

£1,000 is required to carry on the survey, in addition to the works at Jerusalem and to the various collateral things which are constantly occurring.

I feel sure that our new undertaking will be well supported in Great Britain by those who have hitherto shown so lively and practical an interest in the exploration of Palestine. The present work is necessarily slow, but it is sure, and it has the advantage over archæological researches that its results are not problematical, but certain. The objects with which it deals are not hidden hundreds of feet below the ground, to be searched for at hazard, but are open on the surface, where their appropriation is only a work of time. Nor are the ultimate results less certain. Those who give their money for the survey may rest assured that the map which will be handed to them at the close of the undertaking will contain the most definite solid aid obtainable for the elucidation of the most prominent of the material features of the Bible. Biblical research has now reached a point at which it cries out for a thoroughly accurate map as indispensable to its further existence. And this thing so much wanted can only be done by the combined efforts of private persons. No Government can undertake it. But the Committee of the Palestine Fund, comprising so many of the leading personages in Church and State, acting under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen, and employing officers of the Royal Engineers of known skill and character, supplies a guarantee hardly inferior to the guarantee of Government that the work will be thoroughly done. I, therefore, confidently ask the aid which has never yet been refused to my appeals on behalf of this most important branch of investigation, which so peculiarly unites the claims and the interests of Science and Religion.

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE GROVE,

Hon. Sec. Palestine Exploration Fund.

November 7, 1871.

II.—FROM CAPTAIN R. F. BURTON.

The return of Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake to Damascus on November 5, after his dangerous *reconnaissance* of the 'Ulah or uplands lying between the El Hamah (the Hamath of the Old Testament) and Aleppo, enables me to say a word for the cause lately advocated in your columns by the "Hon. Sec. Palestine Exploration Fund." My friend and fellow-traveller, during a journey of thirty-five days, averaging six miles of riding per diem, sketched and fixed the positions of some fifty ruins which, in presence of the Circassian immigration, now a *fait accompli*, are fated soon to disappear from the face of earth; he is also sending home twenty to twenty-five Greek inscriptions, of which six or seven have dates, and before joining Captain Stewart, R.E., he will

explore the Harrah or Hot country, a pure white blank in the best maps, which, however, have not yet had the opportunity of being good. All except the hydrographic charts have been hurriedly executed; the bearings are mostly in confusion, and the proper names of places are hideously distorted. Let me offer, as a proof, the positions for Palmyra supplied to me by Mr. Stanford, of Charing Cross:

1. Duc de Luynes' map; Lieut.	Deg.	Min.	Sec.	Deg.	Min.	Sec.
Vigne's position	N. lat.	34	32	30	E. lon.	38 14 39
2. Lieut.-Colonel Chesney's map,						
published by Walker	N. lat.	34	15	00	E. lon.	38 35 00
3. Carl Ritter's map	N. lat.	34	17	30	E. lon.	38 32 30
4. Major Rennell's map	N. lat.	34	24	00	E. lon.	38 20 00

Here then the extremes of difference in latitude amount to seventeen miles, and in longitude to twenty miles, or a total of thirty-seven miles, in fact nearly thirty-eight; and it must be remembered that Palmyra lies within an easy four days' ride of Damascus.

Newly transferred to Syria and Palestine, I imagined—and many would do the same—my occupation as an explorer clean gone. The first few months, however, proved to me that although certain lines of transit have been well trodden, yet few travellers and tourists have ever ridden ten miles away from the high roads. No one, for instance, would suspect that so many patches of unvisited, and possibly at the time unvisitable country, lie within a day or two's ride of great cities and towns, such as Aleppo and Damascus, Hums and Hamah. When the maps have a virgin white in the heart of Jaydur, the classical Ituræa, students naturally conclude that the land has been examined and has been found to contain nothing of interest—the reverse being absolutely the case. Again, there are not a few who will scarcely have stomach for the task when they learn the reasons why these places have escaped European inspection, namely, that they will not afford provisions, forage, or water, or that they are infested by the Bedawin. The latter, indeed, compare favourably with the Klephts; they have not got to detain you for ransom or to threaten you with excision of the nose and ears unless your friends consent at once to pay the exorbitant demand; they will spear you a little, as they did a French Secretary of Legation at Athens who expected to put a Razzia to flight like monkeys by firing a revolver, but they will not kill you in cold blood except according to the strict *lex talionis*. Still, even under these mitigated circumstances, travellers, certain that an escort unless of overpowering numbers will at once turn tail, hardly care to expose themselves, their attendants, and their effects to a charge of Bedawin cavalry.

Again, the places have escaped exploration simply because the dragoman disliked them. Not a few readers, even professed geographers, would suppose that in describing the Anti-Libanus, as I propose to do, my task would be limited to filling up with minor details the correct

outlines traced by predecessors. The contrary is positively the case. Surprising as it may appear, it is still true that the best and truest modern maps—I bring no charge against the mappers—do not name a single valley north-east of Zebedáni, nor a single summit except the “Jebel el Halimah”—an utter misnomer. They show merely the long conventional caterpillar, flanked by the usual acidulated drops, and seamed with the normal thread of drainage; when they have disposed all this parallel with the Libanus, they have apparently done their duty: The traveller, with his handbook, perfectly ignores the fact that the general aspect of the range is far superior to that of the Western Sierra; that the colouring of the rock is richer; that the forms are more weird, savage, and picturesque; that the contrasts of shape and hue are sharper, and that the growth assumes in places the semblance of a thinned forest. As will presently appear, the range is in many points more remarkable than its maritime sister, and it may in fact be called a section of new ground in an old land.

Your correspondent (Nov. 7) has effectively pointed out the nature of the work required by the Bible lands proper, “from Dan to Beer-sheba,” where there is nothing barren of interest. It is to be hoped, however, that the funds will soon permit an archæologist to follow the surveyor. Although the East moves slowly, still she moves, but her present movement is all towards the change of ancient and Oriental to modern and European art, and in many places to the destruction of the most valuable remains of antiquity. The ruins of the 'Ulah are being pulled to pieces in order to build houses for Hamah. The classical buildings of Saccæa are torn down and set up into rude hovels for the mountaineers who have fled from the Anti-Libanus and the Hermon. Patterns which possibly antedate the Pyramids are making way for cheap English calico prints. The porcelain sent from China is sold or stowed away, and the table is decked with bits of French stuff, all white and gold, and worth, perhaps, a franc a piece.

Allow me to conclude with again attempting to impress upon subscribers to the Palestine Exploration Fund that Syria, north of Palestine proper, is an old country, in more than one aspect, geographical and technological for instance, virtually new. A Land of the Past, it has a Future as promising as that of Mexico or of the Argentine Republic. The first railway that spans it will restore to rich and vigorous life the poor old lethargic region; it will raise this Lazarus of eastern provinces from his neglected grave. There is literally no limit that can be laid down to the mother-wit, to the ambition, and to the intellectual capabilities of its sons—they are the most gifted race that I have, as yet, ever seen. And when the curse shall have left the country, the plague-spot of bad rule, it will again rise to a position not unworthy of the days when it gave to the world a poetry and a system of religion still unforgotten by our highest civilisation.

RICHARD F. BURTON, F.R.G.S.

Howlett's Hotel, December 14, 1871.

III.—FROM THE REV. F. W. HOLLAND.

Reprinted from the "Guardian."

SIR,—Three years ago you kindly inserted in your columns a letter from me asking for the help of the clergy and your other readers in carrying out the Ordnance Survey of the Peninsula of Sinai.

Owing in great measure to your assistance the necessary funds were collected, and the survey was brought to a successful issue.

May I again be allowed a little space to advocate the claims of a similar work, the survey of the Holy Land? The Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund has already despatched an expedition for this purpose, consisting of Captain R. W. Stewart, R.E., and two non-commissioned officers selected from the staff of the Ordnance Survey. Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake, who is an experienced Eastern traveller, and a good Arabic scholar, is to join them, as soon as he has completed some explorations which he is now making in the country north-east of Damascus.

By this time Captain Stewart must have commenced his survey. Full details of his instructions are given in the last *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Fund. I will not, therefore, occupy your space by repeating them. Suffice it to say that the Government has approved of the survey, and has given every assistance in its power; and that no expense or trouble has been spared to render the organisation of the expedition as complete as possible.

Our main objects are to obtain an accurate map of the country west of the Jordan, on which, in addition to the topographical features, shall be laid down the positions of all towns, villages, ruins, roads, &c.; (the American Palestine Exploration Society, working side by side with us, will undertake the survey of the country lying on the east of the Jordan); to explore the mountains and hill-tops which formed generally the homes of the ancient inhabitants; to collect all existing traditions and names; and to search for and examine all remains of archæological interest.

Let it not be thought, however, that we have given up the intention of carrying on Captain Warren's work at Jerusalem. The Holy City must always remain the central point of interest; and no occasion will be lost of proceeding with the excavations there whenever any opportunity may occur which seems to promise decisive results. We shall always have an agent at Jerusalem, who will be in constant communication with Captain Stewart.

But for these explorations additional funds are required. The present income of the Society is not adequate for the work. We must have at least £1,000 a year more to carry on the work on its present scale; and it could be far more effectually and more cheaply done by the employment of a larger staff.

We appeal, then, for help to enable us to carry out this important undertaking to a successful completion. Surely we shall not appeal in

vain; for our object is not to establish this or that theory, but by throwing more light upon the Land of the Bible, to illustrate and explain the pages of the Bible itself.

F. W. HOLLAND, *Hon. Sec.*

November 27, 1871.

LETTERS FROM MR. C. F. TYRWHITT DRAKE.

I

DAMASCUS, *June 11, 1871.*

I enclose a few of the inscriptions that I copied (in all about 120) in Jebel Druze Hauran. I have had no time to write out more of them. I was only there a few days, so did not collect so many as I hope to do on a second visit. Some of them have, I know, been already copied, but others were so covered with lichen that it was impossible to make anything out till I had cleaned them; others were concealed by plaster in the houses. From Jebel ed Druze, after much opposition from the Druzes at Shukka, who were afraid to accompany us and were ashamed of letting us go alone, we went to Umm Nirán (*Mother of Fires*), a curious cavern, partly natural and partly artificial, in the great volcanic outburst called El Wár. There are no ruins near it, and it is very curious, as water drips from the roof and the whole of the country above is an arid fiery waste of black lava. Thence we went to El Akir and other volcanic tells in the neighbourhood, thence to Bir Kasam, and afterwards to Jebel Dakweh. From these volcanoes, many of which are of considerable size, I was able to lay down the whole series of tells north of the Safa. From Jebel Dakweh we went to Dumeir, and just missed, by a few hours, a foray of one hundred horsemen and two hundred men on camels, who seem to have been dodging us for two days, but who missed us owing to our erratic course. They plundered Harrañ El Awamid, and two neighbouring villages within half an hour's ride of a camp of six hundred Turkish soldiers.

In the Hauran we found the true source of the Leja (Tell Shihan), which seems to have been quite overlooked by previous travellers. Wetzstein's "great lava stream," from Jebel Kuleib (which we ascended) only exists on his map. Jebel Kuleib, *the turning-point*, not as Mr. Porter translates it, the *little heart*.

II.

DAMASCUS, *June 29, 1871.*

Since I last wrote I have been to Hums and Hamah, and will now lay before you the results of my journey.

Hums (the ancient Emesa) is a town of great importance; the country