

south-west corner, and there is one stone stretches along the whole of this space. The second course of the spring of Robinson's Arch is usually represented as being formed of two stones, but I was inclined to the idea that it was only one. What seems the junction of the two may be only a crack which has increased by the decay of the stone. If they are two stones, one thing is clear, they were one stone in the quarry; for the same stratification passes along from the one to the other. If this should be found to be only one stone, it will be one of the largest in the whole Haram Wall.

It is not so generally known that there is the spring of another arch still visible in the Haram Wall: all that is to be seen is one course formed of two stones. This is at the south-east corner. As it is about the same distance north from the corner as Robinson's Arch, it follows that if a road or pathway went direct from one of these that it would lead straight to the other. This would indicate a symmetry in the design of the two bridges; but as this second bridge would lead across the Kedron to a point not far from Absalom's pillar, one asks, "For what purpose could such a work be constructed?" The width of the valley is great, and the depth would be still more giddy than the walls as described by Josephus. The spring course would indicate a narrower bridge than that at the south-west corner, and it puzzles one to explain for what purpose such slight structure could be for. None but a nation of Blondins could have used it as a bridge. The only explanation yet given is, that it was for the scapegoat to pass over on its way to the Dead Sea and the desert. If this is not the true theory, the only other thing that one can suggest is, that it was an aqueduct, by which the waters from the temple could "issue out towards the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea" (Ezek. xlvii. 8). Still there is a possibility that it may have been only a balcony or a stair. It was the stairs leading up unto the house of the Lord that so affected the Queen of Sheba, and as yet no remains of these have been found. We cannot expect everything to be cleared up at once. The Explorations have already done good work, and there is more in store for them to do.

FROM THE
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO THE
GENERAL COMMITTEE, AT THE MEETING OF THE
4TH MAY, 1869.

THE Executive Committee desire to express their very strong sense of the activity, intelligence, and ability displayed by Lieutenant Warren in the conduct of the works at Jerusalem. It would be difficult to find a man more qualified for the prosecution of such works, requiring as they do, great tact, judgment as to the most likely spots for excavation, and the most unwearrying personal activity and courage. He has now

been in Jerusalem for a period of two years and a half. His staff at first consisted only of Sergeant Birtles; it was then increased by the addition of Corporals Duncan and Hanson, and afterwards by that of Corporals Ellis, Cock, Mackenzie, and Turner. Of these Sergeant Birtles was invalided home in the spring of last year, but on recovery went out again. Of him Lieutenant Warren speaks in the highest terms. Corporal Duncan unfortunately died in August, 1868. Hanson was sent home by Lieutenant Warren; Turner was invalided home. There remain now, therefore, Sergeant Birtles and Corporals Ellis, Cock, and Mackenzie.

Leave was granted by the War Office in March, 1868, to draw stores from Malta, which has been found of great service.

Lieutenant Warren's original instructions were to excavate as close to the Haram Wall as possible. Permission was, however, granted him in April, 1868, to dig elsewhere if he thought proper, a permission of which he has availed himself to work at Bir Eyub, the Virgin's Fountain, and the Muristan.

It is not necessary for the Report of the Executive Committee to contain any account in detail of Warren's work. This will be found in his letters and in the published "Statements of Progress." The Executive Committee, therefore, only call the attention of the General Committee to the main points of interest. These are Robinson's Arch, with its aqueducts, circular pools, and subterranean canal; Wilson's Arch, with its chambers and passages; the discoveries in the Haram Area itself, in the Birket Israel, at the south wall, on the Hill of Ophel, and, above all, at the south-east angle, where the letters have been found.

It may be thought due to their successors that the Executive Committee should add a few words with regard to the future—as to the plan on which the Society should proceed, and the objects it should seek to attain.

It may be assumed that a large majority of our subscribers would agree in regarding Jerusalem itself as the special object to which we should direct our attention so long as important points in determining its topography are left obscure, and so long as circumstances render systematic excavation possible. And having conclusively shown that the work of excavation at Jerusalem can be carried on, when intelligently directed, without arousing opposition—which until the arrival of Captain Wilson in Jerusalem in 1864, had made many despair of the practicability of the work undertaken by our Society—it would be most imprudent to relinquish the ground we now occupy, so long as funds are forthcoming to enable us to keep our party together, and there remains work for them to do. Some other party might step in and rob our Society of the fruits of our long toils in the past.

The two principal points of interest are the site of the Holy Sepulchre and of the Jewish Temple. It is not the duty of the Executive Committee to point out the bearing on this latter point of Mr. Warren's discoveries in the neighbourhood of the Haram, but none will depreciate

their importance. Mr. Warren's work will not require to be done again—it is a *κτῆμα ἐς ἄετι*. But it has served to bring out into even stronger relief the supreme importance of excavations within the Haram enclosure itself. Our past work has shown that certainly as to the extent northwards and eastwards of Herod's Temple, and as to the site of the Castle of Antonia, cannot be attained to by excavations on the outside of the Haram alone. Much has already been done by Captain Wilson and Mr. Warren; by Dr. Barclay, Messrs. Catherwood, Arundel, and others, in determining the character of the ground and of the remains within the Haram, both above and below the present surface; but it is only necessary to refer to the literature of the subject, deducing from the same premises widely different conclusions, to show that the information now accessible to us is very incomplete. The fortunate accident of the falling in of the roof of an old vault in heavy rain, and the yet more fortunate circumstance of there being a person at hand competent to turn the accident to the best account, has pointed out one part of the ground where further exploration promises most important results.

There are other points within the Haram Area itself; the reputed passage, for instance, under the cave of the Kubbet Es Sakhra, and the character of the substructures of the Mosque El Aksa and its appurtenances on either side of the double passage. Here Mr. Warren's addition to M. de Saulcy's discoveries in the fact that the double passage has cut through, and is therefore later than, other works, only serves to whet our curiosity as to the extent and character of that former work, and as to its author.

It would be interesting to ascertain whether Mr. Warren's conjecture as to the existence of a lower tier of vaults under the well-known vaults at the south-east angle of the Haram be correct.

The substructions of the Mosque El Burak require more detailed examination than Captain Wilson was able to give them.

It would be most interesting to trace out the extent of the scarped rock which shows itself at the Serai, at the north-west angle of the Haram, and the continuation of the double souterrain under the Via Dolorosa. Excavations about the Golden Gateway would probably verify or disprove Mr. Fergusson's conjecture as to its object and character. There remains much to be done along the west side of the Haram, especially north of Wilson's Arch, where the stream of running water was found but not traced. The covered aqueduct found at Robinson's Arch has also to be traced north and south. It would be interesting to complete the investigations into the character of the buried part of the wall, and to endeavour to test the value of the conjecture which has been advanced, that somewhere in the face of the Kedron Valley, deep buried in the *débris*, is to be found the tomb of David, of Solomon, and the tombs of the Kings of Judah.

On the south, the Hill of Ophel, which has yielded such great results, has not yet been exhausted; and it would be useful to trace the Valley

of Tyropœon, in the line pointed out by Lieutenant Warren, to its junction with the Kedron. Turning to the Western Hill, it would no doubt be possible to recover the exact line of the ancient wall along the brow of the Valley of Hinnom, and there is much ground unoccupied by houses between the brow and the wall of the modern city.

Interesting discoveries might, no doubt, be made as to the general line of the first wall of Josephus here; and as regards the remainder of the ground, it would not be advisable to dig at random on the mere chance of coming on objects of interest. If possible, it would be important to ascertain the character of the substructures of the "Cœnaculum."

Proceeding northwards, the most promising point seems to be the curious subterranean arched passage leading from Wilson's Arch in the direction of the Jaffa Gate. If followed out along its course, it might bring us to the three famous towers of Herod, Hippicus, Phaselus, and Mariamne, whose site is generally looked for in this direction.

This seems the most probable means of recovering a starting-point, and consequently the course of the second wall of Josephus. This part of the city is so encumbered with buildings that systematic excavation appears impracticable. We can only hope that some lucky accident will put us on the true scent, and that there may be persons on the spot ready to follow up the scent at once. The only open space, viz., the Muristan, in this part of the city, has been already explored by Mr. Warren, and the result seems to be almost conclusive that the second wall cannot have passed through it.

North of the city walls, notwithstanding the great facilities offered to every inquirer, we are yet in want of a thoroughly complete and trustworthy examination to determine, once for all, whether the ancient city ever did extend beyond the line of the present northern wall. And, finally, there is the curious system of rock-hewn water passages in the Kedron Valley below the Bir Eyub, discovered by Lieutenant Warren, which still have to be traced to their commencement, when funds are available for this purpose.

Beyond Jerusalem itself our work may be said to have been only begun. The Executive Committee desire much to extend the operations of the fund to the other objects set forth in the original prospectus if they can see their way to doing so without interfering with the progress of the works at Jerusalem.

A plan has been laid before them for continuing the work which has been commenced by the Sinai Survey Fund, and completing the map of Palestine. It is proposed, if the sanction of the government can be obtained, to place the survey (as has been done in Sinai) under the superintendence of the Director-General of the Ordnance Survey, the Palestine Exploration Fund undertaking to raise the necessary funds. By this means the cost of the survey would be very much diminished, and the report and plans published free of all expense to the Fund. The Executive Committee now have this proposal under their consideration

Some progress has been made in collecting materials for a complete map of the country, but we are advised that in order to complete the work thus begun, we ought to provide ourselves with a sufficient sum to enable us to push the work to a conclusion at one effort. Desultory efforts by weak parties appear to be the most expensive in the end. Then there are the other great cities, Jezreel, Samaria, Hebron, Masada, Gaza, Askelon, Kadesh-Naphtali, and round the Lake of Tiberias, Bethshan, and Nazareth; and to examine and excavate the site of Jericho, to determine which has hitherto eluded Mr. Warren's efforts. We have been unable as yet to undertake the investigation of the geology of the country, and so the money entrusted to us for that purpose, together with that for the purposes of the museum, remains on deposit still. The contributions to the Flora and Fauna of the country by Dr. Tristram and others remains yet to be supplemented, and much may be done in meteorology.

In conclusion, the Executive Committee are of opinion that the time has come when it will be desirable that the General Committee of the Society should consider what should be their future policy. It will probably be agreed that no interruption should take place in Mr. Warren's present work at Jerusalem; that the party should be retained there, at least until the setting in of the hot weather. And the Executive Committee would advise that, as heretofore, Mr. Warren should be requested to confine himself as far as possible to the neighbourhood of the Haram itself, to avail himself of every possible opportunity of examining the interior of the Haram, and of any promising opportunity which chance may offer in any other part of the city; that he should be requested to report on the advisability of excavations made to the north of the city, and what probability there may be of our being able to work anywhere near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and north of Wilson's Arch. It will be for the General Committee to determine whether after the setting in of the hot season, and supposing the liberal support of the public to be continued, we should still pursue our investigation at Jerusalem, or turn our attention to other perhaps not less important work.

The thanks of the Society are especially due to Dr. Chaplin, who has given his gratuitous attendance to the members of our exploring party during the whole period of their sojourn at Jerusalem. This has been no sinecure office, as is proved by the loss we have sustained by illness. Dr. Chaplin also took charge of the excavations during Mr. Warren's absence in England, in the summer of 1868, and has at all times been ready to afford all possible help to our work.

The Committee desire also to express their obligations to Mr. Eldridge, the British Consul-General at Beyrout, who has kindly undertaken the meteorological observations at that station, which he is conducting with great care and efficiency.