

THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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PREFACE.

THE report of Lieut. Conder, dated June 21st, 1873, contains an account of the filling up of the Survey west of the watershed to the old boundary, leaving only a few weeks' work on the Plain of Sharon. From the work Mr. Conder has selected twelve places (plans and sketches of some of them have since been received at the office) for special report: of these only two sites were previously known, and the identification of the remaining ten remains to be ascertained. The remains at Dayr Asruhr are exceedingly interesting, especially if, as Lieut. Conder thinks, they prove to be of Herodian date. It is illustrative of the need of such a Survey as ours that this splendid ruin, standing on a hill only ten or twelve miles from Nablús, should have wholly escaped observation. It consists of a street with houses, cisterns, and towers, a public building of some kind, and the remains of a wall. These ruins will probably be visited again. At Dayr Allah our party found the ruins of another Roman town, but not in so good a state of preservation. Tombs of three kinds (see *Quarterly Statement*, Jan., 1873, p. 23) were found at Kh. Fakhakhír; buildings of apparently Roman date were found at Karáwa ibn Hassan. Sergeant Black discovered also here a very remarkable tomb called the Dayr el Derb, while Corporal Armstrong discovered another equally curious, though not so large, at Kh. Kurkush, in the wildest part of the hills. The tombs at Abúd described in this report were visited by Major Wilson in 1866, as was also Tibneh, where is the traditional tomb of Joshua. Lieut. Conder's account of this will be read with the greatest interest. We must call attention especially to his tracing of the old Roman road. Those who have read the volume issued

last year by the Committee, "Our Work in Palestine," will remember the Roman road in the old map, there reproduced from the *Tabulæ Peutingerianæ*. It branches off at Gophna (there spelt Cophna), and while one road continues straight through Neapolis to Cæsarea, the other strikes west to Lydd (Luddis), and then turns north to Cæsarea. It was by this latter road that Saint Paul was taken by night to Antipatris (Kefr Saba). Captain Anderson surveyed it as far as Abûd, where Lieut. Conder has taken it up and traced it in its two new branches, both of which are rudely represented in the "*Tabulæ*," till he lost them in the plains.

Our illustration this quarter gives the result of Mr. Schick's long-continued examination of the rock levels of Jerusalem. It contains the rock levels found by Major Wilson, Captain Warren, Mr. Schick himself, and the latest work in the city. From these observations, about two hundred in number, Mr. Schick has constructed a model, now in the office of the Fund, and Lieut. Conder has made the contour map of the city which accompanies his memoirs on the subject.

The notes on Lieut. Conder's Baalbec report do not properly belong to the work of the Fund, as Baalbec lies out of our district. It may be remembered that more than a year and a half ago letters appeared in the *Times* calling attention to the danger threatening the columns, and it was then resolved, before the American Expedition went out, that the officer in charge of the Survey should be asked to report, whenever practicable, on the actual condition of the ruins.

Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake, whose health required a visit to England, has now returned to Palestine completely restored. M. Clermont-Ganneau goes out immediately. He will begin his work at Jerusalem itself.

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