

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

PREFACE.

THE new series of the Society's *Quarterly Statements* begins with an account of Mr. Palmer's journey of exploration in that little-visited region known as the Desert of the Tih. The great addition made to geographical knowledge by this journey may be ascertained by comparing the map appended to this number with any of those previously in existence of the same region, and by reading the paper appended to Mr. Palmer's account, which is extracted from *Quarterly Statement*, First Series, No. IV.

The main feature of the past year's work at home has been the publication of the book entitled the "Recovery of Jerusalem." This contains, besides Captain Warren's work in the city, an account of the work done by Captain Wilson and Lieutenant Anderson in 1866, and other papers connected with the Society's past work.

In Palestine itself the most prominent incident of the work done was the discovery of the Moabite Stone, and this will always make the year 1870 an *annus mirabilis* in the history of Palestine Exploration. Although the actual discovery of the stone does not belong to Captain Warren, the share he had in the recovery of the remaining portions after its destruction was—as will be seen from the only exact accounts of its discovery, those published in *Quarterly Statements* Nos. V. and VI., and in the "Recovery of Jerusalem"—so important as to warrant the association of his name with that of Mr. Klein and M. Clermont-Ganneau.

Of geographical work, we have, besides Mr. Palmer's adventurous journey already referred to, Captain Warren's account of the Lebanon, Coele-Syria, Hermon, and Saida; his visit to the Dead Sea; his expedition east of Jordan, and his determination of heights, names, and positions of places, in that part of the country.

In the published proceedings of the Society for the last year, too, will be found Captain Wilson's ingenious identification of the site of Ai.

Among the gains to archæological knowledge, besides the important facts discovered in the shafts at Jerusalem, may be mentioned Captain Warren's careful sketches and plans of the ruined temples of Cœle-Syria. Two of them have been engraved in illustration of the essay by Mr. Phené Spiers in the "Recovery of Jerusalem." We have also M. Clermont-Ganneau's paper on the Stone of Zoheleth; and Dr. Sandreczki's happy suggestion, afterwards verified by M. Guerin, that in the rock tombs of El Medyeh would be found the Maccabæan mausoleum. It is only fair to add to the above the archæological paper furnished by the Rev. Greville Chester to the "Recovery of Jerusalem."

Steps have been taken, during the past autumn, to set on foot an independent American Association, in alliance with our own, with precisely similar objects—viz., the scientific examination of the Holy Land. The Committee have to record their thanks to the Rev. Henry Allon and the Rev. Dr. Mullens for their services in acting as the medium of communication between our Association and those interested in our work in America during their late visit to New York. It was at first proposed that the new Association should take the form of a branch, but on further consideration our American friends decided on forming a separate Society. The communications between the two bodies have been conducted in the most friendly spirit, and the remarkable interest always shown by the Americans in this work, leads to the hope that excellent results will follow the foundation of their Society. It is hoped that the joint action of the two Committees will be laid before subscribers in the next *Quarterly*. The delay which the receipt of this important intelligence has naturally caused in the plans of the Committee is less to be regretted as the circumstances of the time have not of late been favourable for soliciting donations.

The following is the list of the American Committee, as at present received:—Rev. Dr. Joseph Thompson, Chairman; Revs. Dr. Washburn, Durbiss, S. Hitchcock, H. B. Smith, Budington, J. Cotten Smith, and Thompson; Professors Kendrick, Hockett, Ed. Park Day; Rev. J. Stuart Dodge; Messrs. James Stokes and Van Lennep, and, Secretary *pro tem.*, Rev. Dr. Crosbie.

Meantime, the stores, &c., at Jerusalem are under the charge of Dr. Chaplin. Captain Warren, to the great regret of the Committee, has found himself unable to return to Palestine, and has rejoined his corps. He has been occupied during the last six months in completing his work for the Committee, a considerable part of which has yet to be published.

The collection of relics, &c., brought from Jerusalem has found a temporary home in the South Kensington Museum, where it is placed in a room at the end of the Meyrick Armour Gallery.

The delay in bringing out this number of the *Quarterly* has been caused by the fact that the time taken in drawing and lithographing the accompanying map, with the numerous corrections involved in so important a piece of work, has proved longer by many weeks than was originally contemplated.

THE DESERT OF THE TÍH AND THE COUNTRY OF MOAB.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,
December, 1870.

IN November, 1869, having but recently returned from Sinai, the Palestine Exploration Fund did me the honour to send me out once again to the East for the purpose of exploring the large tract of desert country known by the suggestive name of Bádiét et Tih, or "The Wilderness of the Wanderings," whither I had the good fortune to be accompanied by Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake, a gentleman who, in addition to a thorough practical knowledge of natural history, has been for years engaged in Eastern travel. I now beg to lay before you a statement of the results of that expedition:—

On the evening of the 16th December, 1869, we encamped at 'Aiyún Músá, and on the following morning commenced our journey.

We set off from Suez on foot; and as we expected to meet with difficulties from the Arabs amongst whom we were going, we took neither dragoman nor servants, and reduced our baggage to the smallest possible amount.

Our only escort consisted of the owners of the camels which carried our camp furniture and provisions, and these being changed from time to time as we passed from one tribe to another, we may be said to have performed our journey absolutely unattended and alone.

Our equipment consisted of the following articles:—

A tent 12ft. square, which, on leaving Jerusalem, was changed for one 6ft. by 5ft. and 5ft. in height. Two mattresses and blankets.