

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

PREFACE.

THE most important events in the work of the last three months are the discoveries on the site of Gezer by M. Clermont-Ganneau, and that of the Altar of Ed by Lieutenant Conder. The former is only equalled in interest by M. Ganneau's previous discovery in Jerusalem of the stone of Herod's Temple. He has found, on a spot previously indicated by him as the site of Gezer, viz., Abu Shushel, which lies five miles south-east of Ramleh and four east of Amwas (the presumed Emmaus), not only the name Tell el Gezer, still existing, with traces of the foundations of houses, but two inscriptions, both exactly alike, in Hebrew and Greek, the Hebrew words being translated "the boundary of Gezer." We have thus new data for many important points of dispute. There are, for instance, the boundaries of a Levitical city (Numbers xxxv. 4, 5); the direction of the square, which is now seen to have lain with its four angles at the four cardinal points; the exact length of "two thousand cubits," and therefore of one cubit. The measurements, however, are not yet completed. The inscriptions will be engraved when these, with the memoir promised by M. Ganneau, are sent home. The other discovery, that of the Altar of Ed, is hardly less interesting; and the survival through so many ages of the name is only another proof of the vitality of the old names in the Holy Land.

The *Quarterly Statement* contains besides these two papers, a report of the Annual Meeting, at which, among other speakers, the Rev. Dr. Porter, just returned from Palestine, gave an account of his recent journey; and the Rev. Dr. S. Manning, also a recent traveller, spoke on the necessity, for the right understanding of the Bible, of scientific exploration. We have also two valuable reports from M. Clermont-Ganneau, and a paper by Lieutenant Conder read at the British Association at Belfast.

The thanks of the Committee are specially due to the Cloth-workers' Company, to the Syrian Improvement Committee, to the British Association, to Mr. Henry Lee, to Mr. W. Vaux, and to "G. M. E.," for donations during the present year of £100 each to the Fund. Financially, the Fund is not prosperous, in spite of these generous donations. The Committee are deeply in debt. They asked the Annual Meeting for £2,500 before the end of the year. Since that time (June 23rd) about £640 have been received at the office. It is earnestly urged upon all subscribers who have not paid for the current year to do so without delay, and upon all Honorary Local Secretaries to circulate a knowledge of the Fund and its claims as widely as possible.

NOTES.

The following resolution was passed at the Meeting of the British Association at Belfast :—

That Major Wilson and Mr. Ravenstein be appointed a committee for the purpose of furthering the Palestine Explorations, and that the sum of £100 be placed at their disposal to be expended on behalf of the Topographical Survey, and especially in ascertaining the level of the Sea of Galilee and the fall of the River Jordan.

The Syria Improvement Committee have decided on terminating their trust. Out of the funds remaining in their hands they voted £100 for the Survey of Palestine.

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