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THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

STATEMENT OF PROGRESS.

THE Second number of the Quarterly Statement of the Palestine Exploration Fund is presented to subscribers a few weeks before it is due, mainly in order that it might be ready in time for the annual meeting. It contains, besides the usual packet from Lieutenant Warren, papers from Captain Wilson, Mr. Deutsch, and other which it is hoped will not only prove interesting, but will advance our knowledge of the Holy Land.

The main features of interest in the work of the last two months are the excavation at the "Golden Gateway" and "Barclay's Gateway" at Jerusalem, the discovery in the Dome of the Rock ("Mosque of Omar"), and Mr. Deutsch's report on the marks found at the south-east angle of the Great Wall of the Haram es-Sherief. It is not the province of the Committee to draw deductions from facts. These are laid before their supporters as found, leaving it for others to make inferences from them. They cannot, however, avoid calling attention to the conclusions arrived at by the eminent Semitic scholar just named from the marks in question, which he examined on the spot, and on which he has favoured the Committee with a letter, which will be found reprinted at p. 33. The stones appear to be *in situ*, some of the marks which they exhibit are similar to those on "absolutely undoubted antique Phœnician structures in Syria," while "fantasias," "identical" with others of the marks, are observed in abundance on the "old Phœnician stones" of the ruined citadel above Saida. It is greatly to be hoped that more marks will be found, and some nearer approximation to date arrived at. Lieut. Warren's tracings of those on which Mr. Deutsch has commented may be seen at the office of the Society.

The shaft at the Golden Gateway has been abandoned, owing to the

danger of continuing the work. One of the chief obstacles, indeed, to the pursuance of the galleries is the way in which the shingle sometimes pours into them—not in small quantities, but in a continuous shower, which will last sometimes for days, choking up the narrow galleries, and forcing Lieutenant Warren to abandon the work, or to continue it at the risk of life.

The work which has to be done is still very great. It is hoped that permission may be obtained to pursue the tantalising discovery below the surface accidentally made by Mr. Warren at the northern edge of the Platform of the Dome of the Rock within the Haram Area in December last, and to explore elsewhere within that sacred enclosure; failing this, reference to the Report of the last Executive Committee published below, will show some of the work which yet remains on the hands of the Society.

At the meeting of the General Committee, held on May 4th, at the Jerusalem Chamber, the Executive Committee resigned and a new Executive Committee were elected for the ensuing year. Their report was read and adopted, the thanks of the Committee were passed to Lieutenant Warren, to Mr. G. J. Eldridge, Dr. Chaplin, and Mr. Walter Morrison, M.P., and it was resolved that an annual meeting should be held.

It has long been the desire of the Committee to open a Palestine Museum. They are now enabled, by the arrival of several large cases from Lieutenant Warren, to carry this desire into effect for a short period. At the Dudley Gallery, Egyptian Hall, will be found all the objects of interest discovered by Lieutenant Warren in his shafts, including lamps, pottery, glass, coins, weapons, tessellated pavement, sculpture, sarcophagi, and geological specimens. The tracings also of his work, and those of Captain Wilson, may also be seen there; with objects lent by Mr. MacGregor and other gentlemen. To these will shortly be added, it is hoped, the new collection of photographs and antiquities from Sinai, by the kindness of Colonel Sir Henry James, Director-General of the Ordnance Survey. The exhibition will be closed on August the 31st. Should it prove so far successful as to warrant the repetition, it is hoped to reopen it on a future occasion.

The receipts for the months April and May, with the first half of June, amount in all to £1,084 6s. 2d., including a donation of

£250 from the Marquis of Bute; one of £100 from "Anonymous"; and remittances from the local societies of Clifton, Bath, Tunbridge Wells, Falmouth, Nottingham, Plymouth, and Newcastle. The receipts for the first five months of the year amount, from all sources, and including the balance at the end of 1868, to about £2,150. The Committee beg their readers most earnestly not to let the work fail for want of funds. In providing them, at considerable expense, with this quarterly publication, the Committee invite them to use it in order to make their cause known. In all parts of the world interest is now aroused in the work, nor is it possible that England, were the work more widely known, would allow it to stop. But in their efforts to make the Fund national the Committee rely on the co-operation of their friends. If for a few years only these will lend their aid to raise each a small sum, no difficulty will be experienced. Meantime the shafts have to be closed for want of money to buy fresh wood, the workmen have to be reduced in numbers, and Lieutenant Warren is obliged to content himself with one or two excavations at a time. Some of the most interesting explorations—*e.g.*, that of the canals at Bir Eyub, have to be suspended; and this at a time when the most important results are being obtained, and we are apparently on the eve of solving the most interesting problems. The experience of four years has proved that to collect the small sum necessary for this work requires nothing but leaders, and that amount of activity requisite to start a local movement. Moreover, while the donations hitherto received have been chiefly of large amounts, it should not be forgotten that a good deal has been done, and that a great deal more might be done, by enlisting the interest of those who can give but little. And for these as well as for the larger subscribers, the following pages are printed.

June 24, 1869.

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#### LETTER OF MR. EMANUEL DEUTSCH

ON THE CHARACTERS FOUND BY LIEUT. WARREN AT THE S.E. ANGLE OF THE HARAM AREA.

SIR,—During a recent visit to the East I examined, at the instance of the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund, all the excavations in progress at Jerusalem. I have further investigated various places