30 cm. in
thickness. It does ^{not exist} the whole way
around the shaft but is found in
this way  The part where
it is not found is filled up
with large stones, and immediately
inside the layer, especially along the
upper ^(S.) side (in the sketch) were large
flat stones. The layer was thickest
there, and became less as we dug
away from the shaft. It contained
much charred wood ~~and~~ in small

pieces, and some few bones which crumbled easily. There was also a few pieces of limestone burnt so as to break easily; from the fossils in it it appeared to me to be murettitic; and I think I have seen a statement that no such limestone is found in this district except at Mt. Hermon, (Mr. Reid says it is not found anywhere near Sidon) several days journey distant.

The layer above the burnt district is made up of earth and stones, all compressed, ~~as~~ all that was found in it ^{were} two or three *Helix* shells. It is 40 cm. thick at the W. side and 80 at the E.

Immediately above this and with the uniform thickness of 50 cm. is a layer of fine ocean sand, without any shells or remains of any kind. This sand ~~is~~ (as well as the oth strata) was found in a cores ponding

position and of the same thickness
in a shaft a few yards to the East,
and which was built up when
I was there. Six or seven more shafts
are to be put down further to the
South; it will be interesting to
know how far the layer extends -
Mr. Ford has promised to watch
the digging and to report.

Above the sand there is nothing
except loose rocks and earth to
the average depth of $6\frac{3}{4}$ metres.

June 26, 1884

I have delayed sending this
hoping to be able to send you
drawings of the flints etc., but
for some reason they have not
been sent up from Sidon yet.
I understand, however that they
have discovered more flints in
one of the shafts since dug. I
hope to be able to send you more

particulars with the drawings in
a work - two -

I have received your letter
of May 30, including the names
of the fossils. I cannot be sure
of all the species but some I
recognize from the name. Rev.
Mr. Bird of Abikh has been
here several times in the last
week or two and has given me
much information as to localities.
A great many of our fossils
were collected by him. The *Rhynchonella*
and *Ammonoites*
Comes from Mes-det-Sheups, Mt.
Hermon; *Turgonia Syriaica*, *Protocardium*
and *Ceromya* from Abikh; *Terebratula*
from Dhwir, a village about
the height of Abikh and directly
to the east. *Nerinea*, *Spirifer*, *Patella*
are probably from Abikh; the ^{small} *Ammono-*
ites are from Hermon, *Cidaris*

from Shwiri. The mass of sea-urchins on the challe probably come from Shweifat just at the southern extremity - of Beyront plain; And Mr. Bid thinks the large masses of Keppinites come from near Tyre, but is not sure of that. He also says that ~~that~~ those labels marked "fr. 75-" were written by Oscar Fraas, who was employed by Rustom Pasha to make collect the specimens. He says he knows that nummulites are found at Zallah, and also those small white shells.

In looking over our specimens of those leaf like fossils, which Dr. Woodward ~~find~~ thinks to be a Crustacean I find but one which has any traces of a tail. This

one is from Heakel, the only one
we have from there. I would be
glad to send it to Dr. Woodward,
to have it described, if I were sure
of its being returned; but I do not
feel justified in giving it away,
as it is the only specimen of the kind
we have. I shall, however send him
some of the ordinary ones. Mr.
Packard has made me a rough
sketch of this one, which I
enclose. The tail part is very
indistinct in the original, and
this indistinctness is of course
much magnified in the drawing.

I will send you the jaw
from Antillas in a few days.

Yours Sincerely,
Robert H. West.

As soon as anything more is known

about the Lidon diggings, I will
write to you again.

~~18/1/18~~

mind, quipped
-ing

Nat.
all sides



July / 84