

QUARTERLY STATEMENT, No. 6.]

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the Committee of the
Palestine Exploration Fund.

THE

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

STATEMENT OF PROGRESS.

THE present number of the *Quarterly* completes the series of letters written by Captain Warren from Jerusalem. He has now returned, with the whole party of non-commissioned officers of the Royal Engineers under his command, all of them, including himself, invalided home from the effects of hard work and climate.

This is perhaps a fitting place for a very brief expression of the Committee's sense of Captain Warren's most valuable services. The readers of his letters are already familiar with the work he has done in Jerusalem. They are not, perhaps, so well acquainted with the difficulties he has had to encounter. The prejudices and jealousies due to religion were obstacles he had to expect. These, however, as was shown by Captain Wilson's success in making the Ordnance Survey, were not insurmountable, and had been greatly exaggerated. The Committee have not yet been able to obtain permission for investigations to be made beneath the surface of the Haram Area; but in examining the south, west, and east sides of the Haram Wall, Captain Warren has not met with opposition greater than was to be expected. But there were other dangers, belonging to the peculiar character of the work: the shafts, like long slender pipes, ran through a kind of shingle composed of *débris* and rubbish, which when disturbed ran like water, sometimes for days together, crushing in the gallery frames and endangering the lives of those who were at work in the shaft. The heat, again, with the absence of ventilation, was so great in these narrow tubes as to be sometimes insupportable. Yet Captain

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Warren never had an accident among his fellahin, or lost a life. In estimating the work he has done, the anxiety he has undergone on this account alone, in addition to the fatigue and sometimes the disappointment of his work, must be borne in mind. There is perhaps no city in the world which now stands on an accumulation of ruin and rubbish of such depth and such antiquity as Jerusalem, and consequently none where excavations are more costly, more uncertain, and more perilous. Captain Warren contributes this quarter, besides the usual letters, an account of his expedition to the East of Jordan, which was undertaken more than two years ago. The survey work alluded to in his account has for some time been in the hands of the Committee, and will be published in a map of Palestine now approaching completion. The statement read by him at the Annual Meeting on May 16th will give to most readers information supplementary to and explanatory of many points in his letters.

It has been found impossible, with the work on hand, to get Captain Warren's personal supervision for the proposed engraving of the Haram Area. This must, therefore, wait. It is hoped to give it with the next number.

Mr. Klein's letter on the Moabite Stone supplies the information that was wanting to complete the story of its discovery. It has already been published in the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

Mr. Palmer's letters on the Desert of the Tih and the country of Moab were written in haste, and are necessarily incomplete. They give sufficient information, however, to show that a fuller report of what he has done will contain much that is entirely new as well as deeply interesting. Mr. Palmer will probably return home in the course of the summer.

The Committee have to express their gratitude to Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake for his valuable co-operation with Mr. Palmer*—and their hope that his contributions to the knowledge of natural history will prove valuable enough to repay him for the fatigues he has undergone.

Arrangements have been made for the publication of a book which will contain, as fully detailed as the space will allow, the results up to the present time of the work of the Fund. The Com-

* See Mr. Grove's speech in the Report of the Annual Meeting.

mittee hope that they will be enabled to offer this book to subscribers at a reduced rate. Full particulars will be announced in the next *Quarterly*.

The Committee are now engaged in maturing their plans for the next expedition to Palestine. Any suggestions, information, or advice on the subject from their friends will be willingly received and considered. But in offering such suggestions, it is hoped that the original prospectus of the Fund, the basis on which the Committee works, will be steadily borne in mind.

The squeezes taken by Captain Warren of the two larger fragments of the Moabite Stone have been all photographed full size, and can now be obtained. The four photographs can be had together for £2 10s., which is about the cost of their production. Casts of the fragments have been taken, and any subscribers wishing to obtain them for a museum, or for themselves, may address the Secretary on the subject.

In conclusion, attention is called to the remarks made by the speakers at the Annual Meeting, the report of which is here published.

THE ORIGINAL DISCOVERY OF THE MOABITE STONE.

BY THE REV. F. A. KLEIN.*

It was on the 19th of August, 1868, that in the course of a journey I undertook to Jebel Ajloon and the Belka I arrived at Dibán (ancient Dibon), about one hour to the north of the Wadi Mojeb (Arnon). For the sake of my friend and protector Zattam, the son of the famous Fendi-l-Faiz, Scheich of the Beni Sachr, who accompanied me, I was received in a most friendly way by a tribe of the Beni-Hamdeh, encamped near Dibán. Carpets and cushions were spread in the tent of the Scheich, and coffee prepared with all the ceremonial of Bedouin etiquette. Before the operation of preparing and drinking coffee had been terminated, my friend Zattam, who was always most anxious to make my tour as pleasant and interesting as possible, had informed me that there was among the ruins of Dibán, scarcely ten minutes from our encampment, a most interesting stone with an ancient inscription on it which no one had ever been able to decipher, which he would take me to see. As sunset was drawing near I was anxious to be off at once, but Zattam

* This letter was addressed to Mr. Grove, and appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of April 19th, 1870. The sketch alluded to is in the office of the Fund. It was published also in the *Illustrated London News*.