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THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

STATEMENT OF PROGRESS.

LIEUTENANT WARREN's letters (XLIII. to XLV.), published in this number of the Quarterly Statement, will be read with the deepest interest. Scarcely any shafts he has opened have yielded results more remarkable than those of the north-east angle. The rubbish through which he sunk his shaft was 110ft. deep; the stones which he found at the bottom appear to him to be *in situ*; they are most curiously cut, with a marginal draft peculiar in its construction, and different to anything which has yet been found in Palestine; the wall has the peculiar *batter*, or slope back, which has been observed in other places, but here the batter has been made use of to form the lower portion of what is now called Antonia's Tower, the tower and the wall being in the same line; the stones up to a certain height have rough faces; the rock falls 90ft. between St. Stephen's Gate and the shaft, a distance of less than 300ft., or a fall of 3 in 10; the course of the ancient valley has been traced at this point, and characters have been found on the bottom stones, which are pronounced to be Phœnician letters. For the rest, the reader is referred to Lieutenant Warren himself, in whose letters however he will find nothing but the bare facts. Conclusions must be drawn by those who read.

The first letter (No. XLIII.) appeared in the *Times* and other papers in July. It narrates the discovery of a most curious chamber or passage, which perhaps served as an overflow for the Birket Israil. Of this an engraving was given, taken from a sketch of Lieutenant Warren's, in the *Illustrated London News*.

It will be remarked that there is an interval between the dates of letters XLIII. and XLIV. of two months. The reason of this is, unfortunately, the sickness of the exploring party. This not only prevented Mr. Warren from continuing the work with his usual vigour, but has resulted in the return of one man, Corporal Ellis, invalided home, and the retreat of the whole party to Lebanon,

where it is hoped they will quickly recruit their strength. Their time in Lebanon will not be wasted, as Lieutenant Warren projects a survey and examination of the ruined Temples of Baal, which have never yet been thoroughly examined.

The paper of Lieutenant Warren, on the "Comparative Holiness of Moriah and Zion," has already appeared in the *Athenæum*, and is here partly reprinted by the kind permission of the editor. It is not printed among the continued letters, as the results arrived at by Lieutenant Warren are not based upon, and have no connection with, the work which he is doing for the Fund. It appears here, therefore, simply as a contribution to the topographical literature of Jerusalem, and must not be considered as in any way representing the views or conclusions of the Committee. These pages are open to all who have intelligence to communicate or views to maintain. Only the Committee wish it to be most distinctly understood that they are not pledged to any opinions or conclusions whatever that may here be published, and that the *only* portions of their Quarterly Statement which they adopt are the bare facts vouched for by their explorer, Lieutenant Warren.

The Exhibition of Articles found by Lieutenant Warren, and of the Photographs, &c., of the Fund, remained open for three months. The number of visitors was, in all, upwards of 6,000,* and the success of the Exhibition, put together as it was at very short notice, is sufficient to give the Committee hopes of being shortly able to open a permanent Biblical Museum, where not only the property of the Fund may be exhibited, but which may also be made a depository for whatever may illustrate or explain the Bible. The Committee have to thank Mr. Tyssen Amhurst, Mr. Greville Chester, Mr. Gerald Vesey, Mr. Freshfield, Mr. Pilleau, Mr. Noyes, and other gentlemen, for the loan of articles of great interest, and Colonel Sir Henry James for the Ordnance Survey model and photographs.

The Report of the meeting held in Willis's Rooms on June the 24th, will be read with interest. The Treasurer's and Secretary's Reports read are not printed, as the former gave the financial statement only up to the date of the meeting, and would now, therefore, be incorrect; while the latter contained little more than what appeared

* This includes the evening meetings, where schools were received, and addresses given, by Mr. MacGregor, Captain Wilson, and the Rev. F. W. Holland.

in the Quarterly No. II., "Report of Executive to General Committee." Space will not permit the speeches to be printed *in extenso*.

With a view to spreading more widely the knowledge of their society and its objects, the Committee have resolved on holding lectures during the season in the principal towns in England. They are happy to announce that the following gentlemen have undertaken this work for them:—Rev. F. H. Scrivener, Rector of St. Gerrans, Cornwall; Rev. J. W. Bardsley, Vicar of St. John's, Bootle, Liverpool; Rev. Henry Geary, Vicar of Christ Church, Herne Bay; Rev. Robert Allen, St. Mark's, North Audley-street; Rev. James King, St. George's, Hanover-square; and the Rev. George St. Clair, Banbury.

The friends of the Fund will readily perceive the great use that may be made of lectures as a means of calling attention to the work. Application may be made to any of these gentlemen, or to the Secretary, at the office of the Society.

The Committee have very great pleasure in publishing the enclosed letter, which is in course of circulation in America. That the two great nations which, more than any others, study the Bible, should work together for its elucidation, is most strongly to be desired. The letter is written and circulated by the Librarian of the Long Island Historical Society.

"EXPLORATIONS IN JERUSALEM.

*Library of the Long Island Historical Society,
"Brooklyn, N. Y., July, 1869.*

"It is well known that a society was formed in England a few years since to explore the Holy Land, what remains of it above and below the ground, and bring to bear upon it the lights of modern science. Very considerable success has already been achieved, but most considerable, as indicating how much can be accomplished by wise and patient effort. No people are more interested in this undertaking than our own; our English friends bear strong testimony to the sympathy and frequent contributions of Americans, as from time to time travellers from this country visit Jerusalem, and acquaint themselves by personal examination with these explorations. Comparatively few, however, of our countrymen are able to visit and inspect the work on the ground, and the great multitude of Bible students in this land have no opportunity to express their interest, or obtain information. For the purpose of meeting this want, and developing this interest, it is proposed to issue circulars and pamphlets, narrating the progress of the work, and send

them to all persons in this country who desire to receive them, and will be willing to co-operate to sustain the enterprise. George Hannah, Esq., the librarian of the Long Island Historical Society, has consented to perform this service for the present. It is hoped in the course of the summer that the public mind will be sufficiently instructed and aroused to unite in the establishment of some agency among us, by which American scholars and Christians can take an independent part in this great work. We are stimulated to this by the committee of the *Palestine Exploration Fund* in London, who remind us that the Government of our own country was the first to make a systematic investigation, by a properly organised party, into the geography of the Holy Land, in the expedition of Lieutenant Lynch to the Jordan Valley; and that our countrymen, Drs. Robinson and Smith, were the first to identify, by systematic investigation, the names and sites of the whole country. They propose that an American Society should share with them the prosecution of this labour, by taking a distinct portion of the work, which they are ready to assign us. If this plan should commend itself to any reader of this paper, and he should be willing to aid in the counsel and organisation of a distinct American Society, any communication from him may be directed to Mr. Hannah, and will be thankfully received.

“Contributions, also, which any friend of these explorations may wish to make, will be forwarded to the ‘Fund’ in London, and we shall take pleasure in sending to contributors the pamphlets and reports which are issued from time to time by the Society. We cherish the hope, however, that sufficient interest will be manifested in this country to warrant the formation of an American Society, distinct from the English, and in friendly co-operation with it. It would be best to leave Lieutenant Warren and his party to prosecute his explorations in Jerusalem without interference from any other organisation; but the *fauna* and *flora* of the country invite attention, its *geology* also, the *surveys* requisite to the formation of a complete *map*, and the *identification* of *sacred sites*. The whole region, on the other side of Jordan, the giant cities of Bashan, lies mostly unknown, and offers to scientific explorations a world of new and exciting discovery. Phœnicia, also, upon the north, is a broad field of inviting study, and will take rank with Egypt and Nineveh as a storehouse of history. American enterprise and scholarship are welcome to these untrodden fields. It will be a noble and generous rivalry to engage in with the scholars of Great Britain.

“The last intelligence that has reached this country comes from the report of Mr. Emanuel Deutsch, of the British Museum, which was published last month by Mr. Grove, Secretary of the Palestine Exploration Fund. Mr. Deutsch, in a recent visit to the East, examined the shafts and galleries of the explorers under Jerusalem, and has applied himself particularly to the study of the *letterings* or *inscriptions*, which have been found on the lower courses of stone, the foundations, which rest in their original places upon the live rock. He has come to the conclusion that these signs were in the stones when they were first laid,

and that they are Phœnician. He has been able to identify some of these characters by comparison with other undoubted antiquities in Syria; and without attempting to determine the exact meaning of these technical characters, he predicts that similar ones will be found on the corresponding courses of stone which are yet to be uncovered, and that together they will solve some vital questions regarding the plan of the whole building. He regards all these labours as yet in their infancy, and is sanguine that these *epigraphs* will yet make large additions to our knowledge of the Hebrews, Phœnicians, and other Semitic peoples. But he declares, emphatically, that if any success at all adequate to the enterprise is to be attained, the work ought to be prosecuted on a more extensive scale, and that Lieutenant Warren, instead of dismissing half his force as he did while Mr. Deutch was with him, ought to be able to engage tenfold more assistance, and he tells the English that if they fail to support the work, some other nation will arise to take it up. We do not believe that the scholarship and wealth of England will be found wanting, and we hope that our own country will bear her a generous and sympathetic companionship."

The thanks of the Committee are due also to the Rev. W. Patton, D.D., of Chicago, for the exertions he has made in collecting subscriptions and advocating the cause.

Remittances have been received from the local societies of Edinburgh, Greenock, and Cambridge.

The receipts for the first six months of the year from all sources, and including the balance at the end of 1868, amounted in all to £2340.

The Committee have now only to invite their supporters to an effort which shall enable them to terminate their labours in Jerusalem. They remind them, in the words of a writer in the *Times*, that "the field for discovery is most extensive, and the British public have the opportunity of securing for their own country the credit of accomplishing a great work;" and, in the words of Mr. Gilbert Scott, "There is but one Jerusalem; there was but one accredited Temple of the Olden Dispensation; there was but one Holy Sepulchre. We need not, therefore, fear that the precedent will endanger our resources. We find funds for memorials to all who claim public respect and gratitude. Let us not refuse funds to investigate the sites of which the memory is bound up inseparably with the history of our holy faith, both in its earlier and later dispensations."

September, 1869.