

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

STATEMENT OF PROGRESS.

Most of the history of the past year's work has already appeared in the three previous *Quarterly Statements*. But little matter of recent date has to be given in this. The reason is that stated in No. 3—the unfortunate illness of Captain Warren and the whole of the little party engaged in the excavations. It will be remembered that they left Jerusalem in the autumn, and went to the Lebanon to recruit their health. It is satisfactory to state that, with the exception of Corporal Ellis, who has been obliged to return home, they have all recovered, and are now actively engaged, under Captain Warren's able superintendence, in completing their work. The time spent in the Lebanon, however, has not been idle: the paper now published on the visit to Saida is the immediate result sent home; another on the Temples of Lebanon is expected shortly; while Captain Warren has found time to put together other rough notes of former journeys, of which the paper in this number on Masada and 'Ain Jidy is an example. Work was resumed in November, but too late for anything new in time for this number. The most important shaft now open is that of the north-east angle. Most of the shafts have unfortunately, been closed for want of funds. The expense of wood frames to keep them open, where wood is so costly, and decay so rapid, compelled Captain Warren to close them up; and, unless means can shortly be found of keeping open these passages to the history of the past, nothing will soon remain of them but the records already published in these pages.

Following the plan adopted at the end of 1869, we recapitulate here the chief points of interest in the work of the last twelve months.

A most curious and carefully constructed tank was found at the north side of the Haram Area. It was measured, sketched, and

thoroughly examined by Captain Warren in January last, and forms a valuable addition to Captain Wilson's investigations into the water-supply of the Haram, published in his Notes to the Ordnance Survey of Jerusalem.

The "Wall of Ophel" has been completely examined to a point where it terminates abruptly. Were nothing else the result of Captain Warren's labours, this would remain a monument of his energy. Without venturing to determine its date, it seems probable that it is at least on the site of the old wall built by Manasseh, and mentioned in Nehemiah; and its discovery shows how the suburb of Ophel lay under the Temple wall stretching down the hill to the south.

Very great interest was excited when, in 1867, it was announced that at one point, the south-west angle, the wall rose 150 feet above the level of the rock. But the discoveries of this year have shown that the wall rose to at least an equal height at the south-east and north-east angles. At the latter, the deepest shaft yet made—110 feet below the surface—found the rock still sloping downwards, and revealed the existence of a valley, suspected before, but not certainly known, across the north-east angle. The surface of the Haram, therefore, in some part of which the Temple, without any doubt, stood, is like the lid of an oblong box, three of whose angles are about 120 feet above the rock. At the south-east angle, as will be remembered, are the well-known and often described vaults known as "Solomon's Stables." No similar vaults, although they may exist, have yet been discovered at the other two; but it is not improbable that a large part of this area stands upon artificial vaults of masonry.

Characters were discovered at the south-east angle, which Captain Warren copied carefully, and which have been submitted to gentlemen most competent to judge of them. They are pronounced by Mr. Deutsch, after actual inspection, and comparison with similar characters at Sidon, to be Phœnician. Other characters, three of which have been copied and sent home, have been examined by the same eminent scholar, and pronounced to be also Phœnician. Photographs of these characters, from Captain Warren's tracings, have been taken, and will shortly be ready for subscribers at the Society's agent's, Mr. Stanford, 6, Charing Cross.

The Birket Israil, so called "Pool of Bethesda," has been examined and proved to have been constructed for a pool. Steps of concrete are found at the northern side, while the bottom is formed of a hard concrete 1ft. 4in. thick. Specimens of the concrete, and of the plaster above it, have been sent home.

The masonry at the north-east angle presents some curious points of difference to that at the south-east and south-west angles. The "bevel" or draft is found on the stones, but of a very different form. "Their faces," says Captain Warren, "are rough, but they are quite unlike the roughly faced stones at the south-west angle. They project from two to twenty inches or more, presenting a very curious appearance. The stone used does not seem to be so compact and hard as that at the south-east angle, and the chisel-work is not so carefully done."

A curious passage, which once evidently served as an overflow for the Birket Israil, was discovered in the wall at the north-east angle. (See *Quarterly Statement* III. ; *Warren's Letters*, pp. 119—121.)

For Captain Warren's conclusions as to the work along the south wall and the south-west angle, readers are referred to his *Letters*, pp. 123—130.

Full accounts of the examination of the west wall have been published in *Quarterly Statement* II. ; *Warren's Letters*, pp. 107—116.

The aqueduct at Robinson's Arch has been further investigated: the vaults at "Wilson's Arch" have yielded fresh discoveries; the "Gate Gennath" has been examined and described; the cavern at Khureitûn, the traditional cave of Adullam, has been explored; a shaft and gallery outside the Golden Gate, excavated with great labour, were crossed and stopped by a thick wall which could not be got through; a most curious cavern has been found and examined south of the Haram Wall, which appears to have been used first as a dyer's shop, and subsequently as a stable; its antiquity is proved by the fact that in the earth above it was found a drain containing lamps of early Christian date. Here was found the singular copper candlestick exhibited among the collection of the Society last summer.

The foregoing are the principal achievements of the past year. They have been accomplished in the face of many difficulties, but especially want of funds. The accounts sent home by Captain Warren are in themselves so succinct and full of matter, that it is diffi-

cult to condense them still further, and their great importance is not readily understood unless the letters themselves are carefully studied. As many subscribers have expressed a desire to have a map or plan by which the work can be followed, a woodcut of the Haram, with the shafts and their results noted, will be published in the next *Quarterly*. It is hoped to accompany this with a paper of full explanation.

Turning to other work, attention may be called to the publication of the *Quarterly Statements*. These, as has been stated before, are not intended solely for the publication and preservation of Captain Warren's reports, but also for occasional papers containing new facts or inferences connected with the objects of the Society. In the course of the year, papers have been furnished, many of them of great interest, by Captain Wilson, Mr. Morrison, M.P., Mr. MacGregor, Mr. Deutsch, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Crotch, Mr. Rogers, the Rev. Mr. Zeller; and meteorological observations, by Mr. Eldridge, have been put into shape for publication by Mr. Glaisher. It is hoped that our publications may continually attract the attention of travellers, and that the Committee of the Fund may be enabled to make it a storehouse of new facts. That the other objects of the Society are not wholly lost sight of in the engrossing work at Jerusalem is proved by the appearance of these papers. It is proved, too, by the Exhibition which was opened for three months at the Dudley Gallery, and was visited by some 6,000 people; and by the expedition, quite recently undertaken, by the aid of the Committee, by Mr. E. H. Palmer, Fellow of St. John's, Cambridge, in the Desert of Tih. An opportunity occurred, not likely to occur again, by which the most valuable services of this gentleman, proved as they were in Sir Henry James's recent survey of Sinai, could be obtained for the Fund during the winter. The Committee resolved to accept the occasion, trusting that the friends of the Fund would see the importance of exploring, by means of so competent an observer, this most interesting and little known wilderness, the probable scene of the Forty Years' Wandering. The expense to the Fund will be about £300. Hampered as the Committee have always been for want of sufficient means to carry on their work in Jerusalem, it was with some hesitation that their resolution was arrived at. What, however, they have undertaken in hope, will doubtless be appreciated by their supporters; and the admirable

paper in the present number, written by a gentleman thoroughly acquainted with the subject, will show what has been done, and what remains to be done. Mr. Palmer is accompanied by Mr. Drake, who goes with him for purposes of Natural History, under a grant from the University of Cambridge. They expect to terminate their work in May or June.

With regard to the work done at home, in extending knowledge of results and gaining fresh subscribers, it is gratifying to announce that the sum of £1,300 has been collected during the last three months; that no less than 128 lectures have been delivered, in almost every case to large and attentive audiences; that important meetings have been held at Cheltenham, Newark, Reading, Bradford, Halifax, Worcester, Hereford, Wells, Gloucester, and other places, where local Associations have been formed; that other meetings have been asked for, and will be held in the spring; that the work of the Society formed one of the subjects at the recent Church Congress; and that the interest raised by the publication of the *Quarterly Statements* is clearly increasing. These, originally published for subscribers, have been sold in considerable numbers, and arrangements have been made by which they will henceforth be published by Mr. Bentley, 8, New Burlington Street, as well as at the Society's office. The great expense of printing and posting them to subscribers forces the Committee to ask those who may not wish to have them sent, to instruct the Secretary to that effect.

Among the illustrious visitors to Jerusalem in 1869, one, at least, did not depart without leaving substantial marks of his approbation of the work, and the Committee desire here to record their thanks to the Marquis of Bute for his munificent donation of £250 to Captain Warren.

Another visitor, Mr. MacGregor, has done good work for the Society, not only by his own discoveries described in his newly published book on his canoe voyage on the Jordan and the Lake Hoolah, but also by his graphic letter to the *Times*, descriptive of the exploration works of the Fund. And the Committee have also to thank the special correspondent of the *Times* and the artists of the *Illustrated London News*.

The Committee, while thanking the friends who have subscribed to carry on the work during the last year—with donations varying

in amount from a shilling to £250—have now to appeal to them for help for the next.

They have to finish what they have begun. Unless we receive additional support Captain Warren may have to return before another summer. The Fund begins the year with an assured income which, while it is larger than that of any previous year, is yet far short of its requirements. Nothing is spent in England, or on anything but "exploration," that can be avoided. The sum of £5,000 is asked for the next year; and while letters from all sides reach the Committee, expressing confidence that wealthy and educated England will keep up a movement which asks so little to effect so much, that sum has not been reached this year by £1,000. The friends of the Fund can help in many ways: by extending knowledge of its work or its intentions; by contributing money; and by circulating the *Quarterly Statements*. The words of Mr. Deutsch, at the last annual meeting, may again be quoted: "There are ruins enough in the City of Sorrows. Do not add fresh ruins. Do not leave broken shafts and abandoned galleries, and let it not be said that this England, the richest, proudest, and most Bible-loving country in the world, has abandoned one of its greatest undertakings—for want of money."

THE CEREMONY OF THE DOSEH AT BAALBEC.

BY WALTER MORRISON, ESQ., M.P.

It is said that, among the other changes which have come over Cairo, the ceremony of the Doseh has been discontinued. It has been described by Mr. Lane and by other writers. On certain days the Sheikh es Saadeeyeh, the chief of the Saadeeyeh dervishes, rides into the Ezbe-keeyeh, or park of Cairo. "Here a number of the darweeshes and others, (I am sure there were more than sixty, but I could not count their number,) laid themselves down upon the ground side by side, as close as possible to each other, having their backs upwards, their legs extended, and their arms placed together beneath their foreheads. They incessantly muttered the word 'Allah.' About twelve or more darweeshes, most without their shoes, then ran over the backs of their prostrate companions; some beating 'bâzes' or little drums of a hemispherical form, held in the left hand, and exclaiming 'Allah!' and then the Sheykh approached; his horse hesitated for several minutes to tread on the back of the first of the prostrate men; but, being pulled and urged on behind, he at length stepped upon him, and then, without