

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK IN THE CHAIR.

The CHAIRMAN: I will now call upon Mr. Holland, one of the Hon. Secs., to read the Report of the General Committee.

The Rev. F. W. HOLLAND read the Report:—

The work of the past year has been marked by continual and very satisfactory progress.

At the last Annual Meeting the Committee announced the resignation of Captain Stewart in consequence of ill health, and the appointment of Lieutenant Claude Conder, R.E., to take his place in charge of the Survey Expedition. Mr. Conder started for Palestine last July, and has since remained in command, having the valuable assistance of Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake.

The Committee desire publicly to record their sense of the ability, activity, and zeal which both Mr. Conder and Mr. Drake have displayed in the prosecution of the work.

After three years of hard work in Palestine and Syria, Mr. Drake is now on his way to England for a well-earned holiday; but will, it is hoped, shortly return to resume his labour.

The two non-commissioned officers, Sergeant Black and Corporal Armstrong, have continued to give the greatest satisfaction to the Committee, as will appear from Mr. Conder's report, and the strength of the party has recently been augmented by the addition of Corporal Brophy, also of the Royal Engineers.

During the year 1872 the Triangulation and Survey covered 1,200 square miles; during the present year, up to the date of the last report received, 400 more square miles have been surveyed.

The reports of the Survey and work in other directions have been published from time to time in the *Quarterly Statements*, which, in addition to Messrs. Conder's and Drake's reports, have contained many interesting and important papers, such as that on the Meteorology of Palestine, by Mr. Glaisher and Mr. Buchan; Captain Warren's list of Arabic names; Mr. George Smith's account of the history of Palestine as given in the cuneiform inscriptions; papers on the Hamath inscriptions, on the Shapira pottery from Moab, on the chronology of Palestine, and on various discoveries at Jerusalem.

To the writers of these papers, which have all been presented to the Society, the Committee have to express their warmest thanks.

A very important list of probable sites awaiting identification, and suggestions for making further discoveries, has been laid before the Committee by M. Clermont-Ganneau, whose name is so well known in connection with the discovery of the famous Moabite Stone.

M. Ganneau is most anxious to follow up his researches in Palestine,

which have hitherto been attended by such marked success; and the great importance of his suggestions has led the Committee to arrange with him to go out again in October in their service, provided that the necessary funds are forthcoming, and that the consent of his government is obtained, which they trust may be the case.

The income of the Society during the year 1872 amounted, from all sources, to £3,317 1s. 2d. The expenditure included £2,337 9s. 8d. for exploration expenses; £481 6s. for rent, salaries, advertising, and office expenses; £92 1s. 10d. for postage (including the sending of the *Quarterly Statements* to all subscribers), and £281 7s. 1d. for printing and lithographing, *i.e.*, for publishing the results of the work.

In the autumn of 1872 the Committee published a new book, entitled "Our Work in Palestine," which gives a clear and popular account of the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund since its foundation. Five thousand copies of this book have already been sold, and the sale of it still continues to be brisk.

With regard to the present financial position of the Fund, the amount received since the last annual meeting has been £2,985 16s. 4d.

The expenses of the Survey will amount to upwards of £2,400 during the year, and the Committee have now to appeal for funds not only to complete the Survey, but also to enable them to employ M. Ganneau for a year, that he may carry out the explorations which he has suggested, and which cannot fail to afford most valuable results.

A very interesting exhibition in connection with the Fund has just been opened by the Committee at the Dudley Gallery, Egyptian Hall, with the object of increasing the interest of the public in their work and promoting a better knowledge of the Holy Land and Jerusalem. Their special thanks are due to Mr. H. A. Harper for the loan of his extremely beautiful and truthful water-colour sketches, which form an important feature in the exhibition; also to Sir Henry James for the loan of models and photographs from the Ordnance Survey office; and to M. Clermont-Ganneau, for the loan of a valuable collection of inscriptions, seals, &c. Amongst other things there are exhibited the newly-obtained casts of the Hamath Stones, a cast of the Deluge Stone from the British Museum, original Sinaitic inscriptions, models of ancient and modern Jerusalem, Mr. Conder's sketches of the Shapira pottery, and tracings of several sheets of the new map of Palestine, the making of which forms at the present moment the principal work of the Fund. These tracings, some of which are lying on the table before you, show clearly how accurately and well the Survey is being carried out; and how far the new map, when completed, will not only surpass all previous maps of the Holy Land, but also be in itself a complete work, leaving nothing further to be desired.

The Committee have to deplore the loss of the following distinguished members of their body: Lord Ossington, who addressed the last annual meeting, and at all times took the warmest interest in the work, Mr. W. Tite, and the eminent Semitic scholar, Mr. Emanuel Deutsch.

The following is a report, received from Lieutenant Conder, of the progress of the Expedition under his command during the past year.

LIEUT. CONDER'S REPORT.

When last the subscribers gathered to hear the history of the work done during the course of the year, the new expedition for the completion of the Survey of Palestine had just received a very serious check—the Committee had been obliged to announce the resignation of Captain Stewart, and but for the energy of my present colleague Mr. Drake, who for six months worked on alone through some of the most difficult country in Syria whilst expecting my arrival, the undertaking must have come to an untimely termination.

So small a party was probably never before entrusted with so important a work. It is but just to add that it is rarely that an officer can hope to command two men so thoroughly able and competent as Sergeant Black and Corporal Armstrong. The entire trustworthiness and soundness of Sergeant Black's work is a subject of the greatest satisfaction, and the zeal and pride in their work, and the quickness which both men have displayed in acquainting themselves with subjects entirely new to them, and in picking up the language, are points in the highest degree connected with the satisfactory nature of the report which I am able to lay before the Society. Palestine contains 6,600 English square miles between Dan and Beersheba, the Jordan and the great sea. Of this we have, at the time I despatch this report, completed 1,615 square miles, or nearly a quarter of the whole. When I reached Palestine in the beginning of July, 1872, the part marked on the map between Jaffa, Jerusalem, and Nablus was complete, with the exception of the hill representation, giving an area of 560 square miles, and a monthly rate of 110 square miles. Commencing again about the middle of the month we worked without a break to the middle of December, and included Samaria, the great plain, Nazareth, and Carmel within our limits. The total was thus brought up to 1,250 square miles, or more than one-fifth of the whole of Palestine—the work of four men in one year's time. The monthly rate during this second period was increased to over 140 square miles, and during the four weeks of September 150 square miles were finished, including the measurement of the "Base of Verification," near Jenin.

The lateness of the rainy season made it impossible to begin in the field before the last day of February, yet notwithstanding the fact that the country near Athlût, Tantura, and Cesarea is far fuller of interesting relics than any part we had previously visited, we had added before moving to our twentieth camp at Mukhalid another 300 square miles, giving a monthly rate of 170 square miles, far beyond any former rate, and indeed not one to be expected in other parts of the country not including, as does the plain of Cesarea, long tracts of blown sand without habitations or ruins. But such a statement of the quantity

completed would not be a satisfactory one, if I were unable to report favourably as to the quality. That this should be superior to that of any former map of Palestine is but a poor recommendation; our aim has been to make the production of a *better*, to the same scale, impossible. In September I was able to send news of the satisfactory nature of the great check on the work obtained by comparing the calculated length of the base line near Jenin with its actual measurement. In December I was further able to explain how, starting from a fixed latitude and longitude at Jaffa, we had carried our triangulation over a length of nearly 120 miles back to another fixed point at Acca, and had done so without error. Further details, and I feel sure not less satisfactory, will be furnished when the calculations in England are worked out.

Of the actual execution of the work the tracings sent to England will give an idea. The credit is mainly due to the workmanship of my two men, as the representation of the hills is the only part which I can claim as my own handiwork. The method employed in this has been considered by competent authorities satisfactory for the purpose, but is, of course, different from that which will be used when the map is engraved. The original copies remain in our keeping, and the work upon them is perhaps better finished than was possible on a thinner paper.

Some account of the method pursued in the outdoor survey may prove interesting to those who see merely the results in England. The average duration of a camp is three weeks, and their general distance apart twelve miles; but the amount of country which it is possible to survey from one centre differs according to its character and the situation of the camp, as regards the old work, from 60 to 150 square miles.

The first day is generally devoted to preliminary arrangements, and to the calculation from astronomical observations of the latitude of the place, other observations being added for the correction of the chronometers.

Our first operations after this consist in the choice of good points, from which the country for a radius of ten or fifteen miles may be seen; and in cases where such points are the highest tops of hills on which no building is found, they have to be visited, and a solid drystone cairn eight or nine feet high, whitewashed on such sides as point to other stations, has to be erected. In sandy ground this is superseded by a mound of sand and bushes piled to a sufficient height. In some cases an artificial tree is found most suitable for long-distance observations. In many places, however, the little square white tomb-house, with its round dome and overshadowing sycamore or carouba shining in the distance, indicates a good standing-ground for the theodolite. These are about as numerous and as useful to the surveyor as are the towers of our English parish churches.

The points chosen, the theodolite is conveyed on the back of a mule

to the spot, and every prominent object is observed, and its position with regard to the point of observation accurately determined. It is on these occasions that my colleague, Mr. Drake, collects the majority of the names, which are afterwards verified. This part of the work occupies about a week, and has lately given an average of ten hours per diem, of which six were consumed in riding to and from the point.

These operations finished, and the skeleton of the map thus constructed, the filling in of the detail next occupies our attention, and it is then that the greatest difficulty arises. A road (though generally a very bad one, yet better than none at all) leads to almost every important point; but where every inch of ground has to be gone over, it is, of course, impossible to follow one path. Cross-country work now begins, and tired horses have to be dragged up and down places where at first sight it would seem impossible for them to move. Rocks and boulders, thistles 10ft. high, deep mud, treacherous marshes, thick coppice, and burning plains, all add to the difficulties of the work, and places which may afterwards prove important are so hidden away that their position could not be imagined till one came quite close. However, by degrees all is worked in roads, villages, ruins, rivers, and all the details you see on the map are fixed, hill slopes measured, the geology examined, and collections increased. One day is then allowed to ink in and finish the whole, and the tents are then immediately struck, and the round of labour begins again.

My professional department is of course the only one for which I am responsible to the Society. Of the two important subjects of nomenclature and identification, it is not my duty to speak; all concerning which I wish to assure the Society is the thoroughness of that part of the archaeological department of our undertaking which it is my calling to superintend. Of the date or value of any particular ruin my opinion would of course not be considered of great importance, except in as far as any one must learn from a constant comparison of various examples of a few styles. Mine is the more modest task of preserving all necessary notes of the fast crumbling monuments of antiquity. We are instructed to discover, measure, and sketch all that remains of ruins, some over 2,000 years of age, which have been subjected in turn to the fury of contending nations, the violent action of sun, wind, and rain, each more powerful than in more northern climates, and finally to the vandalism of the fellahín. I will briefly report on what we have done as regards these instructions.

With the 700 square miles sent home from Haifa, I sent a return, briefly epitomised in the accompanying report. This return contained a notice of every ruin marked on the map between Nablus and Haifa, and it will perhaps be remembered that no less than 35 per cent. were mere heaps of water-worn ashlar, or grey mounds, where once a ruin had stood. In such cases it is of course impossible to do more than mark the place on the map and plans, as sketches would convey no valuable information. Of the remaining relics, however, it is possible

to collect more than can be placed on the sheet, and accordingly a plan of each, with sketches, sections, and drawings of details where necessary, has been made, and the whole are kept in one book, into which they are transcribed as soon as possible from the field note-books. This volume forms, as it were, the memoir to the map. Among its more important contents I may mention notes on the ruins of Cesarea (where we found the wall of Herod's temple to Cæsar and Rome, and the famous drains at sea level mentioned by Josephus), those of Tantura and of Athlit. Three great Roman aqueducts, a little temple near Jenin, Crusading forts at Tell Kaymun, Seffuryeh, Rushmia, Kakun Dustray, Shellaleh, and Kalensawye, and no less than 150 rock-cut tombs of every description. A similar return has been constructed of the country passed over before my arrival, but is not as yet complete, and several plans and sketches await the time when I revisit that part of the country to execute the hill shading. This portion of the work is further supplemented by special surveys on a large scale of such places of importance as Cesarea and Athlit, and finished scale plans of their remaining buildings.

The meteorological observations, on the correct keeping of which Mr. Glaisher, who first interested himself on the subject, will be able to report, have been kept with all possible regularity in our camp, and thanks to the exertions of Dr. Chaplin and of Dr. Varten, they have also been forwarded from Nazareth, from Jerusalem, and from Jaffa. At Beyrout they have been under Mr. Eldridge's care, and have no doubt been equally satisfactory.

Geology.—The instructions with which I am furnished containing the combined experience of preceding expeditions, further direct my attention to the geology and natural history of the country as collateral branches of investigation. The Society has, indeed, refused to content itself with other than *professional* work; but I hope that when the time comes for sending out a distinguished geologist, the geological map which I am constructing may prove of service in directing him to points of interest, and that observations made honestly will be verified by his researches.

Natural History.—In natural history our attention has been chiefly confined to entomological collections and to the drying of plants. I may mention that a valuable collection of Orthoptera and Coleoptera is now being carried on at Jerusalem by Dr. Kersten, as the nucleus of a Jerusalem Museum, and that he has very kindly given me every possible assistance and much useful advice.

I cannot close this report without touching on a subject which to me, as to all members of the Fund, is of the very highest interest. I mean the "Exploration of Jerusalem." The attention of the Fund has indeed been lately diverted from this centre, but I sincerely hope that the labours of Captain Warren are yet to be followed out, and that I may be allowed part in an investigation, the interest of which is to me personally far beyond that of anything in the country, and to

the understanding of which I have already devoted more than five years of study.

No one can visit Jerusalem without being impressed with the courage, endurance, and ability which must have been necessary to enable Captain Warren to vanquish the difficulties he had to encounter and to collect from such a depth of *débris* the valuable data we now possess. In the Haram enclosure there is but very little of importance which he has left to be done. To a few points specially indicated by him I have turned my attention, and have been able to make a more minute survey of the surface of the Sakhrah than seems to have been possible before. One point of the greatest interest yet remains unsolved: the Well of Spirits below the rock is still a mystery, but great advances have been made in facilitating such investigations, and we need not yet despair of final success. Time will work wonders, and it must not be forgotten that money will do even more.

There are yet two subjects of the most paramount importance to be examined in Jerusalem, and the interest they excite is not, I believe, at all diminished. The first is the claim which the venerable Church of the Holy Sepulchre asserts to be considered the true site of the Saviour's tomb; the second is the discovery of the royal sepulchres, in which David, Solomon, and their successors lay embalmed. It must be pretty generally understood by members of the Fund that the first question hangs on the discovery of the site of the starting-point of that "second wall" which at the time of the Crucifixion was the boundary of Jerusalem. I have already submitted to the Committee a plan for its determination, based on the apparently obvious method of finding the first wall first, and have been given to understand that its acceptance was only delayed by want of funds.

As regards the tombs of the kings, I know of but one indication on which to work. Benjamin of Tudela, a traveller less credulous and ignorant than most of his immediate successors, graphically describes their accidental rediscovery in his own time by masons employed in the time-honoured custom of destroying ancient monuments by the demolition of the old Zion wall. Allowing for the natural exaggeration for which terror, darkness, and the rush of innumerable bats may account, there is but little reason to discredit the account. My proposal for the refinding of the tombs was to follow the example of these mediæval workmen, starting from a fixed point at the modern Bishop's School, and tracing the Zion wall northwards and eastwards—towards the city, and towards the ancient Ophel wall already discovered by Captain Warren.

As regards the question of funds I have but little to say. The expenses of the survey are reduced to a minimum, and it has again and again been shown to subscribers that an increased yearly expenditure for a shorter time is far more economical than the continuation of the present rate of work and of outlay for a period of five to six years. The Committee have been able to add one more member to my

party, but this is hardly sufficient to enable me to carry out the double party which I had hoped soon to organise. It must be remembered that this is simply a question of health. The climate becomes more trying to a European every year he remains in the country, and should the Society lose the services of either Sergeant Black or of Corporal Armstrong, now trained to the work and thoroughly competent, and lose them by failing to lighten and shorten their work, they will find it very difficult to supply the place of either without damage to the character of the work.

Could funds be collected for work in Jerusalem I should advise a partial break in the survey, for the reason that, situate as we are in remote corners of the country at a time when travellers are thronging into the city, the work of the Fund is but little known, and the large amount of interest which might be excited by a few tangible discoveries, which might be seen by every visitor, is entirely lost.

In conclusion I may be allowed to direct the attention of the meeting to the valuable services rendered to the Fund by many residents in Palestine.

The interest taken by Dr. Chaplin in our work, the care he has shown to keep it before the eyes of the world in this country, when we were unable to speak for ourselves, his long experience and great knowledge of every antiquarian subject connected with Palestine, without mentioning his unvarying courtesy and kindness, have been of the greatest service to ourselves and the Fund generally.

In Herr Konrad Schick the Fund has also a most valuable representative. His patient labour, and the advantages he enjoys from his position in Jerusalem, have enabled him to do work which it would be impossible for any others to do. The diagram of rock levels throughout the city, which he has kindly prepared at my request, is probably the most important basis on which to begin a study of the ancient topography that has been obtained since Captain Warren left the country.

I have already spoken of Dr. Kersten, and must recognise the kindness of Mr. Zeller in supplying us with a list of names in the centre of Palestine, and in guiding us to the discovery of several important antiquities, which we could not have found for ourselves.

From Mr. Elkavy, the Protestant missionary at Nablus, we also obtained a similar list, and received kindness and hospitality which were most acceptable in our long journeys through the country.

The general courtesy and ready help which we have met with from Europeans in all quarters, and especially from Mr. Moore, in the arrangement of our little local difficulties, is also worthy of the gratitude of the Fund; and in conclusion my own personal thanks are due to Captain Wilson and Captain Warren for their kindness in supplementing my inexperience by their own professional knowledge and advice.

The CHAIRMAN: I can unfeignedly say that I occupy the chair here

to-day with something of shame and regret, because I wish that some one of those who have taken an active part in this work which we have carried on now for several years could have replaced me on this occasion. I fear the sound of my voice must be a weariness to you; but my right to stand here consists in this,—that I feel that I represent the general public who meet once a year to encourage the active workers in the scheme, and to hear from them what they have done. The Fund has now expended a sum approaching £20,000; and for the first time we are obliged to say we feel a prospect of that alarming thing called a deficit. £20,000 is a large sum; but when I think how easily this nation gets rid of £20,000 for objects which have no great meaning after all, I cannot help urging the claims of this Fund, because we think the country can well afford it, and we think the object we have in view—that of making the words of the Sacred Book better understood—is a noble object, and one that is especially worthy of the people who have done more for the circulation of the Bible than any other people in the world ever did—the people of Great Britain. And when I say that we have expended £20,000, large as that sum is, I do not think the work will stand still because we have spent a great deal upon it. The object we are now engaged in is more interesting to men of science and cultivation than to the general public. History has something vague and unreal about it until you know the geography of the country in which the events of history have taken place, and not until you have a perfectly good map upon which the actors may stand does history become a reality. Well, it is the making of a perfect map of Palestine which has occupied us in the last year—not a map in which conventional mountains are laid down, nor yet a map constructed in that older fashion where monsters were exhibited as occupying large districts which were left blank—but a map which shall be a true picture of the country as it is now. One-fifth of this work is accomplished, as you will see on reference to the map before you, and you have therefore to do the rest. We have to regret that this Fund has lost during the past year two of its most excellent friends and supporters. Last year, on a similar occasion to the present, my much-esteemed and valued friend, Viscount Ossington, addressed the meeting. No man in this country took a greater interest in the cultivation of the people, and as you are aware, he gave us the benefit of his support because he thought this Fund would do much to cultivate a knowledge of the Scriptures. Again, one of the best scholars we had among us at our former meetings was Mr. Emanuel Deutsch. He also has been taken away. His Oriental learning was extremely great: not a son of this nation, he was ours by adoption, and at all times took a great interest in the affairs of this Fund. Well, we have completed during the year one-fifth of the Survey of Palestine, and we have put forth [a new book—“Our Work in Palestine”—which the public evidently takes a great interest in—since it has purchased to the extent of 5,000 copies in a few months. This is a matter of congratulation to us, because the circulation of this book will do more to show what this

Fund has undertaken than the speeches here or anything else, because it contains the travels and actual discoveries of the Fund's officers, and because it also gives conclusive evidence that the field of research is immense. Regret has been expressed in the Report, and very naturally, that we have left our work in Jerusalem for the present; but we hope to go on with it again. M. Clermont-Ganneau wishes to devote his time and attention to the researches promoted by this Association. There are difficulties in the way, but we trust that those who wish that Jerusalem should have a large part of their attention will be able to have their wish gratified. I will not trespass on you, or prevent other speakers addressing you, but I will remind you that this Society is established for the promotion of the study of God's holy Word; and it has done a good deal in that direction—first through the volume which I hold in my hand, and in the second place, as you will see by a glance at that map, in the Survey of the country, and, as you have heard in the Report, by the prospect of its completion. There is a third point which should not be forgotten. Every society of this kind, besides the direct work which it does, promotes other work of the kind: it is like a beam of light; though the ray of light itself is straight, it diffuses.

Something should be said here of the researches of our excellent friend Canon Tristram in the land of Moab. His work on that land will show you what it is, and the kind of hopes that will rise up in the minds of travellers in connection with this Society. He discovered some ruins, for instance, where he found a temple of great magnificence and beauty, though for the most part ruined. But it was more than a beautiful temple: it belonged to no existing style of architecture, and was full of rich decoration which could not be classified. Imagine how our friend Mr. Fergusson would gloat over such a discovery. To connect this with any form of architecture a link was wanting. This Canon Tristram found. In a little church in Italy he discovered a triangular ornament, and there, behold, he recognised this fragment which he found in the Persian temple of Mashita. Now the question which it is my duty to put to you is, Will you help us a little more on the ground of what has been done? Will you help us to prosecute these researches a little further, to illustrate the Book which is foremost in our interest and chiefest of our studies? There are plenty of results to be obtained, and if you will give your time and your money to the cause a great amount of success is certain to follow. (Cheers.) I ought to have called upon Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake himself to read his report, but he is not here to-day, and we are afraid he is unwell. I am, however, now going to mention a name which deserves the highest honour in connection with this subject. I will call upon my friend the Dean of Westminster to move the first resolution. (Loud cheers.)

The VERY REVEREND THE DEAN OF WESTMINSTER: My Lord Archbishop, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The first resolution which I have the honour to move is this, "That this meeting, having heard with satisfaction the Report presented by the Committee of the progress of the Survey

of Palestine, and of the operations of the Fund in other directions, pledges itself to use its utmost endeavours to raise the necessary funds to carry on the work to a successful conclusion." Like the Archbishop, I have so often addressed you on these occasions, and so often used the same arguments, that I have the same diffidence in referring to them again; but, nevertheless, one peculiarity of this Society is that it is perpetually discovering something fresh, and so supplies both your Grace and myself, and other speakers, with fresh arguments on the objects it has accomplished. No doubt it is true, as has been said in the Report, and as your Grace has said, we have a little wandered from the original field of our object, the exploration of the city of Jerusalem; and I have never wavered in my opinion that this is the part of Palestine which most demands exploration and investigation, and which is most likely to yield permanent and unexpected fruits; but the very fact that we have this chief object always in advance of us is like the Holy Grail pursued by the Knights of the Round Table, and may have the advantage of reminding us that, whatever other investigation we take up, and however long we put off the exploration of Jerusalem, this ultimate goal is before us as a perpetual incentive. I now turn to what has been done in the last year towards the completion of the map of Palestine; and there are one or two things which occur to me to say on looking at that map. When I look at that black line which indicates what we have accomplished, it is interesting to think that our Society has done so much, for in one sense that is the most interesting part of Palestine. But to me personally it is the least interesting part, because I know it best. What I want to see explored is not the western part of Palestine; I am burning to see that which I do not know, and what I do desire to see is the completion of the Survey on the east of the Jordan; the extension of that black line to the end of that blue streak, which represents the chasm of the Jordan Valley. We are in the habit at these meetings of using a little exaggeration in saying that very little or nothing has been done by previous travellers, but I think that is an error. In a general sense we do know a great deal about Western Palestine. No doubt even there we want precise knowledge. Nevertheless our enemies, if there be such wicked people in the world—our enemies might say that of the western side of the Jordan we have a very fair knowledge. But when you pass that black line, and cross the valley of the Jordan, we know—I am not sure whether I ought to be sorry to say it—but we know very little indeed. I may just mention one single instance, if you will allow me, to show you the incompleteness of our knowledge of Eastern Palestine. One of the most interesting scenes in sacred history is the meeting of Jacob with his brother Esau, as described in the book of Genesis; and never having been on the east of Jordan, I wished to make out exactly what the place of that event, and the nature of the scene, and in the first instance the precise nature of the valley of the Jabbok. But on turning to the word "Jabbok" in Dr. Smith's Dictionary of the Bible I found that all reference to the peculiarities of the stream, or indeed to

the scene itself, was entirely passed over. I then went to the Speaker's Commentary (and in mentioning that honoured name I would add the echo of my humble testimony to what your Grace has said of the great loss we all sustained), but here there was not one word of explanation of any kind. I then looked to books of travel which have touched upon it, but not even with the help of these could I form to myself any fixed, certain notion of what the place was like. I mention this because this was an incident that would certainly be brought out in a map, and we should have the whole thing placed before us very differently to the inadequate way in which it is put before us at present. So much for a negative proof of what we want. Now let us give two positive proofs of what may be gained by exploration on the east of the Jordan. I refer with great pleasure, in his presence, to Canon Tristram's "Land of Moab." I will not here repeat what your Grace has said of the Palace of Chosroes. I will only say that the discovery of the palace of that great king of Persia is most opportune at the moment that his successor is landing on our shores. But there are two localities described in that book which are connected with the Old and New Testament history. One is Callirhoe, the hot or cold bath to which Herod the Great was brought at the end of his life, which has only been described, and that but slightly, by one previous traveller, and any spot more romantic, more beautiful, than this wild glen, as represented by Canon Tristram, I cannot imagine. The other is Machærus, the castle in which John the Baptist was beheaded; most interesting on that account alone, but which never has been described before by any one. I am therefore thoroughly satisfied that the completion of this Survey is one of the most important things we have to do. I will only, in conclusion, say that I am glad we have been able to enlist another nation than ourselves in this great object, in the person of M. Clermont-Ganneau, and although we shall always have the credit of having commenced this Fund and kept the fire burning, yet we do not grudge other nations the credit of any assistance they may give in carrying out what we have begun. (Cheers.)

Mr. WALTER MORRISON: My Lord Archbishop, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have been called upon at a very short notice to second this resolution, and to supply the place of Mr. George Grove, whose name is so well known to Biblical scholars. Mr. Grove has been unavoidably kept from coming here to-day, as we have received a message from him to State, by that cause which is upsetting all the arrangements of English society—namely, the Shah of Persia, who, as you are aware, is going down to the Crystal Palace next week. We have also much to regret the absence of Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake. We arranged this meeting at a time when we fully expected him, but, as you know, the climate of the East is one that tries and tells upon European constitutions. It has been necessary for him to come over for his health's sake, and he arrived at Trieste on Tuesday last. We have sent a telegram to him, but no answer has come, and we are afraid that he is laid up by some serious illness. Coming now to the resolution which it is my duty to second, let me refer to

the remarks which have been made by the Dean of Westminster as to the change which has taken place in our operations. This change has been pressed upon us by many of our subscribers. When we established this Society seven years ago we set before ourselves three objects—one of which was the preparation of a map of the country, and we thought those who would have joined us required something in return for their money in the way in which they would like to see it expended. And another reason which influenced the Committee when it was proposed to change our plan of operations was, that we have been in the habit of receiving subscriptions from our cousins across the Atlantic. They, however, suggested that they had better get up a society of their own; we therefore offered to divide the Exploration of Palestine with them, and offered them the East of Jordan. After we had done that came the discovery of the Moabite Stone. Our American friends were anxious to explore their part of the country, and we felt that we had no right to trespass on their portion of the Survey. However, we have gone on with our work, and out of 6,600 square miles of country Lieutenant Conder has finished the survey of 1,650 square miles, and I think that is not an unsatisfactory amount of work to have finished during the comparatively short time we have been at work. Roughly speaking, Palestine is about the size of the principality of Wales, and if you will come and look at the work on this table you will find that there is no shortcoming to be complained of at all. You must recollect that our surveying work is not merely confined to the part within that black ribbon, because it includes the part completed by Major Wilson and Captain Anderson, and portions of the Jordan Valley surveyed by Captain Warren, the Admiralty Survey, with Lynch's Survey of the Dead Sea, so that even if we were to come to a termination of our Survey now we should have a much better map of Palestine than could have been thought of ten years ago. I have the honour to occupy the position of Treasurer to the Fund, and I would ask the meeting to think especially of the concluding part of the resolution which I have seconded—namely, that it “pledges itself to use its utmost endeavours to raise the necessary funds to carry on the work to a successful conclusion.” In changing our observations from Jerusalem to the Survey of the country we have gone aside from a sensational work to one of a different nature, because it requires a certain amount of thought and abstraction to realise the difficulty of completing a survey of this kind. Palestine has been frequently visited in recent years, particularly by tourists, who pass through the country every year, but until we commenced our excavations travellers only passed along the main streams and the beaten tracks. One of the incidental advantages of our Survey is that we can prove a series of negatives. Thus we have shown, which is in itself a most valuable piece of knowledge for future explorers, that there are certain districts in which nothing can be discovered. When we cover Palestine with triangles of fifteen miles from point to point it is extremely improbable that anything

of importance can escape the attention of the explorer, and when a given district is thus thoroughly explored, it is a guide to future explorers not to wait there, but to seek elsewhere. On the other hand, if ruins are found which have never been visited before, it is likely that they will give a clue to identify other sites as well. With regard to the proposed arrangement with M. Ganneau, he is one of the most competent men to make discoveries in the Holy Land; he is a man of recognised ability, and has long had an official residence in Palestine, and has since been made dragoman to the French Embassy at Constantinople. He has first of all the advantage of knowing intimately the current dialect of Palestine, he has been accustomed to deal with the people, he knows who to put questions to, and how to get information without putting leading questions; and it would be of the utmost value that Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake and Lieutenant Conder should have a gentleman like M. Ganneau to support or criticise the conclusions to which they have arrived. This matter, however, is still *in nubibus*, and it depends on the French authorities whether we shall have his services or not. I can say no more at present, except that I hope those present will endeavour to persuade their friends to come forward to help us with the work we have in hand. It is true that our funds are not in a satisfactory state, but we are committed to the work, and must go on with it, and I hope the public will come forward and prevent us from being disgraced. (Cheers.) The resolution was unanimously carried.

The REV. CANON TRISTRAM: The resolution which I have the honour to move is this,—“That this meeting hails with pleasure the announcement that a preliminary American Expedition has commenced its work of exploration on the east of Jordan, and trusts that the two sister Societies will always continue to work heartily together.” I might almost say that my friend the Secretary had had a little satirical humour in his mind, in selecting me, who have just been pioneering east of Jordan, to propose this resolution; but I do it with a good feeling, and with a cordial conviction that our American friends are likely to do a good work in Palestine, and that they are the men to do it. Four-and-twenty years ago, when I was in America, and when the rush was made to Minnesota and Iowa, no attention was devoted to the east, but every effort was made to get farther west; but now we find the Americans have reached their western limits, and, turned back by the waves of the Pacific, have determined to be foremost in the eastward march. I do not know that they will get ahead of us in that way, for we have been the real and true pioneers in Palestine exploration. Yet there are no three men of modern times who have done so much in their several departments, and who have done that work so well, as Dr. Robinson, Lieut. Lynch, and Dr. Thompson, and they were Americans. Right glad, therefore, are we to find that their mantle has descended on worthy successors. Let not our Transatlantic cousins fancy that we have forestalled them in Moab. Though I have just returned from an expedition thither, I feel our party have only been as Uhlans prospecting the

ground, and making a *reconnaissance* for the regular army of explorers that is to follow. We have at least, I hope, drawn attention to the work that remains to be done east of Jordan, and which I fancy rather exceeds the expectations even of my friend Mr. Besant himself. Of the eleven cities up to this time unknown, we have only succeeded in placing four, leaving still seven for the investigation of the American expedition. Again, south of the Arnon and eastward of the Moabite mountain range, the ground is quite untouched, and the followers have a virgin field. I have great pleasure in moving—"That this meeting hails with pleasure the announcement that a preliminary American Expedition has commenced its exploration on the east of Jordan, and trusts that the two sister Societies will always continue to work heartily together."

DR. BIRCH: My Lord Archbishop, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It affords me great pleasure to rise to second the resolution. At a former meeting of this Fund I seconded a similar resolution; and I am gratified to find that the American branch, or sister Society, has undertaken the investigation of the country east of Jordan, and that they are willing to deal in a most liberal spirit with ourselves. With Palestine proper, as has been well detailed by the Dean of Westminster, the world is well acquainted. There were, however, some peculiarities about the ancient Hebrew people. I believe they did not use inscriptions so extensively as other nations of the world; and few have been found in Palestine itself; but it is not so in Moab and east of Jordan. Only there is one caution necessary to be observed. If there are any spurious monuments, or monuments of doubtful antiquity, it will require not only considerable learning, but considerable archæological experience, to avoid being defrauded. Some of the things, sketches of which are now exhibited in the Dudley Gallery, profess to come from Moab, and the question is how far that is true. The country east of Jordan is, of course, a country of extreme interest, and it is to be hoped that the Surveys of the two Societies will be carried on in the same manner. That, I have no doubt, the Society has arranged. It is also to be hoped that they will note all the monuments they find, and collect such fragments as may be discovered in order to fix dates. The difficulties of exploring Jerusalem are very great, because you must go under the rock, and great obstruction must arise in carrying on operations under such conditions. Jerusalem is a city which has been subject to an infinite number of adversities. It seems to have been swept of ancient remains, and with the exception of those of the Roman period very few remain, particularly of the times of the Kings. Some, however, have been found, and there is no reason why other monuments may not be found in future explorations. At the same time the portions hitherto explored have not been very prolific. For these reasons I think we ought to hail with the greatest satisfaction the work carried on by the American Society, and wish them God-speed upon their way. (Cheers.)

The proceedings ended by a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by LORD ALFRED CHURCHILL, and seconded by Mr. MACGREGOR.