

most gratifying to find that the labours of Lieutenant Warren are not only properly valued on the other side of the Atlantic, but that they are also likely to meet with solid assistance, as well as sympathy.

It is proposed to hold a public meeting in May or June next, which will be duly announced in the papers.

In order to make Lieutenant Warren's letters continuous, their pagination is separate from the rest of the pamphlet, and is carried on from the previous letters.

April 6, 1869.

BRIEF NARRATIVE OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

THE following very brief history of the organisation and proceedings of the Society may be interesting to some of the subscribers who have not followed its operations from the beginning. It was first called into existence at a public meeting held in Willis's Rooms on June 22nd, 1865. The Archbishop of York, the present President of the Society, was in the chair, and among the speakers were the Bishop of London, Lord Strangford, the Right Hon. Mr. Layard, the Count de Vogüé, the Dean of Westminster, the Dean of Canterbury, Sir Roderick Murchison, Mr. Gifford Palgrave, Professor Owen, the Rev. H. B. Tristram, and Mr. Gilbert Scott.

It was decided that the objects of the Fund should be comprised under the following heads :—

1. Archæology.
2. Manners and Customs.
3. Topography.
4. Geology.
5. Natural History.

The first expedition, under Captain Wilson and Lieutenant Anderson, was despatched at the end of the year 1865, and was employed in Palestine for six months, at a cost of £1,500. During this time, the party constructed a series of maps on the scale of one mile to an inch, of the whole backbone of the country, from north

to south, including the Lake of Gennesareth and all the water-courses descending to the western shores. They collected materials for making about fifty plans, with detailed drawings of churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, tombs, &c. ; they copied inscriptions, examined the remains of the ancient synagogues at Teh Hum, Irbid, Kefr Birim, &c. ; they ascertained with a degree of probability never before arrived at, the positions of Capernaum and Chorazin; traced the ancient system of irrigating the plain of Gennesareth, and made excavations in the mound of Tel Salhiyeh, Damascus, at Kedes, and on Mount Gerizim.

This expedition was considered as preliminary, and it was not till Lieutenant Warren went out, in November, 1866, that the special work of the Fund can be said to have been seriously commenced. It was decided by the Committee that the chief strength of the Society should be directed to archaeological investigation, and especially the examination of the ruins and *débris* of Jerusalem. Lieutenant Warren has not, however, neglected other objects, and the Society is indebted to him for a considerable amount of additional survey work.

His investigations at Jerusalem have revealed a condition of things never even suspected before. It was known that the modern city stood upon masses of *débris* and rubbish, but no one knew the depth of this rubbish, or the secrets that it hid. The story of the discovery of these secrets is contained in Lieutenant Warren's letters, published by the Society. They show that for a depth of sometimes 90ft. ruins of old buildings are found; that when at last we come to the well itself, chambers, vaults, aqueducts, and cisterns are found dug out of it: subterranean passages run through the city; that the foundations of great walls stand where the builders first laid them; and that the old walls of the Temple Area are still standing, buried 80ft. in rubbish, in as sound a condition as when they were first built.

There is no reason to doubt, not only that the true key to the settlement of *all* the vexed questions on the sacred sites is to be found by excavating, but also that Lieutenant Warren has hit upon discoveries which require only to be followed up to yield results of an exhaustive kind. Especially among these may be noticed the aqueduct and chambers at Robinson's Arch; the subterranean

passage at Wilson's Arch; the examination of the *débris* on the south of the Birket Israil; the prosecution of the shaft and galleries at the south-east angle; and many other points. The bearing of these on controverted questions, and on different passages of Scripture, cannot be discussed in a brief notice of the work, and ought not to be discussed till the work is finally settled, and conclusions can be made once and for all. But, as will be seen in another part of this pamphlet, the Committee are hampered for want of means to carry on the work.

LOCAL SOCIETIES.

The following is a list of local societies now in operation:—

- BATH: *Hon. Sec.*—Rev. T. P. Methuen.
 BIRMINGHAM: *Hon. Sec.*—Rev. Charles Evans.
 CAMBRIDGE: *Hon. Sec.*—Rev. T. G. Bonney, Tutor of St. John's College.
 CHESTER: *Hon. Sec.*—The Very Rev. the Dean of Chester.
 CLIFTON and BRISTOL: *Hon. Sec.*—Rev. C. H. Wallace.
 DALKEITH: *Hon. Sec.*—W. Bryce, Esq., M.D.
 DOVER: *Hon. Sec.*—Rev. W. Light.
 DUNDEE: *Hon. Sec.*—R. Mackenzie, Esq.
 EDINBURGH: *Hon. Sec.*—Rev. W. Lindsay Alexander, D.D., and A. Keith Johnstone, Esq., LL.D.
 FALMOUTH, for the County of Cornwall: *Hon. Sec.*—A. Lloyd Fox, Esq.
 FROME: *Hon. Sec.*—Rev. A. Daniel.
 GLASGOW: *Hon. Sec.*—A. B. M'Grigor, Esq.
 GREENOCK: *Hon. Sec.*—D. MacDonal, Esq.
 HERTFORD: *Hon. Sec.*—Rev. T. Lingley.
 ISLINGTON: *Hon. Sec.*—Rev. U. Davies.
 LIVERPOOL: *Hon. Sec.*—Rev. C. D. Ginsburg.
 MALVERN: *Hon. Sec.*—Rev. G. Fiske.
 MANCHESTER: *Hon. Sec.*—Rev. W. Crane.
 NORTHAMPTON: *Hon. Sec.*—E. F. Law, Esq.
 NEWCASTLE: *Hon. Sec.*—Thomas Hodgkin, Esq.
 OXFORD: *Hon. Sec.*—Rev. Professor Rawlinson.
 PERTH: *Hon. Sec.*—R. Jameson, Esq.
 PETERBOROUGH: *Hon. Sec.*
 PLYMOUTH: *Hon. Secs.*—J. B. Rowe, Esq., and J. Shelley, Esq.
 WARMINSTER: *Hon. Sec.*—J. Morgan, Esq.

It will be seen that there are yet many important towns unrepresented by auxiliary societies. Friends are earnestly invited