

There are also a number of specimens of rocks, on the beach formed of shingle and other fragmentary materials cemented by carbonate of lime. These are associated with broken bits of pottery and glass, and are therefore of modern date, and perhaps still in the course of formation.

I have had another letter from Lieut. Conder, and have replied to it at length, pointing out to him what I think are the meanings of the observations he has so far made, and directing his attention to the points which it is of most importance to notice.

Sept. 18, 1873.

CL. H. GREEN.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

LATE advices from Syria (in advance of official dispatches), by letter of Lieutenant Steever, commanding expedition, dated July 14th, furnish information of the highest interest. The expedition reached Moab on the first of April, and fixed their camp at Hesbân. Fifteen miles from here, a favourable location having been found, a base-line was satisfactorily measured and established. This done, nearly four hundred square miles have since been triangulated, and the detail of the same almost completed, including the hill shading. The heights of all points within the triangulation have been ascertained, and elevation above the levels of the Dead and Mediterranean Seas well obtained.

Meteorological observations have been regularly taken. It is found that the maps—Van de Velde's, even—of this country are utterly worthless and unreliable. This is not strange, since this region of country and portion of the Holy Land have been nearly inaccessible to travellers. Nor would it be safe now, probably, except by a well-organised expedition.

The archæological and scientific departments of the expedition have also been very successful.

Professor Paine has diligently and zealously pursued his researches and studies. He has already prepared a voluminous report, which has been forwarded through the official channel of the Society at Beirût, on the identification of Nebo and Pisgah. To say nothing of his other discoveries, this alone is a great achievement. Every day's work in the field has revealed to them ruins heretofore unknown and unmentioned by any traveller. The Bedawin tell of the ruins of cities a few days' journey to the south and east, which it is impossible now to visit. The whole country from Kerak to Hauran is in a very disturbed state, in consequence of hostilities between the different tribes. The expedition would soon go into summer quarters. Lieutenant Steever advises resumption of work in autumn rather than wait till the spring.

*July 20, 1873. Palestine Exploration Society,
26, Exchange Place, New York.*