

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

PREFACE.

IN the letters and reports of Lieutenant C. R. Conder and Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake will be found the usual record of work done during the last three months. In February portions of four more sheets of the new map arrived in England, making a total up to the present of 1,250 square miles, which represents the whole of last year's work. The Committee have now made application for another noncommissioned officer of Royal Engineers to strengthen the party and accelerate the survey. If their application to the War Office be granted, as on all previous occasions, the new man will be sent out at once; and if we could see our way to sending out another in addition, the progress of the new map would be very rapid. As to the work already done, it lies in the office of the Fund, ready to be inspected by any who may wish to see it. It is in the highest and best kind of map-making, on a scale of one inch to the mile, and will give, when completed, a perfect map of Palestine as it is, with every village, every ruin, every *tell*, and every existing name. As regards the publication, we shall probably have a plan agreed upon by the Committee before the issue of the next *Quarterly*. At present we can only say that as the sheets are completed they will be published, without any unnecessary delay, in the best style possible, and by the best map-makers in the country. The part of Palestine already surveyed appears in the illustrative sketch-map of the frontispiece. The surveyors are now on the coast, the last letters from Lieutenant Conder speaking of the ruins at Athlit, of which he promises sketches and plans. We have not yet received the sketches and plans of those ruins over which they have already passed. Lieutenant Conder has made careful drawings and examinations of every one for the Committee, and will probably send them home by the first safe means.

The Special Fund for Jerusalem is open, as will be seen from our business sheet. Those subscribers who wish to devote their

gifts to the further exploration of the Holy City, have only to notify their intention to the Secretary.

The American party have started on a preliminary expedition east of Jordan. We hope to have accounts of their progress in the course of the year.

It is gratifying to state that the sale of the new book issued by the Fund is going on more favourably than was anticipated. Nearly five thousand have now been sold, and the new edition, which is in the press, is already largely ordered. The Committee, it must be borne in mind, had in view, in the issue of this book, two objects: first, to show what had been done; and, secondly, to show what yet remained to be done; that the perfect exploration of the Holy Land is no visionary scheme of a few theorists, but an urgent and crying necessity, by means of which controverted points may be decided, the bounds of controversy narrowed, and the history of the Bible brought out in fuller light.

A new arrangement has been made with regard to the photographs of the Fund. Many of these, taken for an archæological or architectural point of interest, have not proved interesting to the general public. A few new ones have been added. A selection of one hundred has now been made, and the following arrangement has been decided on: they can be purchased by Subscribers, instead of at the old rate of one shilling each, at one guinea for twenty-five, two guineas for fifty, or four pounds for the whole set of one hundred. Mr. Stanford, 6, Charing Cross, will still be the agent. The new list, with two recommended lists of twenty-five each, will be ready in a few days.

We propose to hold an exhibition in the summer, and have taken the Dudley Gallery for the purpose. We are very glad to announce that, owing to the kindness of Mr. Harper, we shall be able to show the whole of his beautiful sketches of scenery in the Holy Land; we shall also be able to exhibit some of Mr. Simpson's pictures of Underground Jerusalem. M. Clermont-Ganneau has promised a facsimile cast of the Moabite stone. This will be the first time this invaluable *stèle* has been exhibited. There will also be a cast of the recently found stone from Herod's Temple; casts of the Hamath Inscriptions; and, besides other things, the whole of the photographs, collections, models, &c., illustrating the survey of Sinai. It is hoped to open the exhibition very early in June.

It will be seen that the spelling of the Arabic names in Mr. Drake's reports differs from that previously adopted in printing his reports. The spelling is now his own. In the next *Quarterly* he will give his reasons for differing from Dr. Robinson and others.