



THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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STATEMENT OF PROGRESS.

THE present *Quarterly* offers to subscribers of the Fund the promised plan of the Haram Area, showing the excavations as revised by Captain Warren. A few words of explanation will be found in another part of this number. It is hoped that the study of this plan will lead to a fuller comprehension of the nature and importance of the work already accomplished.

Mr. E. H. Palmer and Mr. Drake have just returned to England, after a journey of no ordinary danger, as well as interest. There has not been time for Mr. Palmer to prepare a report of the results of the expedition for this *Quarterly*, but a full account may be expected in the next. It may be remarked that Mr. Palmer and Mr. Drake have traversed a country previously almost wholly unknown—the scene of the Forty Years' Wandering, and, with no attendants or escort, but relying entirely on their own tact, and Mr. Palmer's knowledge of the language, worked their way round the south of the Dead Sea from Petra, through the country of Moab—perhaps the most lawless district of any about Palestine.

Captain Warren has been wholly occupied since his return to England in putting together his work for the Committee. A large portion of this will be published in the forthcoming book, the "Recovery of Jerusalem." With the help of abundant maps, plans, and illustrations, it will be found easy to follow his discoveries and estimate his work.

The plans of the Committee for the future have been, as was to be expected, interfered with by the European war. They propose at present to organise an expedition as soon as possible which shall

have for its object, in the first place, to explore thoroughly the wadies and ruins lying round the Sea of Galilee. Little has yet been done in this district, the most interesting, next to Jerusalem, of any in Palestine to the student of the New Testament. They will be guided, of course, by the amount of funds at their disposal.

Through the kindness of the authorities of the Department for Arts and Sciences, arrangements have been made for exhibiting some of the results of the Society's labours at the South Kensington Museum. When the room is open, due advertisement will be made.

Jerusalem, which is and always will continue to be, the central point of interest, will not be lost sight of. At present, Dr. Chaplin, now one of the Committee of the Fund, has charge of the works and stores, &c., left behind by Captain Warren. The discovery at the Convent of the Sisters of Sion narrated below carries on the previous work in the same place of Captain Wilson, who first discovered this curious passage, and Captain Warren, who first explored it.

Lectures will be delivered during the coming season, and friends of the Fund who wish to promote its interests and extend a knowledge of its work by having a Lecture in their neighbourhood, may communicate to that effect with the Secretary at the Society's office as early as possible.

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### THE HARAM AREA.

THE Haram Area—or Noble Sanctuary, as Captain Warren translates it, on some part of which, as all are agreed, stood the Temples of Solomon, Zerubbabel, and Herod—is a large enclosure, in shape oblong, but somewhat irregular, its angles not being all exactly rectangular, nor its opposite sides exactly equal. Thus the south side is 922ft. long, the east 1,530ft., the west 1,601ft., and the north 1,042ft. The large space enclosed within its walls contains the celebrated Kubbet es Sakhra, or Dome of the Rock, certain mosques, small oratories, and green spaces. It contains also a large number of tanks, which have been examined and measured with the greatest care by Captain Wilson and Captain Warren. These will be found numbered on the plan. The Dome of the Rock is an octagonal domed building rising from a platform partly built, partly formed of the rock, and paved with stone slabs. It covers a large rough, unhewn rock rising a few feet above the pavement, containing a cave, in the centre of which is a marble slab said to cover the entrance to a passage called by the Mohammedans the "Well

of Souls." About this cave and the building which surmounts it controversy has been active; one party, at the head of whom may be mentioned the Rev. George Williams, author of "The Holy City," maintaining that the site is that of the altar of the Temple, and that the mosque is Saracenic, while another party thinks, with Mr. Fergusson, that the mosque is a Christian church—no other than Constantine's Church of the Anastasis, built over what Constantine believed to be the site of our Lord's Sepulchre. At the south-east angle are the so-called "Solomon's Stables," a series of vaults under the S.E. angle discovered some thirty years since, and now well known to most visitors to Jerusalem. They have been described by nearly all writers on the subject. A very curious passage, discovered by Captain Warren under the "Single Gate," led him, though he was obliged to leave the place without further exploration, to believe in the existence of other vaults and chambers beneath these.

Then gates exist in the south vale, called respectively the Single Gate, the Triple Gate, and the Double Gate. At or under each gate exist passages, which are marked in the plan. At the Double Gate exists the modern wall of the city. The buildings in the southern portion of the Area are the Mosques of Omar, of El Aksa, and of the Mogrebbin, Moroccans, or Moors.

The gates on the west side will be found on the plan in their English names. These are—

The Moors' or Prophets' Gate . . . . .	Bâb al Maghâribé;
The Gate of the Chain . . . . .	Bâb as Silsilé;
The Gate of the Bath . . . . .	Bâb al Mathara;
The Iron Gate . . . . .	Bâb al Hadid;
The Gate of the Inspector . . . . .	Bâb an Nâzir;

with one or two others. These are all modern.

About 50ft. from the south-west angle is a projecting portion of an arch, called, from him who first pointed out that it must have belonged to an arch, "Robinson's Arch." Here, it will be remembered, occurred one of the most memorable of Captain Warren's discoveries. On the plan will be observed the course of the aqueduct, which he found running along the bottom of the wall, partly cut in the rock, partly constructed of masonry, and with one of its circular pools crossed by the Haram Wall, a circumstance from which we may fairly infer that the wall is of more recent date than the pool, *i.e.*, than the aqueduct. This aqueduct may have been built for the purpose of carrying off the stream of running water which Captain Warren found higher up the wall at Wilson's Arch.

The vaults and chambers found at Wilson's Arch, already fully described in Warren's reports and letters, were built apparently to sustain the causeway which doubtless crossed the valley at this point, and were probably used as granaries. We have thus two causeways, one at Robinson's Arch and one at Wilson's Arch, across the Tyropœon

Valley, which runs very nearly down the west wall, crossing it at the south-west corner.

The Hill of Ophel lies to the south of the Haram Area. A large number of excavations were made here, and many of them were attended with the happiest results. Among these, it is only necessary to call attention here to the discovery of the Ophel Wall.

At the south-east angle were found, on the lowest courses of stones, the characters and marks which have excited so much curiosity, and which were pronounced by Mr. Deutsch to be Phœnician. Further examination of the valley proved that the whole western bank of the Kedron Valley is buried in *débris*, in some places 60ft. to 80ft. deep, and the bed of the river has been shifted 90ft. to the east.

The "Golden Gate" is the only gate on the eastern side; this is now mainly taken up with tombs, a circumstance which renders it impossible to dig there. A shaft was, however, sunk, and though unfortunately it could not be prosecuted to the end, it led, as will be remembered, to results of great interest.

At the north-east angle were found other characters resembling those of the south-east. Here, too, was discovered a valley, the existence of which had been suspected before, running across the angle.

The contour lines represent the surface contours, and show the number of feet above the level of the Mediterranean. Another contour map has been prepared by Captain Warren, from which a model has been executed, showing the lie of the rock itself, or, pretty accurately, that of the ground before any building was placed upon it.\*

The "Birket Israil" is the traditional Pool of Bethesda.

Reference need not be made here to Warren's letters, which are in the hands of all subscribers. The brief explanations given above, with the map, will prove, it is hoped, a sufficient help to their right understanding. The deepest shafts were at the three angles, that at the north-east being 120ft. before the rock was reached. Speaking roughly, at each of these angles, 100ft. of rubbish hides the wall from view, rubbish which has arisen on the eastern side wholly from *débris* produced by siege and destruction.

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### DISCOVERY AT THE N.W. ANGLE.

THE Turkish authorities, in searching for water at Jerusalem, have made an important discovery at the north-west angle of the Haram Area, of which Dr. Chaplin has sent an account, together with a plan executed by Mr. Schick.

In the rock-cut passage, described Oct. 28, 1867 (Letters, p. 35), leading from the double tunnel under the Convent of the Sisters of Zion

\* This model can be seen at the office of the Fund, and may be lent for exhibition at lectures and meetings.