

## II

Modern studies, as a rule, say nothing about this church; only Shahkhatounian gives the following information: "In the village of Budghuni there are the ruins of a large church built of well-squared stones."<sup>2</sup> In relating the events of the first half of the seventeenth century the Deacon Zacharias writes that the Persians and the Ottomans clashed near a ruined village "which is called Budghoons."<sup>3</sup> Finally we have the earliest information about these ruins from Leontius,<sup>4</sup> who mentions the clashing of the Arabs with the Armenians "in the village of Budghoons and in Talin and in Gogh," sometime during the decade beginning with the year 730 A.D.

Unfortunately we do not have on hand the plan of the church which the architect Eghiazariants prepared in our presence; but the reader can have an approximate idea of it from our photograph (fig. 1). The plan by itself cannot give us much idea concerning its antiquity; it is a long structure, with a dome resting on piers. The oldest known church of this type is St. Gregory of Arouj, built by the prince-of-princes, Gregory Mamigonian in the year 668, and the second oldest in Yerazcavors, built in the latter part of the ninth century by Simpad I. East of Mt. Aracadz in the village of Dzarrayishen of Abaran, now called Mollaghasum, there is a similar church, built by the Cuntooni family about which we shall speak later

The reader can see from the photograph referred to that not only the dome but also the western and eastern walls have fallen; the only remaining parts are the northern wall (fig. 2), the corners of the eastern and western walls, and about half of the southern wall, only the upper half of which can be studied from the outside, the lower half being covered from the south by the new church. But even this much

is sufficient to give an adequate idea of the form and plan of the church; besides, by summary excavations the foundations and shape of the apse and of the adjoining rooms were brought to light. The apse is circular on the inside; the lateral chambers on the east are also circular, but they are angular on the outside, and only near the apse do they become circular and form niches. By the exterior shape of its apse Budghavank differs from other similar churches, for example Arouj (fig. 3), to which the church of Hripsimè (fig. 4) also is similar in this respect. The lateral chambers were vaulted and above them there was a second room extending lengthwise from west to east, but not very high. Many of the natives had seen these rooms before they fell. This feature is worthy of attention in the study of Armenian architecture. Incidentally let us state there are such double-storied rooms on the south side of a more ancient church of the type of Hripsimè in the village of Adiyaman, on the west slopes of Mt. Aracadz, built by the Gamsaragans. The church of Hripsimè does not have second story rooms.

The western wall was right-angled. Part of its northern end remains; also half of its window on that side (fig. 1). There must have been a similar window at the left, on the southern end, and a third window high up on the façade as can be deduced from the northern wall. Below was the west entrance. In this respect also Budghavank is comparable to the west wall of the church of Arouj (fig. 5), except that the latter has two adjacent windows high up on the façade.

The northern wall is comparatively in the best state of preservation (fig. 2), and it gives us a full idea of the external and internal structure of the church. We can see the north entrance with its large tympanum and its protruding arch. On either side of the entrance there is a window, and two others on the west end, joined by the crowning arches. Only one window corresponds to these on the eastern end; the second window is placed a little lower, and was intended for a room. The asym-

2. Description etc., 1842, p. 162. We first heard about these ruins from the painter Fetvajian.

3. Historiography, 1870, vol. 2, p. 17.

4. The Historian Leontius, publ. Yezian, S. Petersburg, 1887, p. 144.