

REPORT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

HELD AT WILLIS'S ROOMS, ST. JAMES'S, 24TH JUNE, 1869,
HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK IN THE CHAIR.

THE CHAIRMAN.—I have received letters expressing regret that the writers are unable to attend this meeting, on account of other pressing engagements, from the Duke of Argyle, the Earl of Carnarvon, Lord Dufferin, the Bishops of Oxford and Peterborough, Mr. Layard, Sir Moses Montefiore, Mr. Beresford Hope, Mr. Fergusson, the Rev. John Stoughton, and others. I will call upon Mr. Grove to read the report.

Mr. GROVE, honorary secretary, read the report.

THE CHAIRMAN.—It is incumbent on me to say just a few words on the subject of the operations of the Fund; and the great difficulty a speaker like myself labours under is this,—that among those who will follow me are five or six speakers who have visited the spot, and with their own eyes witnessed the scene of our operations and our success, and know what can be done better than I can describe it. I will therefore confine myself to one or two quite general remarks, and I will first ask the sympathy of the meeting for the peculiar difficulties which beset this kind of undertaking. It is, from the very nature of it, extremely costly. You have heard that the staff at present employed costs £100 a month, and that the labourers necessary to work under that staff cost £200 a quarter. The operations are all of the nature of mining, and those who will make any inquiries as to the details of a mining exploit in this country, will find that a great deal of money is sunk for small results, and often no results. Here, however, there is a certainty of results. But that brings me to the main difficulty with which this undertaking has to contend. We must not expect to find an old city buried unchanged under a new city. Jerusalem, almost more than any other city on the face of the globe, has gone through great changes. I ran my eye this morning over its history, and I think I counted more than twenty sieges, great and small, which within historical memory that city has sustained, and more than one involving something like a complete overthrow. The results of that are two. In the first place, the facts we are in search of lie deeply buried under the soil; but, in the second place, there is abundance of evidence lying there for us as soon as we can reach it. Startling and great results, perhaps, we must not expect to find. From that report, if you have listened to it—and it is worth while to examine it carefully afterwards—you will see that there are a great many points, each not startling in itself, but which, when put together, will lead, when completed, to a reconstruction of the map of Jerusalem, and to a much greater knowledge than we ever possessed of what the ancient city really was. There is in this country so great an interest in Bible study, so eager a thirst for every fact that throws light upon the pages of the Old

Testament or the New, that I cannot think this undertaking will be suffered to drop through for want of sufficient funds, even though the demand made upon it may seem to be very large. I admit that £5,000 a year sounds a very great sum to be spent without producing any tangible result, though spent with the certainty that in the long run complete results will be obtained. I admit the sum is large; but, on the other hand, the wealth of this country is so very great, and so many persons in this country could, even single-handed, sustain the whole cost of this measure, that I cannot believe we shall be allowed to drop this exploration for want of funds being supplied. I think, as we go on, we may hope to awaken a greater interest, as our results grow greater and brighter than any that have yet been shown in the proceedings of this Fund. (Hear, hear.) It is most remarkable to think what a fascination that little and peculiar country has exercised for centuries and centuries upon the whole world. We look on Jerusalem now—we English people—as a city that in some measure belongs to us. Do we not every year pour forth in thousands the documents that attest its history,—do we not pour forth in thousands and tens of thousands that sacred Book wherein is written its rise and its fortunes and its fall? May we not naturally say, when we are so largely occupied in spreading its history, that we have in some measure made it our own? This country is the cradle of our religion; it is the source of light from which it pleased the Almighty to send forth spiritual light and life to our souls. It is a country, I am told, now barren, desolate in many parts,—a country little blessed with the advantages of government and civilisation which we enjoy; but yet it is a country which has been blessed in our estimation above all the countries of the world; and the mode in which it has been blessed connects it directly with us—it is with the history of that country, and with what was done upon its soil, that our hopes of salvation have been knit up. (Cheers.) I therefore commend to you this undertaking. I commend it to those, whatever be their creed, dwelling in this country. Be we Jews, or Anglicans, or Dissenters, we have for different reasons one common interest in this country, and therefore ought to join with one common sympathy in this undertaking. (Cheers.)

Mr. MORRISON then read the Treasurer's report.

On concluding the Report he called attention to the fact that the exploration expenses, *i.e.*, the expenses of the party in Jerusalem, absorbed three-fourths of the money spent during the last year, while the printing and postage took one-eighth; rent and salaries taking no more than one-twentieth part.

Mr. DEUTSCH.—The first resolution is, "That this meeting, having heard with satisfaction the progress made during the past year, desires to record its sense of the energy and ability which Lieutenant Warren has shown in conducting the excavations, and earnestly hopes that he may be enabled to continue them with success." (Cheers.) After the able Report of your Honorary Secretaries, and after the eloquent words

spoken by our Chairman, this resolution, the moving of which has been entrusted to me, seems so self-evident and so obvious that it would be almost superfluous to add one word to it. Nor shall I go into a detailed technical account of those shafts and galleries and tanks and aqueducts, as I have seen them but a few weeks ago. I am not learned enough in these matters, and there are those eminent men of the craft who will follow me, and will explain in detail what the work consists of. But I will tell you this one thing, that if you had stood, as I have stood, within the labyrinthine mazes of underground Jerusalem, and seen those stupendous works disclosing themselves before your eyes, you would indeed have felt, as I have felt, a thrill running through you which would have obviated all further pleading for this undertaking. For let us not disguise the fact from ourselves that we are *pleading*. The undertaking inaugurated under such exceptional auspices—started with the proudest muster-roll of this country,—an undertaking which has already, not merely here, but abroad, not merely in the East, but all over the West, attracted universal attention and universal interest,—an undertaking which seems to have united in one common bond all creeds and denominations, of Christians, Jews, and Mahomedans,—an undertaking, not started by any government, but by the spontaneous and enthusiastic free offerings of the people,—this undertaking, I grieve to say, is flagging. While I was in Jerusalem the order came out that half the already trained workmen—and I need not tell you how difficult the training of them was—(Hear, hear)—workmen, by the way, among whom there were Jews, Mahomedans, and Christians, all eagerly looking forward to results, all eagerly speeding their work—that at least half of these men were to be dismissed; and the works themselves, Lieutenant Warren was told, were to be confined to those portions only which it was absolutely necessary to work. Moreover, certain shafts which had been sunk in a certain place of the Haram Wall, where, as you know, there are certain very curious and interesting marks: these shafts were to be removed. And why? On account of the expense. (Hear, hear.) These marks themselves were thereby, and are thereby, endangered for ever. I have asked repeatedly, How is it that an undertaking started under such auspices, and accompanied with such enthusiastic wishes, should not be carried on in a proper way? and the answer I have heard on various sides was this,—that the results hitherto achieved have not corresponded to the expectations. Now I would fain ask these people what their expectations were. (Hear, hear.) You remember well when this Fund was started it was questions of archæology, topography, geology, and natural history in general, that were to be solved, and some of which have been solved. If people expected to find the legendary golden throne of King Solomon, with its eagles, and lions, and doves, they have been disappointed, and I am afraid they will be disappointed. (Hear, hear.) If the crowns and sceptres of the kings of Judah and Israel are the things they look for-

ward to, they will not find them. But certain things have been found already, and they are most valuable in their way. It is, indeed, one of the very tests of science that it does not work by starts and by jumps, but slowly and silently—stone laid upon stone, layer reared upon layer, till the proud edifice stands reared up a joy to all beholders. (Cheers.) You are not wreckers, you are explorers. Let me remind you, among other things, of that greatest and most precious Semitic memorial now extant, which has come down to us from Phœnicia. You know that for generations and generations small things were found in the Phœnician colonies—in Greece, Asia Minor, Spain, Malta—votive tablets and funeral tablets, and the like smaller things, with scanty inscriptions, but nothing had ever been found in Phœnicia itself. And many were the reasons given, at least by the learned, for the utter absence of monuments on the soil where they were most to be expected. What happened? By the merest accident, the merest chance, about fourteen years ago, there was suddenly found—not in a mausoleum, not in a cave, not in a place where people had been searching for a long time, but on the open ground almost, in a field close to Sidon—a sarcophagus—the sarcophagus of Ashmunazar—the most valuable piece of Phœnician antiquity that has ever been found, seven feet by four, with twenty-two lines of a most beautifully cut inscription running round the chest, and seven other lines running round the back of the head. And what did the inscription say? Most touching in its way, reminding us of the dire lament of Hamlet's father, this Ashmunazar, King of the Sidonians, bewails a dire fate, how that he, the son of the flood of days, is “stolen away before his time.” And what does he impress upon all those that would come after him? “Search not with me for treasures,” he says twice. But this very sarcophagus is the greatest treasure that could be found. (Cheers.) In the same way we should tell these people who look for some very startling find, which—it is by no means beyond the reach of possibility—*may* come to light, that to this day, already, certain things *have* come to light which not merely justify all the labour that has been spent already, but warrant the expectation of future results of no small import. (Cheers.) Most of you probably have seen those things which are now exhibited in the Biblical Museum. There are certain fragments of pottery which, perhaps, may not have attracted your attention much. But if I tell you that these broken bits of pottery are very similar to those found at Mycene, at Tiryns, in various tumuli of the Lake of Gyges, at Sardis, in the island of Meos, in Rhodes, in Cyprus, Santorin, and at Nimroud, you will understand how necessary it is, and how valuable it is, to search for further pieces and fragments of this same kind; for it is only by a comparison of all these bits that we shall come to understand the history of Phœnician art and commerce, and the influence these bear upon the arts of the Israelites of Palestine. (Cheers.) Fragments of glass of a very peculiar kind, inlaid and variegated, have also been found. This, again, is emphatically Phœnician. We find the

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exact counterpart of it, not merely in Asia Minor, notably in the tombs of Camirus, but in Egyptian tombs as early as the date of Thothmes II. Then there is that breast-shaped stone weight, precisely like those found, singly and in pairs, at Cnidus and other ancient settlements. I shall not deny from you that all the things in this collection are not of equal value. Far be it from me to bespeak equal attention for them all; but to every one of these chips found in the drift there attaches a special interest, an interest hallowed by feelings of reverence and sacredness. (Cheers.) I shall not detain you any longer. All I wished to impress upon you, coming fresh from your field of action, was that you must not be disappointed if the results have not been of a startling kind, and, further, that you may be encouraged to proceed with your work. I, as a humble votary of science, would, in the name of science, urge you to continue that in which both religion and science may join. (Cheers.) And let me remind you of one thing. There are ruins enough in the City of Sorrows. *Do not add fresh ruins.* Do not leave there broken shafts, abandoned galleries—(cheers);—and let it not be told in Gath that this England, the richest, proudest, and most Bible-loving country in the world, undertook one of the greatest undertakings, and abandoned it—for want of money. (Loud cheers.)

MR. NEWTON, in seconding the resolution, said:—There is a point of view in which I may be permitted to regard this expedition which perhaps has not yet struck you. I have followed the course of Lieutenant Warren's researches with the greatest interest, particularly his topographical researches, for I feel the greatest desire to know the true position of the Temple and its surrounding court. But there is another hope that I have never lost sight of, which is, that in the course of these topographical researches we shall come upon some vestiges of Phœnician art. And when I say Phœnician art, I have only to remind you that the cunning artificers employed by Solomon were Hiram of Tyre and such men. And I think we may assume that those wonderful works in metal, stone, and other materials which we have so graphically described in the Old Testament as the ornaments of the Temple of Solomon were examples of the Phœnician art of that time. It would be, I am quite sure, to all I have now the honour of addressing, a point of extraordinary interest if we could see any one specimen of the art of Hiram and his fellow craftsmen. (Cheers.) I am very far from hoping that we shall find any of those richly wrought works of metal in the precincts of the Temple itself, but there are things which neither Roman, nor Crusader, nor Turk could ever have touched, things that did not excite cupidity or fanaticism, and which all of these would have passed over without attaching any value to them,—such things as the pottery which my friend Mr. Deutsch has just mentioned; and I cannot but believe that if you steadily pursue these topographical inquiries, and follow out these shafts and galleries, you will come unexpectedly to vestiges of early times, strangely intermixed with vestiges of Crusaders, Turks, and

Arabs, and modern things. These are the experiences which all persons connected with excavations make for themselves. I can give you some little hope that we shall arrive by slow induction at the character of Phœnician art, not only from this exploration, but from other sources. The first process, in looking for Phœnician art, would be to look for it in Phœnicia and in Palestine itself. That, however, has not been the course by which we have discovered it. We have discovered antiquities in the Greek or Phœnician settlements in Syria, and in Phœnicia itself other antiquities, almost identical in character. This is not an occasion to give a lecture on the subject, but I may give you this as an example of what may be discovered. There is in the British Museum a large shell called *tridachna squamosa*. It was found in a tomb of Etruria thirty years ago, covered with engraved ornaments of Assyrian character. This was shown to the Roman Institute, but no person could make any kind of explanation of it, and it remained an unexplained antiquity. In due course Mr. Layard went to Nimroud, and there he found a fragment of a different shell, similarly engraved. Mr. Loftus afterwards in the same locality found another shell, with ornaments similar to those on the Assyrian friezes, such as flowers and winged monsters. Some ten years after that we made that interesting discovery of the Necropolis in Rhodes, a Græco-Phœnician settlement, which I discovered, merely from finding some fragments of pottery on the surface of a ploughed field, and where many hundreds of tombs have been explored by our Consul, Mr. Biliotti. Here, too, another fragment of this shell was found, similarly engraved. And now I must tell you that this shell is not one of the Mediterranean shells at all, it is generally found in the Red Sea and in the Indian Ocean. Therefore, *a priori*, the presumption is that it is a Phœnician shell. The ornaments were thoroughly oriental, and gave rise to the same presumption. And I hope to see the day, and I think it is not a rash hope, when we shall have explored and preserved the Phœnician and Græco-Phœnician antiquities from Tyre to Gades, throughout the length and breadth of the Mediterranean. (Cheers.) But, to make the induction complete, we must have carefully preserved all the Phœnician antiquities found in Phœnicia proper, and in Palestine. I would add one word for the Phœnicians themselves. I venture to think they are to us a nation deserving of peculiar interest and study, not merely as the kinsmen of the Jews, but as the nation to whom we owe what is perhaps the greatest instrument of modern civilisation, greater than printing, greater than railways, greater than the electric telegraph; I mean the invention of a written alphabet such as we now use, such as the *Times* newspaper was printed in this morning, and which we may trace without any doubt, through many changes, to a Phœnician source. (Cheers.) I have no right to detain you any longer; but having been an excavator myself, and having passed seven years in the Levant, I know something of the difficulties, the expenses, and the heart-breaking disappointments of such expeditions as this; and I must say that, from what I can judge of the reports

of Lieutenant Warren and his companions, and from the care that I see they have bestowed in keeping a register of every fragment they have found, they appear to have done their work in a most conscientious and thorough manner. (Cheers.) And I say this with the less reserve because I have not been in any way engaged with the management of this expedition. (Cheers.) I will add one word more. It is clear that these kind of expeditions cannot be carried on without great outlay. Remember that you are carrying them on in a country where there are none of the appliances of European civilisation; where there is no proper timber, except such as you import from Malta; where everything is carried on mule back or camel back, adding greatly to the expense; where there is no wrought iron and no machinery; and, moreover, that Jerusalem is at a considerable distance from the coast. (Cheers.) I was enabled to conduct an expedition with the aid of an officer of engineers and sappers, and with stores from the War Office, and a great many other things which the Government were good enough to give me; but I had one advantage besides, I had the sea at my back and a ship of war as a base of operations, and when anything was wanted it was easily fetched from Malta. But here we have to add on to the cost of the excavations the further outlay of the cost of transport from the coast to Jerusalem, and that, no doubt, is a large item. I would say one more word with reference to the necessity, the absolute necessity, of giving subscriptions liberally and quickly. (Cheers.) There is an old Latin proverb, that "he who gives quickly gives twice." (Cheers.) There never was a case in which that was more applicable than this. The Turkish Government, in regard to giving firmans for this purpose, is, considering all things, a very liberal government. (Cheers.) I will say this, if Jerusalem passed into other hands, it is my belief that you would never again find a government more liberal or more disposed to give you free scope in these researches than the government with which you have now to deal. And if you have not at once overcome all their prejudices, which, it must be remembered, are *religious* prejudices, I feel assured that in time they will grant you much more than they have done as yet. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN put the resolution, which was unanimously carried.

Professor OWEN, in moving the second resolution, said:—Some years ago, indeed on the first occasion on which we submitted to the public the aims and needs of the Palestine Exploration Fund, through an audience, in numbers, influence, and social status, like that which I have now the honour to address, it was assigned to me to advocate more especially the interest and importance of acquiring a precise or scientific knowledge of the natural history and geology of the Holy Land. The British public, I am happy to say, and indeed, as you must have gathered from the report just read, and the excellent opening address from the Chair, have responded to our appeal with a degree of liberality which has enabled the Committee to carry on researches on the Antiquities of Palestine, which have resulted, as has been lucidly

set forth by my accomplished colleagues in the British Museum, in discoveries of greater extent, originality, interest, and instructiveness than the sum of all the similar researches which had been recorded prior to the establishment of the Palestine Exploration Fund. This is a great though not an unexpected result: it was foreseen, anticipated, on good and sure grounds, by the Committee and founders of the Fund. It was very unexpected, I believe, by the public at large; and I may say, I believe with strict truth, that it has brought intelligent sections of knowledge among our Christian brethren into a clearer comprehension of the present state of the Jerusalem of Holy Scripture than they before possessed. To achieve the work productive of this valuable and much coveted result, however, has necessitated the exclusive, or almost exclusive, application of the funds at our command to this, which was judged, and I willingly admit it to be, the primary and most important aim of our association. I am here, therefore, after a lapse of two years, again before you to press upon your favourable attention and liberal instincts the great desirability of providing the means of carrying on researches requisite to lay the foundation at least, and I trust ultimately to raise the superstructure of a truly scientific geology, zoology, and history of the Holy Land. Most singular and peculiar characteristics of the land—I need only instance the "Dead Sea," a sea standing at the lowest level of any known on the whole world—invite to geological research, irrespective of associations with our religion. In that latter relation dread and potent geological dynamics, alluded to and more or less distinctly shadowed forth in Scripture as being attended with destruction of cities, and wholesale blotting out of human life, may reasonably be expected to have left traces of their operation which a skilled geological explorer can alone be qualified to satisfactorily detect and define. The general geological study of Palestine must and will be accompanied, as in all other parts of the world, with the discovery of fossil remains. These petrified evidences of the plants and animals of a former condition of mundane surface, must be collected with due care, and the annotation of all requisite particulars as to locality, geological formation, mineral condition of their place of entombment, relative position to present surface, and so on, such as the competent palæontologist and collector will necessarily note down and record. The fossils must be suitably prepared and carefully packed, and transmitted to the British Museum, where alone, so far as I know, exist in this country the means and materials for the comparisons essential to their accurate determination. We ask for funds to enable us to effect this good work, to complete this remarkable chapter in the Natural History of Palestine. Of the plants and the animals of the Holy Land what shall I say? what need I say? It is familiar to readers and students of Scripture—it is known, indeed, to us all—how numerous, how various, were the comparisons and similes with which the Divine Author of our faith elucidated and enforced his teachings. Phenomena above, beneath, and around him were recalled to the attention of

his auditory, and pressed into the service of the parable or other form of warning, advice, command, and instruction. The grain of "mustard-seed," the "fig," whose tender budding leaves foreshowed the summer, the "sparrow" in the house-top, the foxes which have their holes—why need I, before you, who know doubtless more and better instances than I can recall to present memory, adduce further evidences of the peculiar relations and conditions that render a natural history of Palestine, which may be called a natural history of the Bible, a subject of deeper interest to Christians than any other fauna and flora, or geographical field of natural history can possibly be? It has sometimes been wished that, pending the accomplishment of this work, the translators had been content to leave the Hebrew, or other original name of plant or animal, untranslated into our vernacular. We appeal to you for aid by subscriptions, to enable us to place this fair crowning stone on the edifice of the History of Palestine. Does not a full and true Ichthyology of the Sea of Galilee, the Lake of Gennesareth, come home to the student with an interest greater than can relate to a like knowledge of the early inhabitants of any other waters? We appeal to you again, therefore, to continue your kind co-operation with us, and help us by your contributions and canvass to get the means for carrying out the part of our programme set forth in this second resolution.

Professor Owen then moved the second resolution, "That it is desirable that special exertions should be made to raise funds to enable the society to complete the survey of Palestine, and to make further researches into the geology and natural history of the country."

[During Professor Owen's speech His Grace the Archbishop of York left the chair, which was taken by Mr. Morrison, M.P.]

The CHAIRMAN: I will call upon Mr. MacGregor, Captain of the "Rob Roy" canoe, to second the resolution. (Loud cheers).

Mr. MACGREGOR: Mr. Chairman,—This work will give us plenty to do for a long number of years, there is no disguising that, and for many men, many kinds of men, and many kinds of work. Yet the country where we are doing it is a very small one. Palestine is not larger than Lancashire and Yorkshire together, and surely it cannot be beyond our power to make everything clear in such a space as that, when we can send out expeditions to the North Pole, and cut an ocean canal between two great seas, or bridge with a railway the whole continent of America. Jerusalem itself would all go into Hyde Park, as the labours of General Lefroy will enable us to see. And to let you see it here I have got a map to-day of London, and have stuck a pink mark upon it of the size of Jerusalem, that you may all see and judge for yourselves the smallness of the town. Now this is laid down with some care, and if you will take the tickets of admission to this meeting which you have, and which have upon the back of them a map of Jerusalem, I will explain to you the principal features of the place, and their relation to the positions of the most remarkable places round about us here. If

you will turn the tickets upside down, then, as you are sitting, you will be in the same position as this map is, as I hold it up here. Jerusalem is here represented in such a way that *this* is the Haram area, and to show the boundaries of Jerusalem it extends along the side of Piccadilly, and from Devonshire house it reaches to the Alhambra. Then the east wall of Jerusalem passes down past St. Martin's Church until it reaches the Charing Cross Railway and gets into the Thames, then it goes past the Houses of Parliament to Westminster Abbey, and goes across the bridge over the water in St. James's Park, and gets across Piccadilly to Devonshire House. Now the boundary being such as that, I will name some of the places in that space here which fall on the particular parts in Jerusalem. We are now sitting here in such a spot as would be north of the Haram area, at no particular place except a heap of rubbish. The Mosque of Omar would be represented by the Junior United Service Club, the Golden Gate of the Temple would be where the Quadrant is, the Mosque Al Aksa would be at the Alhambra, Robinson's Arch at Nelson's Column, the Tower of David at the Duke of Buccleuch's House, and the Jaffa Gate at the pier where the penny steamboats start. Then the Pool of Bethesda would be about the top of Duke Street, St. James's, the Tyropæon Valley at Pall Mall, Zion would be about Whitehall, and the Holy Sepulchre where the new Foreign Office is. Round about Jerusalem there are four or five places I may mention. The Garden of Gethsemane occupies a site which would be represented by Clifford Street, the Mount of Olives by the Regent Circus, the Tombs of the Kings would be at Victoria Station, and the new Russian Hospice, which dominates Jerusalem on that side, would be about the Westminster House of Correction. Now with such a small town as that, and with so many people about it, we ought to be able to finish the work. But that matter has already been pressed upon you. Every one here has contributed, and will perhaps contribute again; but we can do a great deal by talking to our friends. And besides our taking an interest in this, and besides our signing cheques for this, we can do something even as travellers in the country itself; and you have the benefit in this Society of getting information, which costs you nothing, from those travellers who are able to go out at their own expense, and such travellers are adding very much to the knowledge that could not be obtained except by costly and painful investigations. I have, during the last winter, been doing what could not be done except in a boat. (Cheers.) Of course I am not going to enter into the subject of that journey now, interesting as it was to myself, and useful as it may perhaps be to others, but I may mention one point in which the boat was of use. I was ten days on the Sea of Galilee. When I came to the town of Tiberias there were crowds of people on the shore gazing on me, and as I was looking on them I suddenly observed a long sea wall, just above the surface of the water, and on observing it I found that it seemed higher at one end than the other. It was 300 or 400 yards in length. You could not see it from the shore, but you

could look at it from the water, and it was evidently higher at one end than the other. I thought that worth examining, and what did I find? I found this old wall underneath other walls, and there were three courses of stones out of the water at one end and only two at the other, and it was clear that it had all bodily sunk: the whole of this range, the whole of the town of Tiberias, had lowered towards the south. Now that shows that the earthquake which took place in 1837, and was the cause of this sinking, had an effect of one particular kind, and in one particular direction. How valuable that is, how important. (Cheers.) You could go along the whole course of the lake, and trace out at the depth of six or seven feet all the submerged columns entirely covered with water. I mention that to show how the catastrophes of nature may sometimes be detected from the water when they may not be from the land. (Cheers.)

Mr. MacGregor concluded by seconding the second resolution.

Captain WILSON, R.E., in support of the second resolution, said:—In rising to support the resolution which has been proposed by Professor Owen, and more especially that portion of it which relates to surveying. I will simply mention what has been done in Palestine. We have now a survey of Jerusalem and the country round it, and the Sea of Galilee, and the district round the east of Jordan has been lately done by Lieutenant Warren; and lately, this last winter, a large portion of the peninsula of Sinai has been surveyed. But we want to complete this work. There is a large district called the Desert of Tih, in which the children of Israel spent the greater part of their forty years' wandering, which requires attending to. Then there is the home of the Patriarchs: that country is absolutely unknown, and is seldom traversed by travellers. In making a survey of a country, it is not merely mapping that is done, other things are carried on. For instance, when I was at Bethel I found a church almost on the identical spot where Abraham and Lot viewed the country round. There could be no doubt about the place, because it was the only hill-top from which the view described in the Bible could be had, looking down upon the Jordan Valley. Then, going further north, to Nablus, I was enabled to make a plan of one of the most curious natural features in the country, the spot where the meeting of the Law took place. The place was remarkably suited for what took place. There was a large amphitheatre formed in the side of the hill by lime-stone cavities, and, as we are told, one-half of the people stood over against Mount Gerizim, and half of them over against Mount Ebal, and Joshua and the Levites stood in the centre of the valley. Then, again, we found out many new facts with regard to the site of Capernaum, and the system of irrigation adopted in the plain of Gennesareth, by which water is carried by an aqueduct for a distance of many miles. We also made an excursion on the east side of the lake, and identified the ruins left by the ancient Ghirgesites. It was a great satisfaction to me on my return from Sinai, and on meeting the captain of the "Rob Roy," to find that the only alterations he was able to make

in my survey of the Lake of Galilee was owing to his having visited it at a different time of the year, when the water was much lower. It was gratifying to me that such a careful observer as Captain MacGregor, of the "Rob Roy," should only be able to make such trifling alterations. (Cheers.) I cordially support the resolution. (Cheers.)

DR. WILLIAM SMITH moved the next resolution, "That it is desirable that Local Associations should be formed in the principal towns in England to further the objects of the society."

The Rev. W. HOLLAND, Honorary Secretary, seconded the resolution:—Owing to the absence of Canon Birch, who has had to leave the meeting, the duty falls to me of seconding this resolution. I was particularly anxious that Canon Birch should have seconded it, because he is connected with one of our local committees, and a committee which I hope will prove the most important of all—that is, the local committee at Manchester. (Hear, hear.) We have already received very much assistance from various local committees, of which we have now a good many in various parts of the country, and we are greatly indebted to those gentlemen who have kindly taken up the question, and endeavoured in different towns and counties to make known the objects and operations of the society. I have been astonished to find how little people realise what we are doing. Some people look upon us as merely archæologists, and others as merely geographers. Now I do not wish to underrate at all the value of archæology or geography, far from it, but I wish to call your attention to the fact that we are still more than that. *We are illustrators of the Bible.* (Cheers.) That is the great object we have in view, and that is our great claim in coming before you for your support. (Cheers.) We find that to carry on our explorations satisfactorily—that is, with regularity and system—we must have an annual income; and that *ought* at least to amount to £7,000 or £8,000. Now, so far, our existence has been one rather of beggary; not that we have ever actually been short of money, except for a short time, but we have had from time to time to issue a pressing appeal for funds, and then our funds have been spent, and after a time we have had to issue another appeal. But now that our society is more firmly established, we ought to exist in a more satisfactory condition. (Cheers.) We ought to have an annual income, and we have come to the conclusion that that annual income can only be obtained through local associations. We therefore appeal to you, and to all who take an interest in the subject, to help us in forming throughout the country a number of local Associations. I would remind you also that this work is not a work merely for ourselves. It is a work which I hope will benefit not only the whole of our own country, but I may add the whole of mankind. Nothing can exaggerate the importance of enabling people to realise the country, and the manners and customs of the country, which is described in the Holy Scriptures; and I often think that perhaps the operations that we are now carrying on may actually prove in future time to be of more

importance than we now think. (Cheers.) There is no knowing what the importance of the discoveries we now make will be. And I would call your attention to the fact that although the present security of the country, and the better government, enables travellers to travel through the Holy Land more safely, still that same security does to some extent endanger the treasures which exist there. I refer to this fact, because the security of the country has caused an increase of agriculture, and has consequently caused an increase of lime kilns; and some of the most interesting things that Captain Wilson discovered have now, I believe, been turned into lime. I believe that a portion of the synagogue at Capernaum, which was possibly the very synagogue in which our Lord preached, has been converted into lime. It is important, therefore, not only to have funds to discover these things, but to secure them, and to bring them home, that they may be useful to us and to all succeeding ages. (Cheers.) I would say a few words about the interest which is taken in our work abroad. Not only have we many friends in Germany, but we have many letters from America, and we hope in a very short time to have local associations in America, such as we wish to start in our own country; and possibly the different societies may so join hand in hand that we may complete the explorations we have commenced, and finish that work which if not now secured may be destroyed for ever, and thus enable us to realise our Bible, and be of permanent usefulness to us in that way. (Cheers.) And I would call your attention finally to the fact that we ought to regard the explorations in Palestine as a religious duty. I am not saying too much when I say that the illustration of the Bible is so great (and those who have been in Palestine will bear me out when I say so) that we ought to look upon this work as a religious work, and one which can claim, and ought to claim, larger support than it has at present received. (Cheers.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. FREELAND: Ladies and Gentlemen,—The Chairman has placed in my hands a resolution which I have very sincere pleasure in proposing for your acceptance, because it is one which I am quite certain you will receive with very great cordiality. It relates only to a vote of thanks to the Archbishop of York, as it has been placed in my hands; but I think I must venture to supplement it to a slight extent, and therefore it will run in this form,—“The best thanks of the meeting be given to his grace the Archbishop of York—(cheers)—and to his successor in the chair—(cheers)—for their kindness in presiding over us on this occasion.” (Cheers.) At this late hour of our proceedings, it would ill become me, especially after you have had the advantage of hearing many gentlemen who possess what I do not possess, a local knowledge of the country to which our explorations extend, to detain you with any lengthened remarks. I would only ask to be permitted to say that it is to my mind, as I think it must be to the minds of all present, a matter of very sincere congratulation to think that a society of this character, which has nothing about it of a sectarian or de-

nominal description, but which has united in its operations the efforts of the Jew, the Mahomedan, and the Christian, can be on an occasion like the present presided over and commended to our sympathies by an Archbishop of the Church of England. (Cheers.) I shall say no more in asking you cordially to adopt the resolution which I have the honour to propose to you. (Cheers.)

The resolution was seconded by Mr. FRESHFIELD, and unanimously carried.

The CHAIRMAN: I have only, ladies and gentlemen, in the name of the Archbishop, to return you the thanks which he of course would have returned you for this compliment.

The meeting then adjourned.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT
BEYROUT, SYRIA.

(Latitude 33° 54' N.; longitude 35° 29' E. Height above sea level, 160ft.)

BY JAMES GLAISHER, ESQ., F.R.S., FROM THE OBSERVATIONS OF
G. J. ELDRIDGE, ESQ., H.B.M.'S CONSUL.

THE observations at Beyrout, in Syria, distant from the sea about a quarter of a mile, with standard instruments, which have been examined by Mr. Glaisher, consisting of observations of a standard barometer, its attached thermometer, the dry and wet bulb thermometers, the direction and estimated strength of the wind, and general state of the weather, were made twice a day, viz., at 9 A.M. and at 10 P.M., together with readings of a maximum thermometer, a minimum thermometer, and a rain gauge, read daily. The following are the monthly values of the several elements:—

The numbers in column 1 of this table show the highest readings of the barometer in each month; of these, the highest appear in the winter, and the lowest in the summer months. Of the lowest readings in column 2, there does not seem to be any change due to seasons; the minimum is in December, and the next in order in June, whilst that in May is nearly of the same value. The numbers in the 3rd column show the extreme range of readings in each month, the smallest is in July, being less than a quarter of an inch, whilst the largest is in December, being nearly three-quarters of an inch, or three times as large as that in July. The numbers in the 4th column, showing the monthly average pressure of the atmosphere, are smaller in the summer and larger in the winter months, the difference between them being as much as a quarter of an inch.

The highest temperature of each month is shown in column 5; of these January has the lowest, 63°, and July the highest, 95°. The numbers in the next column show the lowest temperature of each month; in January and February the values are as low as 44°, whilst in June the minimum is 72°. The extreme range of temperature in