

CHURCH OF THE KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN.

IMMEDIATELY to the south of the church of the Holy Sepulchre, and almost in the centre of Jerusalem, there has existed for more than 600 years an open plot of ground, upon which no buildings have been erected. This waste space, now known as the Muristan, was formerly covered by the spacious palace and hospital of the Knights of St. John, but until quite recently the only visible remains were a picturesque gateway, with figures representing the signs of the zodiac, and portions of a church and courtyard; the two latter so covered with foul refuse that few travellers ventured to give them more than a momentary glance.

In 1869, on the occasion of the visit of the Crown Prince of Prussia to the Holy Land, the Sultan made a grant of the eastern half of the Muristan to the Prussian Government, with permission to erect a church or rebuild that of the Knights of St. John. Excavations have since been actively carried on in this ground under the superintendence of Mr. Schick, who has kindly placed copies of the plans which he has made at the disposal of the Palestine Fund, and informed the Secretary of the result of his labours. The annexed plan shows the church of the Knights of St. John and the buildings immediately connected with it.

Nothing of very ancient date has yet been found, but additional excavations are to be made, and a new street is to be opened between David Street and the church of the Holy Sepulchre. During the execution of these works it is to be hoped that some interesting relics of the ancient city may be laid bare.

One of the most valuable of the results which may be expected from Mr. Schick's labours is the determination of the natural features of the ground in the vicinity of the Holy Sepulchre, which have been concealed from view for so many centuries. It is also possible that the excavations may settle the question of the site of the second wall of the ancient city.

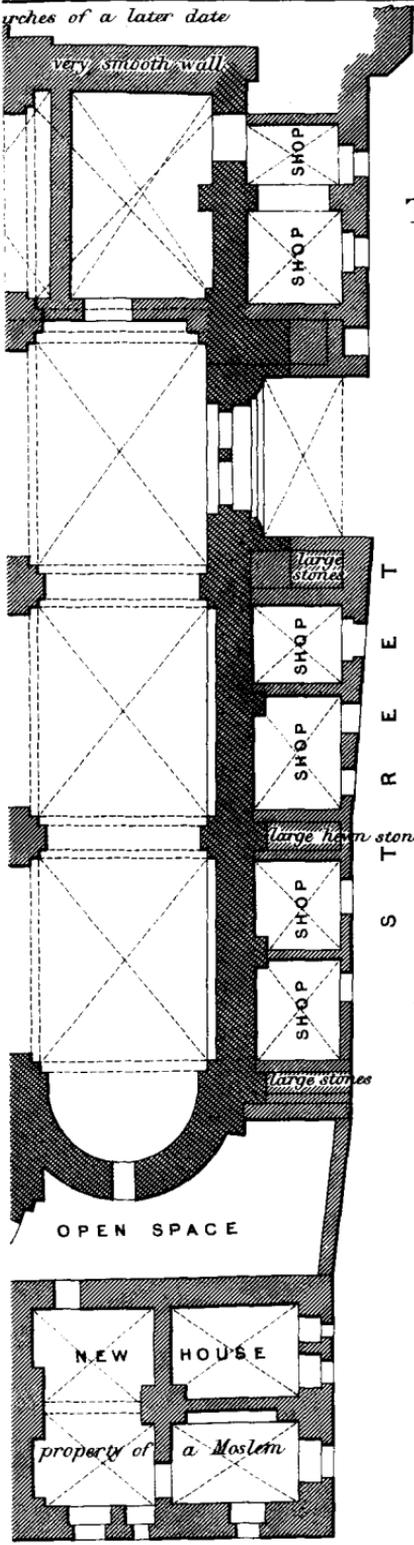
An account of the hospital of the Knights of St John will be found in Murray's Handbook to Syria and Palestine, and Captain Warren has given a detailed description of his excavations in the Muristan in the "Recovery of Jerusalem."

REPORT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

HELD AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTION, 17TH JUNE, 1872,

HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK IN THE CHAIR.

The CHAIRMAN.—My lords, ladies, and gentlemen, I have to call upon the Reverend Mr. Holland to read the Report, and I must in



**CHURCH
OF
THE KNIGHTS
OF
ST. JOHN.**

(GROUND PLAN)

Drawn by
HERR C. SCHICK
K.W. Baurath
1872.

MASONS' MARKS.

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doing so express my regret that Mr. Grove, who has been to so great an extent the bone and sinew of this enterprise, has been detained by other business, and cannot be present with us to-day.

The Rev. F. W. HOLLAND read the Report of the Committee.

“The Report which we have to lay before you this year, although a brief one, will be found to be in most respects highly satisfactory, not only as a report of work already accomplished, but also as a pledge of work to be done hereafter.

It will be remembered that at our last Annual Meeting a resolution was passed to the effect that “the meeting hailed with satisfaction the resolution of the Committee to take immediate steps to complete the Survey of Palestine, and pledged itself to support them in this important work.” We rejoice to be able to report that the Survey thus resolved upon has been satisfactorily commenced, and in active progress for the last six months.

The first step in this important work was to find an officer possessed of the necessary experience in surveying, together with the peculiar qualities for survey work in Palestine. Such an officer the Committee found in Captain R. W. Stewart, R.E., of the Ordnance Survey in England. And besides Captain Stewart, the Committee had the good fortune to obtain also the services of Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake, well known as the follow-traveller of Professor Palmer during his adventurous journey through the Desert of the Tih. Mr. Drake’s services in the Survey will be of great value in his triple capacity of naturalist, archæologist, and Arabic scholar. His experience has been gathered not only from his journey with Professor Palmer, but also in explorations in Northern Syria, the Hauran, and the Anti-Lebanon with Captain Burton, and in Morocco.

The non-commissioned officers selected by Captain Stewart were Sergeant Black and Corporal Armstrong, of the Royal Engineers, both men known to himself, of tried intelligence and great experience. The choice of Captain Stewart has so far proved most fortunate, as the two men up to the present have shown themselves entirely worthy of the confidence placed in them.

The rest of the party is made up of servants hired on the spot. The non-commissioned officers left England in the autumn of last year, and were joined immediately on their arrival at Jaffa by Captain Stewart. After the preliminary unpacking and arranging had been accomplished, the firman granting permission to work was received in Jerusalem, and ground was broken near Ramleh by the careful measurement of a base line. Mr. Drake now joined the party. Most unfortunately, at this point the health of Captain Stewart broke down. After several weeks of severe suffering he was ordered to return at once to England, and came home in the hope that a short stay would enable him to go out again. In this hope he was disappointed, and found himself obliged, two months ago, to send in his resignation, which the Committee were compelled most unwillingly to accept.

Captain Stewart, who is present, will himself read a brief report of his work.

The Committee desire to express their deep sense of the loss to themselves, and the cause generally, from this unforeseen termination of Captain Stewart's engagement, and at the same time their sympathy with the disappointment he has suffered in thus having a work on which he had set his heart snatched from his hands.

It must not, however, be forgotten that the credit of the commencement, and the continuation, according to the directions he laid down himself, up to the present time, is due to Captain Stewart. And it speaks very highly for the careful manner in which the work was planned and started, that no interruption has been caused, the Survey having gone on as well, though not of course so rapidly, as if Captain Stewart were himself on the spot.

On his departure the command of the party was assumed by Mr. Drake, and the thanks of the Committee are due to that gentleman, not only for his ability in carrying on the work, but also for his readiness to assume the sole responsibility of the expedition. What that responsibility involves, travellers in the East can alone understand.

On the resignation of Captain Stewart, the Committee proceeded at once to apply to the War Office for an officer of Royal Engineers to take his place.

They are happy to report that a gentleman has been found, Lieutenant Claude Conder, who appears to be in every respect worthy to succeed the officers who have, before him, worked for the Fund. His arrangements are now entirely completed, and he starts for Palestine this very week. He is, unfortunately, prevented from being with us this day by the multifarious duties which his departure brings upon him.

The Hamath inscriptions, of which mention was made in the last Report, have been photographed and copied.

It is to be hoped that these curious inscriptions may ultimately be deciphered, and yield results of importance to the cause of Biblical investigation.

The work of exploration in Jerusalem has remained suspended since Captain Warren left the city, but the Committee have not forgotten that in Jerusalem lies the most important field of their labours, and that the results which will sooner or later be arrived at there will possess a wider and deeper interest than those obtained in other portions of the Holy Land.

They have found a gentleman whose capacity, attainments, and antecedents appear to fit him eminently for the post of explorer in the Holy City and its neighbourhood; and they trust shortly to be able to make a statement of the plan on which they propose during the next winter to prosecute the investigations so ably carried on by Captain Warren, into new and even more fruitful places.

The Committee have to deplore the loss of three distinguished members of their body. Sir Roderick Murchison, the late illustrious President of

the Royal Geographical Society, at all times took a warm interest in the work of the Fund. Dr. Alexander Keith Johnstone, in the foremost rank among English geographers, was always most active in promoting the interests of the Fund in Edinburgh, and from the commencement of our labours acted as honorary secretary to the Edinburgh Local Association. And, lastly, the Committee learn this morning, with the deepest regret, the death of Dr. Norman Macleod.

The interest which is felt in the work of the Society is shown especially in the circulation of the *Quarterly Statement*, which increases with every issue. The Committee desire that this publication should be looked upon as the best medium for recording important notes of travel or discovery in the Holy Land.

The amount received during the last year from all sources was £2,359 9s. 3d., an income not so large as in preceding years, owing to the partial break in the labours of the Society. The expenditure has been classified as follows:—

Exploration	55·62 per cent.
Returned to subscribers in the form of	
Reports, Lithographs, &c. ..	22·76 ,,
Management	21·62 ,,

The present position of the Fund appears quite satisfactory. The Survey up to the present time has received a liberal and sufficient support. A large sum has been already received this year, while the Society is, for the first time for three years, out of debt, and has in the banks a balance of nearly £800.

The Survey work, as it proceeds, will perhaps become more expensive, and entail the necessity of sending out more men. The Committee are quite confident that a work so important, so interesting, so necessary, before a right understanding of the geography of Palestine can be arrived at, will not be allowed to stop for want of funds. At the same time, they urge upon their friends to guarantee them to the extent of their power, and so to remove the difficulties and hesitation involved in working in the dark.

Lastly, the thanks of the Committee are especially due to those gentlemen who, by acting as Local Secretaries, are spreading a knowledge of the Society, and collecting funds, and to all those, present here or not, who by subscription or advocacy are advancing our cause."

The CHAIRMAN.—I now have to call upon Captain Stewart to favour us with his Report, and in calling upon him to come forward, I cannot help expressing, on behalf of this Fund, my regret that one so eminently fitted to carry on this Exploration should be disqualified by illness, and that his return to the Holy Land has been forbidden by his medical advisers.

Captain STEWART, R.E., read the following Report:

"Before I enter into any statement regarding the progress of the Palestine Survey, I feel bound to explain that, owing to severe illness

which befell me very shortly after arrival in Palestine, I was able to do little more than commence the work. Much of the information which I shall lay before you is consequently derived from the reports of others rather than my own experience.

Mr. Drake, who took charge of the work from me, is well known as an accurate and accomplished Eastern traveller; I need not, therefore, do more than mention his name as my authority for the non-professional portion of the work; the non-commissioned officers of the Royal Engineers who were selected by me from the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain, have shown themselves worthy of the confidence trusted in them, and the observations sent home by them, and since worked out, speak in unmistakable language to the care and trouble they have taken and accuracy of the results in the autumn of 1871. The Committee of the Palestine Exploration Society did me the honour of offering me the charge of the Survey of Palestine. This Survey had for some years been contemplated as a fitting sequel to the excavations so successfully carried out in Jerusalem by Captain Warren, and the Survey of Jerusalem made by Captain Wilson and Lieutenant Anderson previously, and it was and is intended that this Survey should embody the results of all these explorers, and be as exhaustive as a scientific investigation can be.

Having accepted the post offered, the first duty which befell me was selecting the necessary outfit, which included camp furniture, our personal equipment, cooking utensils, and such like, for the nature of our work would necessitate living in tents, frequently far from towns of any size, and we must, therefore, depend largely on our own resources. The scientific equipment included surveying, meteorological, and photographic apparatus, presses for preserving botanical specimens, entomological and geological cases, &c. In selecting the scientific instruments, we obtained much assistance from the Government Departments. The Admiralty lent us chronometers, and from the Ordnance Survey Department at Southampton we got excellent and valuable surveying instruments, whilst from the Royal Observatory at Blackheath we obtained instruments with which to take meteorological observations. I mention these facts to show that although this work is for obvious reasons carried out by private enterprise, it still possesses the goodwill of the Government, which also assisted our undertaking by obtaining a firman or official authorisation from the Porte at Constantinople, authorising us to carry out the work, and desiring the Turkish officials to give the needful support and protection.

On the 21st October, 1871, the two non-commissioned officers started from Southampton, in charge of the instruments, stores, &c., whilst I followed a few days later by the Brindisi route, joining them at Alexandria. Here we were delayed a few days, waiting for a steamer to Jaffa, our port for disembarkation. Owing to the kindness of the Peninsula and Oriental Company's officer, we avoided landing our stores at Alexandria, but shipped them direct to the French steamer

for Jaffa, on its arrival from Constantinople. Everywhere during my sojourn in the Levant I found the mere name of belonging to the Palestine Exploration Society was a means of introduction and assurance of assistance. Whether this was owing to the genial qualities shown by my predecessors, or to the intrinsic merit of the Society's works, I am unable to say. At Jaffa our cases, thirty-nine in all, were exempted from paying duty, and were safely stored at the Jerusalem Hotel, which exists in the German colony which has sprung up lately in the outskirts of Jaffa. Amongst these well-conducted and hard-working colonists we stopped for a week, adjusting our instruments, somewhat shaken by the voyage. And then I started for Jerusalem, leaving the non-commissioned officers to complete our preparations for going into camp, also to take observations to fix the latitude of Jaffa, as that was to be our geographical point, to which the rest of the Survey is to be referred. As we were now in the month of November, at the end of a long dry summer, and no rain had fallen, there was literally not a blade of grass to be seen, the hard-baked ground was covered with a crop of ghastly limestones; yet a few weeks later when I travelled the same road, grass was springing up in all directions, and no doubt to travellers who visit Palestine in February or March, the plain country presents a luxuriant and fertile appearance. After calling on our consul and the English residents—but a small community, ten in all, I think—I found our firman had not arrived, so took advantage of the companionship of some other English travellers, and, together, we visited the Dead Sea and Jordan.

Finding on our return to Jerusalem that the firman had not yet arrived, I applied through our consul for a local order from the Pacha, but this he did not feel at liberty to grant, so I determined to commence operations at once and immediately purchased tents and engaged a dragoman to act as interpreter and general manager of our affairs. He was a Jew, by name Maham; for this race cling most tenaciously to the names of their forefathers. Returning to Jaffa we started on the 23rd November for Ramleh, which had been selected as a suitable place to commence the Survey by the measurement of our base line. And now, at the risk of being tedious, I must be allowed to say a few words regarding the principles on which the Survey is carried out: the first and most important duty is that of measuring what is technically called a "base line." As this line must be as nearly level as possible, a plain is the most suitable place for such measurement; this "base line" then becomes the standard of measurement to which all other lines can be referred by a mathematical process called trigonometry. This process is based on a known property of triangles, that if one side and the contained angles of a triangle are known the remaining sides can be calculated. The instruments we had brought with us were for the purpose of measuring those angles. A suitable piece of ground lying between the town of Lydda and Ramleh was found, and the base line measured three times with steel chains we had brought from England

for the purpose, and as the three measurements agreed very well we felt satisfied with the accuracy of the result. We had now a line of about three and a half miles in length fixed. Our next duty was to find suitable elevated positions to connect with the ends of the base line, by which means the country is covered with a net-work of triangles, the angles of which are measured by our theodolite, and our side ascertained by comparison with the base line, from which data the length of the other sides are found, or in other words the distances between these points. You must understand, then, that up to this date Mr. Drake and the surveyors have been engaged going from station to station, a most arduous undertaking in such a country as Palestine, where human life is held so cheap that the surveyors are always obliged to go in pairs and are armed, but I am glad to say no fracas has as yet occurred, and the only difficulty has been caused by the natives pulling down the posts, as they have a superstitious idea that the measurement is merely a preliminary to the sale of their land. So rooted is this feeling that I have been informed that when the telegraph posts between Jaffa and Jerusalem were first erected the natives pulled down and destroyed them, and this was only put a stop to by making the owners of the land on which the posts stood replace them at their own expense. Mr. Drake was obliged to adopt a similar mode of dealing with the Arabs on one occasion. As I was compelled to leave Palestine in January last I am obliged to quote the reports of others as to the present position of the Survey. Sergeant Black reports that 180 square miles of country have been triangulated, and a considerable portion of the detail filled in; the whole has been drawn in plan, and observations, made to connect this Survey of Jerusalem and vicinity with the former, are made by Captain Wilson, so that it will not be necessary to go over this part of the work again, but simply to reduce by scale the existing plans and transfer to our maps; in short, I may say that a tract of country extending from Jaffa on the coast to Jerusalem has been triangulated and laid down in our plan. This I believe to be satisfactory, but I would urge upon this meeting that if the strength of the surveying party were doubled the work would be carried out with double the rapidity, and yet at very small proportionately increased cost. This can be readily understood when you call to mind that the principal cost of the work is the pay of the officers superintending the cost of transit, guards, and such like. Now the cost of these items is the same for a party of two as for four surveyors. Therefore I may conclude by saying that the recovery of Palestine depends upon the British public who support the work, not as in the olden Crusading times by their blood, but by what is as potent in these days—their gold.”

The CHAIRMAN.—My lords, ladies, and gentlemen, I hold in my hand letters from several eminent persons, who have expressed, in different ways, their regret at being unable to be here to-day,—the Rev. Charles Kingsley, the Very Rev. the Dean of Chester, the Lord

Bishop of Winchester, the Lord Bishop of Exeter, and several others. I am very sorry, for my own part, that the duty of presiding to-day has not fallen on the shoulders of some one else, because I have presided at these meetings for several years, and the very little I have to say upon the subject of this Exploration has been said again and again; and besides that, the Committee had cherished the hope that they should have induced a certain illustrious person to be here to-day who has been more than once round the world, and who has the ability to describe most vividly what he has seen. However, we have been disappointed in that hope, and you must, therefore, accept me for a moment. But I rely much upon the strength of those by whom I shall be supported. I shall have the pleasure of calling upon Viscount Ossington, who has done a great deal for biblical study, and also the well-known travellers, Mr. MacGregor and Dr. Mullens; Mr. Beresford Hope has also consented to speak on this occasion, and also Mr. Glaisher, who has surveyed the world *verticalement* more than any one else. I shall have besides the pleasure of calling upon M. Clermont Ganneau, and I shall have a word or two to say about him when he comes forward. Having spoken to you about those who are to follow, I will now say a few words about the business of to-day. About five years ago, a preliminary meeting was held to consider whether it was desirable to establish such a Fund as this or not, and a great many persons eminent in literature and knowledge of this subject met at the Jerusalem Chamber, and seemed to be unanimous in their agreement that whatever we thought about our knowledge of Palestine, the sum total of that knowledge was very small. Speaker after speaker told us, with remarkable unanimity, that about the natural history of Palestine we knew but little; that about its topography we knew but little; and that of its geography we really knew little or nothing. It was felt that at that time the mind of England was a sheet of white paper, as far as Palestine was concerned. But do not let us be unjust to those who have gone before us; there has been a great deal done already, and the writings of men like Robinson will never lose their value; but still, as science advances we become more exact, and there is a great want of exact knowledge even in the parts of the science in which those eminent men did so much. It might be admitted in one sense that this was not our business as Englishmen; and we did hear whispers that this was not our business, and that we might go out with a great deal of money and come back with a very limited result. Whispers of that kind attend every undertaking, whether good or bad—even the best is not free from them; but the answer is, that while in one sense Palestine is not our concern, in another sense it is, because it is the pride and honour of our nation—and this not shared by one sect, school, or party—that it has made the Bible its own book; it has done more than any nation for the knowledge and circulation of the Word of God, not merely for those who speak English, but for those who use all kinds of different dialects,

in all the corners of the world; and having this pride it is but natural that we should feel a wish for this collateral knowledge, and indeed for all those various branches of knowledge by which the Holy Scriptures can be best understood. About the money question I had no fear. It might from the nature of the case be expected that it would be said that our money appears to be wasted or spent for small results. But this country has a great deal of money to spare, and often spends it in foolish ways; and we could not think that for a good object money would be wanting. Now, when we look back upon those five years, we find that a sum of not far from £20,000 has passed through the hands of this Society, and that it has been spent in the manner you have heard upon the various objects of the Fund; fifty-five and a half per cent. of last year's expenditure went towards the expenses of actual Exploration, twenty-one per cent. for expenses at home—I am afraid that is a large amount, but it is not more than is necessary—and about twenty-four per cent. was applied to the production of reports and information which have been put into the hands of the subscribers. Now the interest that is felt in these subjects is manifest, because one result has been the sale of the book called the "Recovery of Jerusalem," in which the work of this Society is fully described; and there has been a large profit on that which in other respects might be considered rather a dry book, showing that this Exploration is felt to be a very interesting subject. Now we met very soon with what is the great obstacle in a work of this kind, because you will remember that as regards Jerusalem it was all work done under ground. I remember that Sir Henry Rawlinson appealed to us on that subject last year, and asked us whether, if we were to dig under the piers of York Minster to seek for a buried city, we thought we should be welcomed by the ecclesiastical authorities. It is obvious that there would be a great jealousy about explorations of this kind. The results are necessarily small. What can you find by digging a shaft to a great depth, and then running a narrow channel, compared with what you can do by surveying an open country from a neighbouring height? What can be done in Jerusalem has been already achieved, and we have now turned our attention to a subject which was not thought of when we began—that is, making a map of the country of Palestine. Again I think I hear you say it is not our business as Englishmen, and that that work might be left to somebody else. Yet there is nothing so useful as a map, and when we get the whole country made out as you see there (referring to a map), and when the different triangles have been worked out, when once you get the bearings of the principal points laid down, you will have a framework into which any discoveries that may be hereafter made by any traveller will be able to be fitted; you will establish a set of categories into which all future discoveries will come, and you will have done a great service to the subject. That leads me to another point: in addition to what this Society has done by its own explorers, we

hoped to raise up a greater interest in the subject; we hoped that not only our own explorers, but others, would be stirred up to look into these matters. And so it has proved. We shall be told that the Moabite stone was not discovered by our explorers, and that is true; but we seek to raise up an interest in the subject, and we seek to have a body of persons to whom anybody who makes a discovery may at once turn to see what the value of it is, and in that way an advantage as great as those gained by our explorers will be achieved. It is not necessary now to speak to you in the language of exhortation. The Palestine Exploration Fund has been before us for five years; it is for the first time out of debt; it has a balance at its bankers; it is doing a positive work of progress, of which you shall know from time to time; and I am sure that we shall not stand still for want of funds, and that the stream of your bounty will not fail. Speaking, not as a traveller, but as one of the home-staying public, I hope this institution will go on and prosper. I believe that accurate knowledge is never to be undervalued, and that the more we know about the Holy Scriptures from collateral sources, the more our belief in them will be confirmed, and that with the help of our investigations many things which when we read the text alone may seem dim and doubtful, will stand out more distinctly, and that the personages and events recorded will seem to live and act before us. I have now the pleasure of calling upon Viscount Ossington to move the first resolution. For myself, I will only add that I heartily wish prosperity to the Palestine Exploration Fund; I believe it did meet a great want, and I believe it will continue to enjoy your confidence and support. (Cheers.)

Viscount OSSINGTON.—My lords, ladies, and gentlemen, I came here to-day to testify my respect to the Right Reverend Prelate who occupies the chair, and also to support by the best means in my power the object which the Committee has in view. The Right Reverend Prelate having called upon me to move the resolution, his request is of course a command, and I desire to execute it in a few brief words. The resolution which I have to propose is a very simple one—"That this meeting pledges itself to carry on the Survey so ably commenced by Captain Stewart and Mr. C. E. Tyrwhitt Drake." That is the present object of the Committee. Now many results may follow from a careful exploration of the country, quitting the usual and beaten tracks. The Jews were a hill-inhabiting people, and I think it is highly probable that the sites of many towns which have great interest for us and are of biblical repute may in this way be discovered. It is very difficult to satisfy ourselves about geographical matters from the descriptions of travellers. I remember a remarkable instance which happened in connection with this very Society not many years ago. You may remember perhaps that there was a careful examination made of Mount Sinai by officers of the Corps of Engineers, and a part of the model made from that survey now stands upon your table. A friend of mine who was engaged in a learned and important work, having read all

the books of travels, and all the accounts he could get, tried to fix upon the probable point upon which the law was delivered on Mount Sinai, and he had, after great pains and trouble, arrived at a certain conclusion. That conclusion was that the real spot was at the south end of the mountain; he thought that the majority of the authorities lay in that direction—always, I must take leave to say, with the exception of a distinguished traveller well-known in the neighbourhood of our Abbey, who now sits at my left hand, and who had himself entertained a different view, which I believe in the opinion of all now turns out to be the correct one. My friend having studied all these books, came to London, and he learnt that this survey made by the Engineers was to be seen. He went to see it. It was no doubt a painful thing for an author having made up his mind, and having expressed a decided opinion, to find that he certainly had been entirely wrong. He went to see that very plan, or one on a larger scale, and satisfied himself that according to the description in the Bible of the plain upon which the Israelites had been encamped, it was impossible that it could have been on the rough uneven ground such as these historians and narrators had fixed upon, on the south extremity of the range; and that, on the contrary, the north extremity possessed every requisite for the encampment of a numerous host, a valley expanding into a wide plain, extending itself from the very root of the mountain. It strikes me that that is a forcible instance of the value of a careful survey made by competent persons. It is now proposed that such a survey should be made of the whole of Palestine. I cannot conceive a more delightful possession than that would be: a good map is always precious—a map of Palestine framed on the scale of the Ordnance Map of England would be a most delightful possession to everyone. With these few words I beg to move the resolution. (Cheers.)

J. MACGREGOR, Esq.—My lord, I think we may safely assume that every school in every Christian country in the world has a map of Palestine, and there are thousands of maps of Palestine in private families, but we are now too sure of the fact that not one of these maps is correct, complete, or sufficiently minute. The resolution which has been moved, and which I have now the pleasure of seconding, pledges this meeting that we shall have a map of Palestine which shall be complete, correct, and sufficiently minute. If we had a complete map—it is a little country, only the size of Wales—we should know these three points about every mountain, town, and river in the country; how far east of London the place is—that is, its longitude; secondly, how far south of London it is—that is, its latitude; and thirdly, how high or low it is above or beneath London—that is, its altitude. Then if we knew these things we could fix many others afterwards that it is necessary to know. Very few persons are aware that our maps, even that one facing you, are very incorrect. I shall only take one verse in illustration of this: “Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel?” Now in most of our maps

there is only one of these rivers, instead of two; in some maps they are both shown to run into the sea, though, in fact, there are 2,000 feet of mountain between them and the sea. There is such confusion in the maps about these two rivers that the questions of a little child would make us all ashamed of our ignorance; and after all these thousands of years it is remarkable that even the Jews in London cannot tell you the present names of these rivers. Now, besides being incorrect, our maps are incomplete; a great deal of the observation from which they are prepared having been done by private travellers, whereas it is essential to have the points established by professional men, in order to make sure of the main features. When I was on the Jordan I found there were ten or twelve miles of the map quite uncompleted. There was a great marsh to be mapped, and the question was when you got that, where this little bit was to be put into the real large map of Palestine. When I happened to look through the reeds and strange growth of papyrus, there was one small point of a hill which could be seen by standing up in my canoe, and I found that that identical point had been settled upon by Captain Wilson, who made an astronomical observation of it, and so any private traveller was able thereby to add his quota to the large map. We want to know how high and how low these places are, and to find out whether the "ups and downs" in the Bible are correct; and for this reason, a large slice of it, including the Sea of Galilee, is below the level of the sea; no other such place exists in the world. Therefore when we read in the Scriptures of "going down" to Capernaum, it is not going down as we call it, but actually "going down" 650 feet below the level of the sea. We want to know how high Jerusalem is above this Dead Sea, and so on. You will see one result of this by looking at this plate, and the water I pour into it from this jug. Suppose this is a large tract of country; when water is put into it (and there is salt in the clay), the water would become salt. Then if you suppose this plate a shallow lake, if the lake gets out into the sea, the salt will go away. The water is eating the salt out of the mountains; but if it runs on to this tumbler here, and supposing it is ten times as hot there as it is outside at the present moment, you will have the heat raising up the water in vapour, but the salt remains. Then what would be the result? This water in the plate, the Sea of Galilee, will be always fresh, but *that* below will have salt in it, and it will become brine; and therefore in this Dead Sea we find hundreds of feet of rock-salt. Altitude influences this, and the climate and the fruits. Believing, as I do, that it is most important to have a complete, accurate, and sufficiently minute map of Palestine, I am sure I may do well to second the resolution. (Cheers.)

A. J. BERESFORD-HOPE, Esq., M.P.—My Lord Archbishop, I feel myself much honoured by being called upon to support this resolution. My Lord Ossington and Mr. MacGregor have pointed out to you the importance of the work in which we are engaged—the Survey of Pales-

tine—and also the singular smallness of the country which is to be surveyed. When we consider the enormous, the overwhelming interest that, to all Christian nations of the world, this little land of Palestine possesses, I say it is no less than a disgrace to Christendom if we do not, as Christians, as Englishmen, and as civilised men, make ourselves acquainted with every the least detail of the geography, the archæology, and the history of the land in which the most thrilling and sacred records of the Gospel are centred. When I say this, I feel that I say so in the name of all the civilised and Christian world; but what, my Lord Archbishop, what is the reason why England should especially come forward in this work? You have given one and the highest reason for the obligation, namely, that England has made the Bible her own book. There is also another reason which is not so sacred, but which is still very important. What has been the pride of England?—what has been the boast of England? England's onwardness in everything that shows strength of mind and strength of muscle. England was the first nation that explored the trackless wastes of the Northern Sea; England was the first nation that sent her ships to be crushed and played with among the icebergs in the Polar Ocean; England, if she has not attained the North Pole, has found the North-West Passage; England, or let me say more accurately, Britain, has sent her sons to explore the heart of Africa; and our own England it is which has taken every ice peak of Switzerland as her playground, and gaily planted her foot upon the Matterhorn. Viewing all this, it will be not less than a disgrace to our civilisation, our Christianity, and our common sense, if, after having made enterprise our own in those regions in which discovery simply implies the unveiling of the dumb present, simply the record (geology apart) of an actual condition, widowed of all the stirring illustrations which in old lands come from traditions of past history, we are then found lagging on a spot where discovery is the unlocking of the great treasure-house of the world's supremest chronicles. If we explore the heart of Australia, or the lakes of Africa, and yet leave this little district, a few counties broad, of Palestine, within a few days' steaming from our own country, untracked and undeciphered, it will be a disgrace to us as Englishmen. I repeat that England in her enterprise, in her science, in her literature, in her love for the Bible, in her muscularity, and in her determination to be the great travelling nation of the world, has given pledges from which she cannot retract, that she shall not leave the Holy Land alone and uninvestigated. On these grounds, my Lord Archbishop, I do urge—the door having been opened for us—that we should undertake and prosecute a work like this, which is so comparatively easy to what it was in our fathers' times, and that, now steam and magnetism and the sun and the elements have all sworn together a great oath that science shall no longer be impossible to man, man shall ratify that oath on the sacred soil on which the deepest hopes of his redemption are planted. I call upon this Society, as representing the education, the good feeling,

and the reverence of England, most heartily to support this resolution. (Cheers.)

The Rev. Dr. MULLENS.—My Lord Archbishop, I will support this resolution in a very few words, because I have little claim to the attention of this meeting, especially in the presence of so many travellers in Palestine, never myself having had the opportunity of paying that country a visit. But I have had, my lord, the opportunity of helping forward the work of this Society, in paying a visit to our friends in America. It was through a lecture delivered by my friend Dr. Allon and myself in New York, in the presence of a large number of ministers and laymen, that we were able so to stir the hearts of our friends in that city as to induce them to found a Society for the Exploration of Palestine similar to our own; they started with the understanding that they should survey the country east of the Jordan, and that the work to be done west of that river should still remain to the Exploration Fund in England. We need not surely any additional arguments for carrying out an excellent scheme like this. Those of us who know Palestine by reading the works of successive travellers like Irby, Mangles, and others, can desire nothing more than that all the maps that have come from the work of those travellers shall at least be thoroughly corrected by that which alone can put them on a sound basis, namely, by a careful trigonometrical survey. Those who are acquainted with the trigonometrical survey of our Indian Empire, as well as with the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and Ireland, will see with what ease, considering the smallness of the country, this important work can be carried on. We have heard from Captain Stewart what able men are available as assistants in carrying out the Survey, and we must all rejoice that the Fund was induced to take this valuable scheme in hand. We must have observed the readiness which even the most scientific and scholarly travellers have exhibited, when they know they are in the district in which particular localities did lie, to prove that these interesting sites are in the districts they have passed over. One of the most noted illustrations of this is to be found in the numerous suggestions that have been made for the site of the Great Fountain of Kadesh, in the Southern Wilderness. We may also take another instance in which Dr. Robinson identifies a great ruin at one place, whereas had he known more about it he would have found that it was two or three miles away in another direction. All these things have been found and laid down for us by Professor Palmer and Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake, and when we see the results of such careful surveys, and what valuable improvements have been made in our maps of the Peninsula of Sinai, I am sure we shall all unite in wishing this enterprise of the Trigonometrical Survey of Palestine God-speed. (Cheers.) I have great pleasure in supporting the resolution.

An amendment was moved by Mr. MOONEY, but no seconder being found,

The resolution was put and carried.

Mr. GLAISHER moved the next resolution: My Lord Archbishop, from the first day that an opportunity presented itself to me of obtaining scientific information in that most interesting country of Palestine, I eagerly accepted it; urging upon those who were about to travel in and explore the country, the importance of ascertaining all about its topography, its archæology, and its climate. We knew next to nothing of Palestine five years ago, but we did read in the Bible that it was a land of corn, oil, and honey, producing almost everything needed by man; and we were led by inference to conclude that it has a climate of a most extraordinary character, indeed that it must be a land of many climates to produce so many things. The first thing I did, therefore, was to urge upon my friend Mr. Grove to send out instruments, which I obtained and furnished him with myself, to be used to ascertain the character of the climate of Palestine as a matter of science, a subject of which we were in utter ignorance, and which was one of no mean importance. Now, I am able to state that I hold in my hand here a paper which I have prepared, to appear in full in the Quarterly Report of the Palestine Exploration Fund,* upon the observations which have already been made. In this paper I confine myself to the meteorology of the country, and it will be found that it exhibits some remarkable characteristics. The temperature rises to 104 deg. in May; and the meeting will be able to judge of what this means when I say that to-day it is 84 deg. with us, and that it was 86 deg. yesterday. And then not only is the temperature as I have stated it in the month of May, but when we come to June, July, August, and September, it exceeds ours by many degrees; and when I look at the characteristics of a climate which day by day averages nearly 90 deg., I wonder how it has been found possible to work out this survey as a whole. I have been myself a trigonometrical surveyor on the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, and I am astonished how a diagram like that presented to us could have been completed. I may be permitted to say that a base line such as that, implies that three or four miles of country have been measured with the utmost accuracy, and everything depends upon it. If that line is correct, every other line will practically be so too. I have looked carefully into this diagram, and I see that Captain Stewart has completed a series of triangulations on one side—coming round here also on the other—and so deduced a verification of it. I have examined and checked the diagram, which can scarcely speak to others, as it does to me, of Capt. Stewart's judgment and knowledge in carrying out this survey. (Hear, hear.) I have already said that there must be many climates distinct from each other in a country like Palestine. There is not a drop of rain for several months together; but in January, February, and March more than half the days of the month are rain—eight inches of rain in one place, eleven inches in another, and elsewhere not more than two or three. It is a climate without many clouds. Professor Tyndall

* See p. 92.

has often told us in this room how the water in the atmosphere prevents the heat from burning up everything; and we know now what comfort we feel when there is a cloud before the sun, and how useful clouds are at night to prevent radiation; but in Palestine there is this burning heat by day, and to work under those circumstances is something exceedingly difficult. I would impress upon our Committee not to urge too much upon the gentlemen who are sent out there, particularly in these months. Of course we are thankful for everything they do; but it is important that they should not expose themselves to needless risks, and we should take care not to exact from them more than can reasonably be expected. As the time is getting on, I will not trespass upon you longer. I shall place this paper in the hands of the Secretary, with a view of its appearing in the next Quarterly Report. The motion I have to propose is, "That it is desirable to provide means to secure an accurate record of all archæological discoveries that may be made in the progress of the Survey"—we have already had the Moabite stone, and I would urge the importance of taking steps by which records of an archæological nature may be preserved, "and also of examining as far as possible the physical phenomena and natural history of the country." This will of course include geology and meteorology, to which I have devoted a great part of my life, and I would urge upon every one connected with this Society to increase our means of knowledge by enabling the Committee to continue their observations. I have great pleasure in moving the resolution which I have read to the meeting. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN.—It is now my great pleasure to introduce to you M. Clermont Ganneau, and I only regret that he will have to address you in a language less familiar to us than our own. M. Ganneau's name is already known to us in connection with the deciphering of the inscription on the Moabite stone, and as a great authority in Semitic scholarship; indeed, his word is law on such subjects. I have persuaded the Very Reverend the Dean of Westminster to address the meeting after M. Ganneau, and from him we shall be glad to hear some remarks upon that gentleman's address. (Cheers.)

M. CLERMONT GANNEAU*.—There is certainly no other country which offers attractions to one who loves to investigate the past, similar, or equal, to those of Palestine. Not only have we the detailed narratives and the topography of the Bible, but also a long continued chain of descriptions from the earliest ages of Christianity to the present day. We have, besides these, a perfectly marvellous fixity of local traditions among the native populations, especially as regards the nomenclature. These populations represent the ancient races of these countries. We may find among the fellaheen, descendants not only of the Hebrews, but also of those tribes which, conquered by the Hebrews, have yet lived on in the country, and have resisted all the numerous waves of invasion which passed over Palestine. Among these are to be found traditions, oblite-

* M. Ganneau addressed the meeting in French.

rated, indeed, and reduced to childish stories and popular legends, which yet, if carefully and intelligently collected, would throw light upon the history, the religion, and geography of the Hebrews. Modern *savants*, following the example of Robinson, have already had recourse to this mode of obtaining information for the identification of places. At the same time, the greatest care must be taken not to be misled, as has already happened in many instances, by fallacious resemblances. A profound knowledge of Arabic dialects, as well as of Hebrew, is indispensable before undertaking what is really the most delicate manipulation. And great philological experience is so much the more necessary to one who interrogates fellaheen, that there are many facts of the highest importance, philologically speaking, in the idiom itself of the fellaheen. We call this Arabic; it contains, in reality, a vast quantity of forms and archaic phrases which carry us back far away, and to an epoch when the Arabs had not as yet conquered the land of Canaan.

Permit me here to quote, in order to show how important popular tradition may be, when properly employed, certain observations which I have myself made. Let me first mention the "Stone of Bohan." This, as you know, is mentioned in the book of Joshua as one of the points marking the frontier line between the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. It is nothing more than the "Stone of the Thumb," and is called now the "Stone of the Finger"—"*Hadjar el Asbah*."*

There is also the Stone of Zohelath, which I have found in the village of Siloam, under the identical name *Zehweile*. This identifies En-Rogel with the "Fountain of the Virgin."

Bethesda is nothing more than the present Church of St. Anne, where an old tradition has placed the house of the mother of Mary, calling it *Beit hanna*, "House of Anne." Now this expression is exactly identical with *Bethesda*, both signifying *House of Mercy* or *Compassion*.

I could cite several other important places whose sites I have discovered principally by means of these popular indications; for example, the long-sought Adullam, which is called at present Edoulmiyeh; Azekah, now called Azhik; the royal Canaanite city of Gezer, found by me more than a year ago in the Tell el Djezir, near the little village of *Abou Shushesh*, which Mr. Drake, to whom I communicated my theory, has since visited.

If Palestine is abundantly provided with historical documents and popular traditions, it is singularly destitute of archæological treasures. In spite of the number of travellers who have visited its soil, in spite of the excavations which have sounded its depths and furnished the solution of topographical problems, we must acknowledge an almost absolute want of inscribed monuments, the land of the Jew furnishing in this respect a strange contrast to Egypt, Greece, Rome, and even Phœnicia. Not even in the tombs, which in other countries furnish us with a pale but exact reflection of the living world, do we find an inscription. This *lacuna* ought to be filled up. Some isolated but significant discoveries have recently come to light, showing that we must not despair of finding in Biblical

* See *Quarterly Statement*, April, 1871. New Series, p. 105.

countries original documents of the greatest importance. It will suffice to remind you of the Moabite stone, which is undoubtedly a grand fact in the history of archæological discovery. This monument gives us at once the most ancient known example of its alphabet, and, so to speak, *an original page of the Bible*. And I may mention here that, side by side with the famous passage containing the name of Jehovah, or Jahveh, the sacred tetragram of the Jews, I have deciphered, since my first publication, a new passage where mention is made of the *Ariel* of David, taken by King Mesha at Ataroth, and dragged by him before the face of Chemosh at Keriôth.

I have had the good fortune to discover another monument, which, although it does not go back so far as the stone of Mesha, is not the less one of the most interesting and venerable Jewish monuments yet found. I speak of a stone of the temple, bearing a Greek inscription which prohibits the Gentiles under pain of death to enter the sacred precincts. An exact reproduction has been made of it, and now hangs before you. This precious monument was buried in the foundations of an Arab edifice some metres distant from the Mosque of Omar, that is to say, close to its original place. Two letters only were visible above ground. Attracted by their palæographic appearance, I began to dig, and was happy enough to uncover the whole block. The translation, with a few remarks of my own, has been already published in the *Athenæum*, and by the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund. It is remarkable from many points of view. It reproduces certain expressions actually used by Josephus, who teaches us that the balustrade round the temple was surmounted at regular intervals by pillars having inscriptions in Greek and Latin forbidding strangers to enter. It throws light on one of the principal events in the life of St. Paul, threatened with death on the charge of having polluted the sanctuary by introducing a Gentile. It is the only authentic relic yet discovered of the temple itself. It has been a witness to the preaching of Jesus, and besides all this, it may, in the hands of *savants*, be made an instrument of investigation in clearing up the obscure question of the temples of Solomon and of Herod. The block on which the inscription is engraved is, in fact, by its dimensions, by the manner in which it has been wrought and cut, a specimen of Herodian work. It may thus serve to help us to distinguish between the work of Solomon and that of Herod. And it may further serve as an excellent *point de départ* for the construction of a palæographic scale for classing chronologically the Greek inscriptions of Jerusalem.

I will add that I have a conviction that we shall certainly find more such inscriptions in Jerusalem, whether in Greek or Latin, of the same period. Up to the present the texts found in Palestine and Jerusalem have been few in number and of small importance. Those in Greek and Latin have been published by Mr. Waddington. They amount in all only to *ten*; and all that have been found in Jerusalem are contained in a single page of the Count de Vogüé's great work. Researches undertaken under conditions by no means favourable, and in the rare occasions of leisure left

me by my official duties, have enabled me to collect, besides the texts already mentioned, upwards of eighty unpublished inscriptions in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Such a result, obtained with insufficient means, enables me to hope that much more may be done if we are provided with the necessary resources for a more complete investigation.

Among these inscriptions there are some of great palæographic and historical value. Among others I will cite two Hebrew texts in Phœnician character discovered by me at Siloam, and given to the British Museum, where they will soon be deposited. Two Hebrew *cachets* in Phœnician characters give the Biblical names of Ananias, Azarias, and Achbor. These four texts belong to the time of the kings of Judah. There are also several inscriptions in square Hebrew, two of which are bi-lingual, Greek and Hebrew; a weight in stone with a Greek inscription dated from the reign of a king new to history; a votive inscription of some great Roman lady named Pompeia Lucilia, engraved upon a slab of marble found on the side of Bethesda; two inscriptions of the Roman legion named Fretensis, one of those legions engaged in Titus's siege of Jerusalem.

In the vast quarries which extend under Jerusalem, and are now called the Royal Caverns, I found cut in the rock by some workman an exceedingly old and curious *graffito*. The original now lies on the table before you. It is a mere design, but represents exactly one of those Assyrian animals, winged lions or bulls with human heads. It is the more curious inasmuch as the Hebrew cherubim have been by some, not without appearance of reason, identified with those fantastic monsters.

A rapid *résumé* such as this is at least sufficient to show that the soil of Palestine, systematically examined, will break the long silence which it has hitherto preserved, and we may hope to see the disappearance of that strange anomaly of a total absence of inscriptions close to the very cradle of that most glorious of human creations, alphabetical writing. To find these buried treasures it is not necessary to search in the regions beyond the Jordan, where excavations will for a long time be extremely costly and dangerous. Without going so far, it is at Jerusalem itself, or in its environs, that we must seek in order to find contemporary annals of the kingdoms of Judah and Israel. That we shall do so I am sure, provided we attack certain points previously determined on by careful considerations of history.

Jerusalem itself, although it belongs to that category of cities so ungrateful to archaeology, because they live a continuous life, and therefore, so to speak, slowly devour themselves, is far from being exhausted. A large number of topographical questions are still in suspense, some of capital importance, such as the site of the Tombs of the Kings of Judah, and waiting for a solution. Let us hope that the solution of these problems will be effected through the agency of this Society—a fitting crown to their noble work.

The Very Reverend the DEAN OF WESTMINSTER.—In the very tropical state of this atmosphere, approaching almost that of the

Valley of the Jordan, I will not detain you long. I am in the novel situation of dragoman of the dragoman of the French Embassy in Constantinople. I take it for granted that most of you have been able to follow M. Ganneau's most interesting paper, but I will just run through the main points which he has touched upon, showing the opportunities that are opened to us by this Exploration Fund, and showing also the great services that an intelligent resident in Palestine like M. Ganneau is able to render to our objects, and which we the more value, because being a foreigner, and not being specially connected with us, we feel bound to acknowledge the honourable manner in which he has behaved with regard to the antiquities he has told you of, and especially with regard to the Moabite stone. (Hear, hear.) It is a lamentable circumstance that rivalry between nations should have penetrated into the Holy Land, but it is very gratifying that, in this instance, foreign nations feel, like us, the importance of the subject, and that, like us, they are above those petty disputes. (Hear, hear.) One of the points upon which M. Ganneau chiefly dwelt, as opening themselves more and more to our investigations, is what has always struck me, namely, the remains of the ancient primæval inhabitants of the country before the occupation of the Holy Land by the Israelites. This is the more interesting because it may possibly be more easy to find from their hands monuments of a more primæval country, such as we find at Stonehenge and Avebury, and other remains of works executed before the Norman conquest in this country. M. Ganneau mentioned various monuments which reach back to those times, but which were, perhaps, turned to new purposes by the Israelites. Nothing is more interesting or more likely to be discovered than those ancient and venerable stones which have existed in Palestine from remote ages; and it was with extreme delight that I heard M. Ganneau say that he believed he had discovered two such relics as the stone of Bohan and the stone of Zohelath. It is impossible to read the mention of these in the books of Joshua and Kings, and not wish to lay our hands upon them; and if M. Ganneau has done so, I congratulate him with all my heart. (Hear, hear.) His great knowledge of the subject, the fact of his living on the spot, and his familiarity with Arabic, has enabled him to identify with more certainty than had been done before, the names of different places mentioned in Scripture. Amongst these is Scopus, "the look-out place" mentioned in the Maccabees, and which he has found by its identity with the modern name which means "the Observatory." Then again that place known as Adullam, which is so interesting to politicians in England. I remember speaking to a distinguished fellow-countryman of M. Ganneau, M. Montalembert, and he was complaining that in his own country, where the Bible is not so well known as it is in England, no one could guess what could be meant by the "Adullamites;" it was even thought to be a company of some kind. Now that the actual place bearing the name of Adullam can be identified by

M. Ganneau, I should hope that all his countrymen will for the future know as much as we do about all its meanings, historical, geographical, and political. There is also Gezer, that old city which M. Ganneau has found out, and I am glad to learn that he made this discovery of Gezer so long ago as last July. Others have come upon his track since; but it was well known to M. Ganneau long before, when he mentioned it to my friend Mr. Grove, who, I may say, has begged me to explain, what I am sure you all regret, that he is prevented being present to-day to see the results of this Fund, to which he with so much zeal and energy has contributed. (Cheers.) What M. Ganneau has said about the Tombs always struck me. To whom these innumerable ancient tombs belonged to we do not know now; but we may be able in them to find traces of the history of Palestine which have not yet been discovered. Then, with regard to inscriptions, we come to the Moabite stone. I need not enlarge upon that. It is what M. Ganneau says, it is like finding an original page of the Bible itself. There is no reason why the actual inscriptions on the Moabite stone should not have been incorporated by the authors of the books of Chronicles and Kings. It would then have been in reality, what he now calls it metaphorically, an original page of the Bible. (Hear, hear.) Then he has found an original page of Josephus. Poor Josephus often meets with but very scanty justice, but the inscription from the Herodian Temple does bear out what Josephus describes as having been written on the enclosure of the temple, namely, that any one who came within those rails or palisades, if they penetrated within, would be put to death. The whole of this bears most directly upon that most wonderfully vivid scene which is described in the twenty-second chapter of the Acts. He also tells us what I was not aware of before, that there are inscriptions reaching back to the times of the kings of Judah; and if so, there is no reason why, by greater exploration and research, we should not find many more of such inscriptions. (Hear, hear.) While M. Ganneau's account is extremely interesting as describing what he has done, it is also extremely stimulating to find what can be done by us by such funds as you are able to place at our disposal. (Cheers.) I have expressed to you the regret that I have in Mr. Grove not being present on this occasion. There is another name which I cannot help mentioning, because I am sure there is no one here present who does not regret the loss the country has sustained in the death of Dr. Norman Macleod which we have heard of this morning. Dr. Norman Macleod had expressed in a letter which I hold in my hand, his great desire to be present on this occasion, but owing to medical advice he was prevented coming, and the catastrophe which has deprived the world of his genial and charming presence was the result of that illness. (Hear, hear.) It is now my pleasing duty to ask the meeting to return their thanks to His Grace the Archbishop of York for the unfailing zeal and ability with which he presents himself on these occasions. His Grace

has many avocations, and it is most gratifying to find him again presiding at an institution to which from the first he has given his countenance, and for which we owe him still greater gratitude because he has not been drawn to it, like myself and others, from local interest in the soil of Palestine, but from an abstract love of knowledge which prompts him so far as he can to do anything that can throw light upon the sacred history of the Bible. (Cheers.)

Professor E. H. PALMER.—I rise with great pleasure to second the resolution of thanks to the Archbishop of York. This meeting has been one of the most interesting I have ever had the pleasure of being present at; for although the Palestine Exploration Fund has always had good work to report to the public, yet I doubt whether it has ever been better or more usefully engaged than it is at present. The Survey of Palestine is a work that has long been wanted, and the party that has now gone out is the most suitable for this purpose that could have been chosen. The officers and non-commissioned officers of the Engineers are proverbially well-fitted for their work; but the party now in Palestine have the valuable aid of Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake; and I am pleased to take this opportunity of testifying to his immense value as an explorer, and to his possession of indomitable courage and perseverance—qualities which are essential to an archæologist, but more particularly to the traveller in Palestine. No one but those who have been there can understand the difficulties that constantly beset an explorer's path. Besides guarding against danger to himself, he has to exercise all his ingenuity to counteract the cunning devices of the fellahen to withhold information from him or lead him astray. (Hear, hear.) Under these circumstances, his task is by no means an easy one. Mr. Drake travelled with me for twelve months, and I can assure you that he is well able to overcome these difficulties, and I congratulate the Fund on having so valuable a person to support their labours. (Hear, hear.) Ladies and gentlemen, I will not detain you longer, but will conclude by seconding the motion that we return our cordial thanks to the Right Reverend Prelate in the chair. (Cheers.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—My lords, ladies, and gentlemen, before we separate I desire to thank you for the mode in which you have received me; and I would add one word in order that we should part on good terms with regard to the adverse motion which has been made. If I may return once more to that simple illustration of our friend Mr. MacGregor, I should say that the gentleman who spoke of the importance of attention to moral ruins has treated the funds available in this country as a small fixed quantity, like a glass of water, of which none should go abroad because all of it is wanted at home; but the fact is that the Fund upon which we draw is inexhaustible. Its task is to raise people up to that which is noble and good, and out of that Fund you will elicit something for all the objects and all the charities which the

mover of the amendment has in view. I do believe that the more you ask the people of this country to give, the more they will give, and I am sure that not one of you would have anything to do with this Society if you thought that we were hurting any other philanthropic objects. (Cheers.) I thank you for the reception you have given me, and hope we shall meet again next year. (Loud cheers.)

NOTE ON VASES FOUND AT THE BIRKET ISRAIL.

BY GREVILLE J. CHESTER, B.A.

IN "The Recovery of Jerusalem," p. 479, mention is made of certain vases of massive black ware discovered at Birket Israil and elsewhere, which I there ascribed "with very great hesitation as belonging" to the Græco-Phœnician period, and of which I stated that "considerable doubt exists as to their proper appropriation." I am now able to assert positively that these vases are of early *Arabic* manufacture. Among the vast pottery-strewn mounds of Fostat, Musr-el-Ateekah, or Old Cairo, I found in January in the present year a vast number of broken vessels of the very same description, and immediately associated with lamps and other Arabic pottery. One perfect specimen of conical form, which I have placed in the British Museum, is coated with a glaze of greenish blue identical with that found upon numerous Arabic lamps found in the same mounds, which are formed of the *débris* of the Arabian city of Fostat, and contain antiquities of no other period.

NOTE.—The translation of the Talmud Tract on the Measurements of the Temple, published in the January number of the *Quarterly*, was written by the Rev. Joseph Barclay, D.D., lately of Jerusalem.