

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

PREFACE.

IN the preface to the last *Quarterly Statement* it was stated that the next expedition will leave in the autumn. The accompanying circular and map fully explain the kind of work contemplated, and the probable cost. The Committee can add nothing more to the appeal contained in this circular, but an expression of hope that a fitting response will be made to carry out an enterprise which interests not England alone, but the whole world.

Mr. Palmer continues in the present number the work he is still doing for the Fund. The paper on the buildings in the Haram area will be continued in the next *Quarterly*. He has prepared for the press a full account of his recent travels, both in Sinai (with the Sinai Survey Fund) and the Desert of the Tih, which will appear in the autumn.*

Great interest will be taken in the discovery recently made by M. Clermont-Ganneau of a tablet which belonged to Herod's Temple, warning strangers against passing the boundaries of the sacred precinct. It will be remarked that the inscription is very nearly in the words of Josephus.

The Committee cannot allow this number of the *Quarterly* to go out without expressing their deep sorrow at the recent death of one of their most valued members, Dr. Alexander Keith Johnston. No one

* "The Desert of the Exodus." Bell and Daldy.

has ever felt a warmer interest in the ways and objects of the Fund. On the last occasion when he was in the office of the Fund he was full of interest in the next expedition, and no one, as the Edinburgh subscribers know well, has exerted himself with more energy and more success for the promotion of this movement.

The General Committee has been strengthened by the addition of the following noblemen and gentlemen: the Duke of Sutherland, the Marquis of Bute, the Rev. Dr. Ginsburg, Dr. Birch, and Mr. E. H. Palmer.

In accordance with the invitation contained in the circular, the Committee beg all subscribers and intending donors to forward to the central office, or their local secretaries, lists of whom can be published in every *Quarterly*, their subscriptions for this year, before the autumn. Subscribers beginning this year are entitled to the new series of the *Quarterly* from the 1st November.

HISTORY OF THE HARAM ES SHERÍF.

COMPILED FROM THE ARABIC HISTORIANS BY E. H. PALMER, M.A.

THE history of Jerusalem, as told by Mohammedan writers, is not unknown to European scholars; but the various notices and extracts which have hitherto appeared are so scattered and difficult of access as to be of little use to the general reader.

"The History of the Temple of Jerusalem," by Jelál ed dín es Siyúti, was translated by the Rev. J. Reynolds, for the Oriental Translation Fund, and published in 1836; but this work, besides being too literal and prolix, contains such grave errors of translation, and such perversions of the original meaning, that it is absolutely worthless as an authority. The work of Kemál ed dín ibn Abi Sherif has been edited with a Latin translation and notes by Paul Leming (*Haunia MDCCCXVII.*), but this is little better than the last, being apparently an early attempt by an indifferent Arabic scholar.

In the following article I have endeavoured to give a concise but complete abstract of the history of Jerusalem from Muslim sources, especially of that part which relates to the Haram es Sherif, and the building and successive restorations of the two mosques Cubbet es Sakhráh and El Aksa. Having copied every inscription extant in the Haram, I am enabled to illustrate the accounts given by the Mohammedan