

RECENT DISCOVERIES AT ILIUM.

Communicated by Dr. HENRY SCHLIEMANN.

Ilium, May 17th, 1879.

I recommenced the excavations here on the 1st March, and have worked very hard ever since, employing constantly from 130 to 150 workmen and some horse-carts. Thus I have succeeded in bringing to light large portions more of the second city in succession from the virgin rock, which I identify with Troy, and now not even one quarter of it remains buried. I have also excavated, to the very rock, my great trench (represented on p. 143, Plate VI, in my *Troy and its Remains*), and visitors can now perceive at a glance that the ruins of the first and oldest city, which is built on the layer of earth (humus), one foot thick, which covered the rock, have the enormous thickness of 23 feet. It must have taken ages to form such an immense layer of *debris*. Nay, in this first city I find, in successive layers, three distinct kinds of pottery, which seem to indicate as many different nations. Immediately on the virgin soil to about 3 feet above it, I find that beautiful black lustrous pottery with incised patterns filled with white clay, which never occurs in the higher layers. Then follows a layer 15 or 16 feet thick, which contains only unornamented lustrous black pottery; the bowls have in the rim long horizontal tubular holes, the vases on both sides double perpendicular tubular holes, for suspension with a string. This pottery continues in the third layer of the first city, but it is here intermixed with many other types, which all occur in the layer, 8 to 10 feet thick, of the second city. In the first city all the house walls are built of small stones joined with clay, and many of them can be seen in my trenches at various heights; they have still retained in many places their clay coating both on the outside and the inside. But all these walls can only be the substructures of wooden houses, because there is no trace of bricks in the first city. In the second city, on the contrary, the immense masses of *debris* of sun-dried bricks, with which the ruins of the houses are filled, can leave no doubt that such bricks entered largely into the construction; nay, many houses of the second city consisted exclusively of them; but for the most part the house walls are here also of small stones joined with clay. The inhabitants of none of the four pre-historic cities here can possibly have used planks for their floors, for they had no saws except those of silex, 1, 2, or 3 inches long, which, in my opinion, can have only served to make ornaments of bone, and a plank is a thing that cannot possibly be made with stone axes or bronze battle-axes, the only kinds of axes found here, because nearly all trees, and particularly the pines of this country, have their wood in form of a helix, and can therefore never cleave in a straight line. Thus it is evident that the inhabitants were forced to use for their floors beams, which were probably not cut at all on the sides, and to make the floors even, those beams were covered with a thick layer of clay. In fact, that it was so and not otherwise is proved by the pre-historic houses excavated on the islands of Thera (Santorin) and Therassia from below three layers of pumice stone

and volcanic ashes. The inhabitants of those houses not having at their disposal beams of sufficient length to reach from one wall to the other, put a large stone in the midst of the rooms, and on that stone a thick beam of wood, on which all the other beams were made bearing. Judging from the vast masses of *debris* here, we may take it as an undoubted fact that the Trojan houses were many stories high, and only in this manner, and by the number of floors composed of beams in each house, can we explain the fearful ravages of the conflagration of the second city, whose *debris* are all calcined and intermixed with red ashes; the sun-dried bricks exposed to a white heat have got the appearance of burnt bricks, and have in many instances been partly fused; but they are not solid and easily crumble away. Traces of such a conflagration are peculiar only to the second city.

I have had here for a month the assistance of the celebrated Professor Rudolf Virchow from Berlin, and I have still with me the famous orientalist, Emile Burnouf, late director of the French school at Athens. I have, in company with them, carefully studied the geology of all the prehistoric cities here, and we have found that the people never destroyed the substructures of the old houses, but merely filled them up and covered them with old *debris*, ashes or clay, which they consolidated in a marvellous manner by interposing portions of clay dissolved in water. By this manner even the layers of red wood ashes were rendered solid, and gave a perfectly safe base to lay the foundations of new houses upon. Some of my severe critics have pretended that the house walls here were made of small stones joined without any ligament. But this is a mistake: not only all the stones, but even the sun-dried bricks were joined with clay.

By their strange process in raising the ground the Trojans rendered the site of their town exceedingly uneven, and I would call the attention of visitors to my trenches, in which the undulating ground may best be seen.

Nearly all the objects of which my collection in the South Kensington Museum is composed were now again found, but only in very small quantities, and the antiquarian treasures of Troy may now fairly be understood to be exhausted, for all the conspicuous parts of the ancient city (I mean Troy, the second city) are now excavated, and what little remains are only the dependencies of the houses. Of treasures of gold jewels I only found two, both in presence of Prof. Virchow and Mr. Burnouf. The first was found in the eastern part of the town, in a depth of only 13 ft. 4 in., and still it most decidedly belongs to Troy proper, because, in building the Minerva Temple, the later *Æolian* Ilians seem to have cut away from that part of the hill a large portion, at least 6 to 7 feet deep, from the surface, so that in some parts the ruins of the Greek city are on a sudden succeeded by those of burned Troy, whereas everywhere else the ruins of two distinct prehistoric cities intervene between the latter and the later Ilium.

The first treasure was found in a wall that had evidently fallen from an upper storey; it consisted of three gold disks in the form of flowers, $8\frac{1}{2}$ centimètres in diameter, and are almost identical with No. 251 in my "Mycenæ;" they are of *repousse* work. Further, a large breast-ornament of gold, 45 centimètres, or 18 in. long; the upper part, of basket form, is $4\frac{1}{2}$ centimètres long, $3\frac{1}{16}$ broad, and consists of 25 gold wires, beaten flat and soldered together, bent over and joined by means of a small gold



Robert de Hailfeld gnt. et Ada sa femme oadq. l'un ea d'orturel ann. foies plen.
 dieu de leur ammes et ucy Et y tanta remebret q la dñe ad suilli pmer En mois de juul
 le hercs 10 + en lan de nre seign 1191 Et finet aulli aies le dit Robert
 enaps En mois de le 10 En lan de nre seign 1191

Brass of Robert de Hailfeld and Ada his Wife

plate, 3 millimètres broad, and by two gold nails, the small gold plate being decorated with an incised zig-zag ornamentation. To the upper border were soldered two long gold hooks, the wire of which has not less than $6\frac{1}{4}$ centimètres in length, but one of these hooks is lost. The one side calculated to appear outside is ornamented with three rows of rings soldered on, which are filled up with a substance of white glass, which no doubt once had another colour, and may have been blue. Above the upper row, at the foot of each hook, is another such gold ring with a glass pearl. At the lower end is soldered a gold plate with ten holes, from which are suspended ten chains, consisting of rings of thin gold wire, turned round so that each member link of the chain is of double wire, and on each member link is fixed a round gold leaf, 5 millimètres in diameter; each gold chain is composed of 155 such member links and 155 such leaves, and there are consequently 1550 links and as many gold leaves. At the end of each chain is suspended a small gold idol, $3\frac{1}{2}$ centimètres long, with two eyes well indicated; the latter are of *repousse* work, and around them is a circle of points, which makes them very conspicuous; the body of each idol is ornamented with seven horizontal rows of points. There are besides the fragments of seven much larger and thicker idols, whose eyes are likewise encircled by points; the foreheads have two horizontal rows of points, the body about ten such rows. The lower part of the body, instead of being round, is quadrangular, and ornamented with four lines of points, between which are three eyes with circles of points, all of *repousse* work. The curious thing is that these seven idols have no holes by which they might have been suspended. Together with this ornament were found the fragments of a small tube of a white glassy substance, around which a grey spiral is painted.

The second treasure was found on the great circuit wall to the north west of the gate, at a depth of 33 feet below the surface of the mound. It consists of seven small gold ornaments in form of boats, with a number of points; one gold ear-ring ornamented with three rosettes, from which are suspended five chains covered with leaves, and at the extremity of each of them is suspended an idol; another perfectly similar gold ear-ring ornamented with three rosettes, from which, however, are suspended only four chains with idols; a gold ear-ring with three rosettes, but without pendants; two enormous massive gold ear-rings, each formed of seven serpents; two small gold ear-rings, formed of five serpents; one very small gold spiral ring for hair locks; a gold frontlet; ten gold ornaments similar to No. 297 in my "Mycenæ;" two immense gold bracelet, very heavy, consisting of very thick gold wire, and having only at one extremity an ornament in shape of a flower bud. Further, a mass of gold beads and rings; six silver ear-rings of the same form as the golden ones, to which are fixed numerous gold beads and an ornament like No. 297, "Mycenæ;" a large silver bracelet, to which are fused numerous beads of gold; hundreds of silver rings, fused together in the great fire; and, finally, a large spoon of silver of a peculiar form, and unique in the world; it has the shape of a trowel, and has inside an embossed ornament perfectly resembling a Trojan shield (see the engraving, No. 234, Plate xiv, in my *Troy and its Remains*); it has a long handle, which is ornamented with a tree, and terminates in a ring; this spoon seems to have served for libations, as it can never have served for domestic purposes.