

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

HELD AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTION, 23RD JUNE, 1874.

THE VERY REVEREND THE DEAN OF WESTMINSTER IN THE CHAIR.

The CHAIRMAN : I shall call upon Mr. Grove to read the Report.

GEORGE GROVE, Esq., Hon. Sec., read the Report as follows :—

“The Committee are happy in being able to report that the work of the year has been marked by an unparalleled progress.

“Two branches of work have been simultaneously carried on. The survey of Western Palestine, under Lieut. Conder and Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake, and the Archæological researches of M. Clermont-Ganneau. Lieut. Conder will himself describe to you the method of the survey.

“At the last annual meeting of the Fund, the Committee were able to report the completion of 1,600 square miles in the eighteen months which had elapsed since the commencement of the survey.

“During the past twelve months the rate of progress has greatly increased.

“The number of square miles now mapped and surveyed is over 3,000, or about one-half of Western Palestine.

“Map-making is only part of the work of the expedition ; careful drawings, with plans, measurements, and sketches of every ruin and important site, are made ; the ancient roads, aqueducts, and lines of communication are traced ; observations on the geology and natural history of the country are recorded, and specimens collected ; and the traditions of the people are sought for and carefully noted down.

“Foremost among the special surveys may be mentioned those of Athlît, Dor, Beisan, Cæsarea, and Antipatris. There are also plans of two ruined cities not yet fully identified, discovered by Lieut. Conder ; a group of early Christian convents, and some fine tombs which throw much light upon the history of the architecture of various periods in Palestine. The tomb and summer palace of Herod at Jebel Furaydis have been examined. A survey and plan have been made of Modin, where are the tombs of the Maccabees. The system of caves, commonly known as the cave of Adullam, has been thoroughly explored. The Jordan Valley has been surveyed, where the site of Gilgal has been fixed with great probability.

“With regard to the identification of other sites, that of Enon (proposed by Dr. Robinson) has been verified. The places mentioned (Judges vi., vii., and viii.) in Gideon’s pursuit after the Midianites can now be followed on the map ; and Lieut. Conder believes that he had identified the rock Oreb and winepress of Zeeb (Judges vii. 25).

“It is probable, also, that the voluminous geological notes made in the

valley of the Jordan will help to settle the difficult question of the date, and method of formation, of this valley, and the Dead Sea.

"It is impossible to publish in the *Quarterly Statements* all the sketches and plans now in the possession of the Committee and accumulating monthly. These will appear in the work which the Committee hope to be able to publish in connection with the map, when the survey is completed.

"The non-commissioned officers, Sergeant Black, Corporal Armstrong, and Lance-Corporal Brophy, have worked throughout to the entire satisfaction of Lieut. Conder, and the Committee desire to express their high sense of the value of the service which they have rendered to the Fund.

"With regard to the survey, it should be added that the work has been conducted in the face of the most severe winter ever known in Palestine, and in spite of fever, which attacked both Lieut. Conder and Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake.

"Turning to the work of M. Clermont-Ganneau, the Committee point to his letters published in the *Quarterly Statements*.

"He has discovered the ancient cemetery of Jaffa, found apparent traces of the primitive houses of Gezer, examined the site, suggested by himself, of the stone of Bohan, and made researches attended with results of great interest at Gumran (the Gomorrah of De Saulcy), Jericho, the Wady Kelt, Shafât, Modin, and many other places. He has brought to light numerous inscriptions, discovered and examined many ancient tombs, and collected a great number of local traditions. He is now engaged in exploring a series of rock-cut chambers north of the Via Dolorosa, in Jerusalem, which seem to have an important bearing on the topography of the city.

"The reports of M. Ganneau have been accompanied by a series of most carefully executed drawings by M. le Comte. The Committee take this opportunity of drawing attention to the energetic and able manner in which M. Ganneau is carrying out their instructions.

"The income of the Fund for the year 1873 amounted to £3,630 17s. 3d., the largest income it has ever obtained since the year 1869. The amount received this year up to the present date is £1,758 17s. 9d., being £308 more than was received up to the same date of last year.

"On the other hand, the expenses are heavier, both in Palestine, owing to the two expeditions, and at home, owing to the enlargement of the Reports and the increased expenses in printing. Even to pay their way, without paying existing debts, the Committee will have to ask for at least £2,500 before the end of the year.

"Intelligence has been received from the secretary of the American Exploration Association that the sum of 60,000 dols., or £12,000, has been raised by appeal, and that a second expedition will be sent out without delay to the east of the Jordan.

"This proof of enthusiasm in America will be heartily welcomed in England, and ought to be a stimulus for the raising of a larger sum for our own Society.

“An Association has been formed in Germany for the scientific exploration of Phœnicia. The Committee will endeavour to place themselves in communication with this society with a view to the interchange of papers.

“The Committee have, lastly, the pleasing duty of expressing their sincere thanks: 1st, to Mr. Consul Moore, of Jerusalem, for the friendly help he has always rendered to Lieut. Conder and M. Ganneau; 2ndly, to Dr. Chaplin, who has continued for Lieut. Conder’s party the same gratuitous medical assistance which he so kindly gave to Major Wilson’s and Capt. Warren’s expeditions, and whose valuable services in many other ways have always been placed so readily in the hands of the Fund; and 3rdly, to Mr. Schick, for the notes of his researches at Jerusalem, which he forwards from time to time to Major Wilson for the Fund.

“They have also to thank Lord Shaftesbury for the sympathy which prompted him to write to the *Times* last autumn a strong appeal on behalf of the Fund; the Rev. Dr. Aberigh Mackay, of Simla, who has raised a subscription in India; and all local secretaries, for the trouble they take in maintaining interest in the work, and raising money for its continuance.”

Lieut. CONDER then read the following Report of the proceedings of the Society in Palestine:—

It is now two years since I was honoured by having the command of the Survey Party in Palestine entrusted to my care, and I am glad to be able to report to-day that the work has been prosecuted during that time without any material check, and with many interesting and important results, with which you are already familiar.

Before leaving Palestine I had completed, roughly speaking, half the map. On my arrival in the country I found that the time required was estimated at eight or ten years, but now we are able to promise, that unless the health of the party fails, we shall have all Palestine, from Dan to Beersheba, surveyed and thoroughly examined within some eighteen months from this time,—in four years, instead of eight as originally contemplated. Hitherto the men have hardly had a day’s illness; and I think we may hope that with due care and the invaluable advice of Dr. Chaplin, the open-air life may continue to enable them to stand the effects of the climate and of the work.

There is nothing which is so striking on returning to England as the difficulty of conveying a truthful and vivid impression of Palestine, and the life we lead there. It must be borne in mind that every inch of paper on the sheets brought home represents a square mile of difficult country ridden over more than once, and every small plan a large ruin encumbered with fallen stones, or overrun with thistles through which the chain has to be dragged.

The method of proceeding has now become stereotyped; it is a constant repetition every fortnight or ten days of the same round of duties, only broken by the winter rainy season. In a month we now add nearly 300 square miles to the map, being five times the rate first

obtained; and were it not impossible for even the endurance of my non-commissioned officers to stand the strain, the actual amount of time required to complete the map would not be more than some twelve months.

The expedition as at present constituted consists of five Europeans and ten Syrians, including servants, groom, cook, and muleteers, with an irregular horseman supplied by the local government. For our transport we require eight horses and seven mules, and on the days of moving camp five or six camels in addition. Thus, on the occasion of our first march along the Jordan valley high road our caravan extended over a quarter of a mile: in front the horsemen, followed by the heavily-loaded mules with bells and gaily ornamented harness; behind these the camels, and in rear the Bedouin guards on their horses and the Sheikh on his dromedary, whilst a string of Arabs on foot with long guns, and of servants mounted on donkeys and mules, mingled with the main line of the march.

Arrived at our destination, the first thing necessary is to choose a camping ground in a convenient position, sheltered, near to water, and on as even ground as possible. If at a village it is next necessary to send a message to the leading man of the place. For this purpose our head servant, in the full glory of Syrian costume, well armed, and mounted on a good horse, is despatched with the Imperial firmán to explain the object of our arrival, and demand all necessary assistance. The presence of a government soldier, and the fact that our arrival has probably been already announced, as it is known at one camp where our next is to be, makes this generally a mere formality. The elders of the village immediately come down, and we are offered coffee and other refreshments. After this, with the exception of extortionate demands, which dwindle to fair prices in the course of a few days, we have as a rule but little trouble with the inhabitants of this village or of those in the immediate neighbourhood.

A consultation with my sergeant and orders to the head servant follow, and thus next morning we are all ready to begin the work.

As night comes over the camp the active duties of our dogs commence. The English fox-terriers, of a breed which we preserve very carefully, run round the tents, and are constantly on the alert for jackals, hyænas, or prowling Arabs. Sometimes we are waked by the noise of a combat, when they have seized some large prey, and require our assistance. More than once they have saved our horses by discovering the approach of thieves. Thus, at Shunem, Sergeant Black and I were waked by a dog's bark, and discovered that three Bedouins had crept through the long grass within a few feet of the picket of valuable horses. We rose and loaded our guns, but although some twenty Arabs descended on the neighbouring village, and a skirmish with the villagers ensued, we were not attacked. A dropping fire was kept up for some time on both sides, and the war cry of the Arabs answered the shouts of the fellahin; but having stolen a horse and a cow the robbers retired for the night.

By about half-past seven in the morning the horses are saddled, the breakfast ready, and two mules packed. On the back of each is a square wooden canvas-covered box, containing the theodolite, placed well forwards to allow a native to sit; behind it on each side are saddle-bags with provisions, an umbrella, the legs of the theodolite, a bucket of whitewash, a hatchet, &c. Each party, accompanied by a guide from the village on another mule, now moves off to a high mountain top, already well known, and chosen from a former camp. For two or three hours we go steadily on our way, now by a path, now across country up the narrow valleys and over stony ridges, keeping our point straight before us. There is generally very little said unless a consultation becomes necessary; and our acquaintance with the country is now so good, that we rarely meet any obstacle sufficient to turn us from our course. Sometimes, indeed, we may arrive at the brink of a precipitous ravine like that of Michmash, the existence of which cannot be guessed from a distance; but even this hardly alters our line of march, and we have never yet failed by some means or other to drag our sure-footed beasts down the rocky sides and up the opposite slopes. These great valleys do, however, materially delay our progress; and on one occasion in Judæa it took three hours to advance a distance of only three miles.

Another difficulty which has especially delayed us during this spring is the entire want of drainage. In parts where there is no natural outlet for the water, the cornland is often an impassable swamp, and immediately on leaving the rock the horses will sink up to the girths, and are with difficulty recovered. Experience, however, has taught us to avoid these dangerous places, and to find a path across them. Great care is necessary also in riding over the bare rock, which is often so slippery from the rubbing of the camels' feet and the effect of the sun that no horse can keep its feet, and the danger of a heavy fall is not to be laughed at.

On arriving at the chosen point a communication with the other party has to be established. This is generally effected, either by the smoke of a fire or by the flash of the sun's rays in a small looking-glass. Seen from a distance, this resembles a long tongue of electric flame, and is, on a bright day, visible almost as far as the eye can see. The theodolite observations occupy from two to four hours, and are perhaps the most trying part of our work, necessitating a continual change of focus for the eye from the long distance seen through the telescope to the minute magnified divisions of the graduated circle. Thus, on returning to camp the day's work has extended over eight or ten hours.

The work of filling in the details of the map, which commences on the third or fourth day of the camp, requires even greater physical exertion. But this can hardly be explained in a brief address such as the present. I feel sure, however, that the accuracy of this part of the work is greater than could be expected, whilst the number of names averages six times that on the best existing map.

The difficulties of country already alluded to are also extremely important. Some of the valleys are absolutely impassable, and the fatigue of crossing a narrow gorge, perhaps 1,000 feet deep, is very considerable. Ruins are often hidden in corners or half way down precipitous descents, and take hours to examine. Sometimes when visited they prove modern or insignificant, but they are noted nevertheless, and our lists give details of all that is to be seen in every spot we have examined, and these are now to be counted by thousands.

The great stoniness of the soil is another cause of delay and fatigue. In England it can hardly be realised. The north road from Jerusalem to Nablus resembles nothing so much as a dry bed of a stream, and the by-ways are, as may be imagined, worse than the main road.

The danger of assault by the natives has also to be considered, although it is now less than at first. In every case such an assault has met with swift and severe punishment, and the fame of these acts of justice has spread, whilst, at the same time, the peasantry regard us with less suspicion and fear than formerly. It is to a firm and consistent line of conduct on the part of all members of the expedition that the freedom from annoyance from this source has arisen. The safety of a European when alone in Syria depends on his being well armed, and on a just confidence in his own superiority to a cowardly and treacherous race of natives.

In conclusion, I may call attention to one of those rewards for systematic labour which we occasionally obtain. I take as an instance the discovery of Khirbet Deir Serur, where we found a whole town previously entirely unknown, never before visited or marked on a map, though only ten miles from Samaria.

In the course of an ordinary day's work, Corporal Armstrong arrived at this important ruin, and after a brief inspection, saw that it was too extensive for immediate survey, and would require to be visited by me. At the earliest opportunity we therefore re-examined it together, and spent the day in surveying it, measuring its principal buildings, and noting all details of importance.

The ruin is situated on a hill-top, and presents a field of fallen masonry, with blocks of white limestone, in some cases ten feet long. On the east are the foundations of a large building with walls eight feet thick; and two curious blocks like pilasters, but unornamented, stand at the corners unsupported. The building in question is evidently for some public purpose, though it is not easy to say what. It is not a church, nor does it entirely resemble in plan a temple or synagogue. Its floor is tessellated pavement. Fragments of its ornamentation are scattered about, and a fine stylobate runs at the base of the wall. It seems to have been divided into three walks with pillars, and had steps to its great gate on the west. The rubbish, however, has filled the interior.

Passing along what seems to have been a main street, we find another large building at the north-west corner of the town. The main door-

way has a fine round arch, and the rubbish here must be over ten feet in depth. The pilasters of a side door are of classic moulding, and the great wall has stones beautifully finished, all with drafted margin.

The general impression with regard to this important ruin appears to be that it dates about the first or second century. It may turn out to be Herodian, and its excavation may lead to important finds of inscriptions or other treasures.

Such, plainly stated, is a single illustration of many similar explorations, and a review of our method of work leading to the valuable discoveries which we are making in parts of Palestine where a European has not been seen within the memory of man.

I have endeavoured very briefly to give not the results of our work, which you have already in the *Quarterly Statements*, but our methods, our life, and some of our difficulties. I have only to add what you are quite prepared to hear, that every sheet of our Survey brings out more forcibly and more clearly the absolute accuracy of the very slightest topographical indications and incidental notices contained in the historical books of the Old and New Testaments.

The CHAIRMAN: I first of all must make an apology for my being in the chair in the place of the Archbishop of York, who, I believe, has filled this chair every time since he undertook to be the President of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and I have always considered it doubly meritorious, if I may use such an expression, not only on account of his numerous important avocations, but because I consider in all geographical matters that it is a virtue not to be expected that any one should take a profound interest in a country he has not himself visited, that being a virtue to which I could not lay claim if I were called upon to take the chair (hear, hear); and therefore I consider that the Archbishop of York does deserve much gratitude from the Fund. (Cheers.) On this occasion we must all deeply deplore the cause of his absence to-day, which is wholly occasioned by his having had to cross the Channel to Paris, only in time to reach the deathbed of a beloved brother. With regard to the occasion itself, the Report and the address you have just heard leaves very little to add beyond what you all yourselves understand from it. No doubt the great addition made to our knowledge by this very careful and extended map is the most important step the Fund has made in advance, because this is a thing which is unquestionably superior to anything of the kind which has been done by anybody; and it never can be undone, and it has been undertaken at a period in the history of Palestine which is most important, because one feels that in these half-civilised countries the progress of civilisation will tend to tear away and uproot many things which, unless they are chronicled now, will never be chronicled at all; and these records can therefore now be made with the greatest effect. You have also heard from the address of Lieut. Conder exactly the process by which this map is made. To any one who has been in Palestine his address is most interesting, as giving you a picture of the ups and downs and everlasting undulations of these rocky hills,

and of the precipitous valleys which so unexpectedly yawn before you. No doubt the process is exceedingly difficult, and it must be in many respects exceedingly wearisome, and often, as he has described it, not free from danger. (Hear, hear.) But I cannot help hoping for him and those engaged with him this reward. There is no other country in the world in which they could be employed, not only with such results, but with such constant and immediate results. The geography and the monuments of Palestine are the most interesting of any in the world, and the most thickly scattered—I think not even with the exception of Greece. Greece is the only country which can come into competition with Palestine in regard to the narrow space within which these crowded vestiges of antiquity are packed together; and therefore at every turn these explorers may expect to find something which, if not absolutely new, is exceedingly important for the purpose of making a complete survey. (Hear, hear.) I cannot help comparing Lieut. Conder's account of the survey before us with another work in which I happen to be engaged—especially when speaking of the length of time which it requires—and that is the revision of the authorised version of the Holy Scriptures. We count week by week, and month by month, the ground we get over; and so it is with this exploration of Palestine; and, as I trust, within the next ten years we shall in both these works have arrived at something like the same result. As regards the Map of Palestine, we shall have given all the results that can be arrived at in this our time in the most complete form; and as regards the revision of the text of our translation of the Holy Scriptures, we shall have brought to bear upon it all the light which modern scholarship can bring to bear upon the letter of the Holy Scriptures. (Hear, hear.) We shall thus have been equally successful with the land and the letter of the Bible. It is true that does not supply the spirit; but it is something to have the framework, and it is something to have the letter, and I trust we shall have that fully within the next ten years. (Cheers.) The first resolution will be proposed by Dr. Manning.

— The Rev. Dr. S. MANNING: The resolution I have to propose is to the following effect:—"That this meeting cordially approves of the action of the Committee, and of the efforts made by the exploring officers to carry out their instructions." This resolution implies two things: first, that the objects and aims of the Palestine Exploration Fund are deserving of our approval and support; and secondly, that those objects are pursued by the Committee and officers with laudable energy, discretion, and success. With regard to the first point there is little to be said here, especially in your presence, Mr. Dean, who by precept and example have shown us the value of topographical knowledge in the exposition of God's Holy Word. You have told us again and again in your writings how truth is to be illustrated by reference to the great facts of physical geography, and your writings have proved its importance in the elucidation of those documents upon which our most holy faith is established. (Cheers.) Though there will be no gainsayers to this proposition, a few

words may be permitted to me. We set ourselves to the exploration of the soil of Palestine with a view of confirming and illustrating the Holy Scriptures. Before we set ourselves to that work we must have a firm faith in the historical veracity and accuracy of those documents before submitting them to this crucial test. No system of falsehood, no system of semi-falsehood, can survive that test, because its inaccuracy must be exposed. If you could imagine any one testing the mythologies of India, Greece, and Rome by reference to the topography of their sites, their absurdity would be exposed to view—the bubble would burst at the instant of its contact with fact. If we come lower down, to the heroic period, and take the demigods of classical antiquity, and apply the same test, the myth would be obvious; it would not fit into the actual facts of geographical requirements. But we are perfectly secure of the Scriptures. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament will be found exactly to adapt themselves to the facts and requirements of the case. We have no fear whatever of exposing them to this crucial test; and the result has been to justify our confidence, to clear up that which is obscure, and to confirm what is doubtful; and if our faith needed a firmer basis on which to rest, we should find it in these investigations. (Cheers.) I may perhaps be permitted to give one or two passing illustrations, not to add to your knowledge, but to show the advantages of this Society. We read that when the great leader and lawgiver of the Jewish nation was approaching the end of his honoured career, he ascended the mountain of Nebo, and the historian says that the whole country lay stretched out before him from the extreme north to the extreme south of the promised land. The infidel of former ages said that this was a physical impossibility, and incredible; others, affirming that we have here a slender shred of fact around which myths had gathered, explained the narrative as merely an exaggeration of later ages; and our forefathers in defending the faith had to affirm the existence of a miracle. But the officers of this Fund, Canon Tristram and others, have found that it was neither impossible, nor improbable, nor even miraculous; and those who have climbed where Moses stood have found that the writer of Deuteronomy has supplied a guide-book to the map which lay stretched at their feet. (Cheers.) Again, we read that on the opposing heights of Ebal and Gerizim the law was recited—its blessings and its curses—from the opposing hills. This seems very improbable, very difficult to understand, very hard to believe, inasmuch that some writers have been eager to find another Ebal and another Gerizim where the event might have happened. We have but to visit the spot and all difficulty disappears. Here are two opposing amphitheatres, and you may stand in one or the other of them and try the experiment as I tried it last year myself, under circumstances the most unfavourable. Whether from the conformation of the spot, or the elasticity of the air in Palestine, despite all the difficulties of the case, not only could we in the valley hear the verses of blessing and cursing, but the readers on the opposite hills could catch the words with sufficient dis-

tinctness to take up the verses at the very point where the others left off. (Cheers.) The period in which we could most expect myth and legend to exist, if it exist at all, would be that of the great founders of the nation. Let us bring this to the same test. For instance, Abram and Lot are at Bethel about to divide the land between them, and we are told that from the point at which they stood they saw the rich and fertile plain of Jordan outstretched before them; beautiful exceedingly, as Eden, the garden of the Lord. When we look at the site of Bethel on the map, it is very difficult to understand that. We have but to visit the spot, however, and at once we have on the one side the barren rocks and wind-swept heights of southern Palestine, whilst the well-watered plain of Jordan in all its fertility and beauty is visible to the naked eye. (Cheers.) Take another instance in the life of the great patriarch. The announcement of the destruction of Sodom was made to him overnight, and he climbed the hill, and we are told he saw the smoke ascending. When we look at the map we find that long ranges of hills intervene between the two places, and it seems difficult to understand how this should be; but from the hill over Mamre, through a notch in the intervening chain, the whole of that district of the valley of the Jordan lies clear and plain, and the hot and quivering air is seen rising up distinctly from that very spot where Abram stood. (Cheers.) Glance at one of the poetical passages of the Bible, where the march of the Assyrians on Jerusalem is described. It is but an itinerary of the different villages from Anathoth up to Nob, just under the walls of Jerusalem. Step by step, by the officers of this Fund and other travellers, village after village has been identified, so that the narrative is proved to be a minute itinerary of that march, and the present names are in almost every case identical with those given us by the prophet. There is such a minute accord between the Land and the Book that they completely illustrate one another. Just as the pieces of a dissected map fit one to another, so do they coincide with the minutest possible accuracy. (Cheers.) We owe it to the labours of Captain Warren, Major Wilson, and Lieutenant Conder, that they have brought before us these elucidations and confirmations of the documents which form the basis of our faith and hope in Christ. (Loud cheers.) Admitting that the results have been of such value, yet, when we read that the resources of the Fund are so unexpectedly and sadly small, we cannot but feel that there is an idea abroad that the Fund is not doing the work we might expect it to do. Even those who are most earnestly desirous of a full exploration of Palestine stand aloof, look coldly, and speak doubtfully, when the question of supporting and contributing to this Fund arises. I would like to take the lowest statement I have ever heard, or that can be made, of the work of the Fund. I said to a gentleman in Jerusalem, who is earnestly devoted to this work, who is a warm and liberal supporter of it, and who has laid it under a heavy debt of gratitude by the services he has given it, "Will you tell me what is the net result of the explorations in Jerusalem? what is the sum

total of the amount arrived at?" This was last year. He said, "We began, believing we knew everything about Jerusalem, and that we only needed to fill in a few minute points of detail. We have now got so far that we know absolutely nothing. People were accustomed to talk about our church as the church on Mount Zion. I do not know where Mount Zion was." This must be taken with some limitation, because my friend is cautious and disposed to minimise results and magnify failures. That was his estimate. It came short of the truth. But even admitting its accuracy, I am disposed to say, Mr. Dean, that that is a great result to have obtained—to have detected errors—to have dispelled superstitious delusions, which have grown up age after age from the traditions and ignorances of the innumerable tribes and races who have held that hallowed spot in Jerusalem. We have not only to dig away vast mountains of *débris*, but to scatter vast clouds of prejudices. We must exorcise and cast out the idols of the cave before we can arrive at accurate knowledge; and it is only when error has been scattered that we can see facts in their true light. (Cheers.) Even if no more had been done than to disabuse our minds of false conceptions, and bring ourselves face to face with naked facts, this Society has done great and noble work. (Cheers.) But this was, I think, an under-statement of the work. It would not become me, who may be superficially acquainted with the operations of this Exploration Fund, to enter at great length to you, who know them better than I do, upon the actual results attained; but some of them have greatly impressed me. There is first that admirable contour plan in plaster of the rocky site of Jerusalem, giving us the actual surface and contour of the rock, as disclosed by exploration and borings. We have been dinned and pestered by endless disputations and discussions as to Acra, and the Tyropœon valley, and Zion, and Moriah, and other sites of Jerusalem, were bewildered with conflicting statements, and found that we were all groping in the dark. Now, though I do not mean to say that the sites of the Temple and the Holy Sepulchre have yet been decided, we have a sure basis of fact on which to rest, and with the contour plan before us, the time cannot be far distant when the topography of Jerusalem will be ascertained with certainty, finally and for ever. (Loud cheers.) And referring again to this survey of Palestine, in which there are from six to eight times as many names as are to be found in the best of all preceding maps, I think that is a matter for congratulation. (Cheers.) If the Fund had devoted itself to some sensational work—if some extraordinary discovery had brought out some exciting fact before the world—I believe its funds would have been in a much better position, because more people would have come to subscribe; but that would have been of incomparably less value than the work which we have now done. You will soon have the whole soil mapped out as the basis and groundwork of our future studies, and that is a work the importance of which it is impossible to exaggerate. And I would mention one point in connection with this, and that is the importance of putting down on paper the

names of the existing villages, which is of more value than it appears to be at the first glance. In Palestine nothing is more permanent than the names of places. Notwithstanding the influence of foreign invasion pouring over the country, the peasantry have retained the old scriptural names. Thus we find that Emmaus, whether the scriptural Emmaus or not, was known for centuries as Nicopolis, but it has now reverted to its ancient name as Amwās. Or take Bethshan, so memorable in connection with the history of Saul. After being called Scythopolis for centuries, it is now called Beisan, which is almost identical with the Bethshan of the Old Testament. And it is by no means impossible, even with regard to Jerusalem itself, that the same thing may be true. Its modern name of El Kuds may be but a revival of the name Cadytis by which it was known to Herodotus. This map is an invaluable result of the work of this Society; and we must, moreover, contrast the work done by the officers of the Fund, not with what has to be done, but with the means at their disposal. (Cheers.) If they had had exhaustless resources their work would have been quite equivalent to those resources. Remember the skill, energy, and versatility of resource which your officers have displayed, and the dull, stolid obstinacy of the Turkish Government. I consider they have displayed a courage and a fertility of resource which, on the battle-field, would have captured a city or won a campaign. (Cheers.) Imagine them sinking a shaft, and running a tunnel at an enormous depth, and creeping up holes from which a fox terrier might be excused for turning back in despair. I say that Captain Warren, Major Wilson, Lieutenant Conder, and Sergeant Birtles are worthy of the greatest admiration and all honour for the marvellous courage they have displayed in braving danger and surmounting difficulties. (Cheers.) But although so much has been done, it is as nothing to what remains to be done. There are Hebron, Machpelah, Bethel, the summit of Gerizim, with all its mysteries, and innumerable other sites as yet waiting to be explored. All this has to be done, but it cannot be done with the means at the disposal of this Society; and, as the Dean said, what has to be done must be done quickly. The result of my researches in Jerusalem is that the progress of the destruction of ancient monuments was never going on so rapidly as now. Wherever we turn we find bands of tourists with bags and hammers, hammering at the pillars of the temple, and they would carry off a chip from the altar of burnt-offering if it could be found. (Cheers.) A few years ago a line of wall was discovered—the famed wall of Agrippa; and we all know the great importance of the question where that wall ran. Those remains have disappeared—they have been carried away to build a new Russian convent and hospital, which is rising outside the Jaffa gate. Some time ago two monoliths were discovered outside the Jaffa gate, like those at Baalbec, hewn out of the rock. In consequence of the difficulty of removal they were left *in situ*, still attached to the native rock. Their measurements coincided with the description of Josephus. But one of those columns has disappeared.

It has been hewn and broken into pieces to build some cottages, near the Jews' almshouses which were built by Sir Moses Montefiore; the other remains *in situ*. A whole crop of legends are growing up around it, and it is being invested with a legendary and mythic halo, and it is safe. But this work of destruction is going on rapidly, and what is to be done must be done quickly—now or not at all. He who gives should give at once: he who gives quickly gives doubly. (Cheers.) With great confidence and earnestness I commend this resolution to your adoption. (Great applause.)

[The DEAN of WESTMINSTER having left the meeting, the chair was taken by the treasurer of the Fund, Mr. WALTER MORRISON.]

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee had such recent information of the cause of the Archbishop of York's absence from England that they had not very much time to get another chairman. We, however, asked the Dean of Westminster, who at once consented, but who has now gone to attend another meeting in the City, and I must ask you, therefore, to accept a less efficient substitute for him. I will call upon Mr. George Grove to second the resolution.

Mr. GEORGE GROVE: Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is very difficult for an unpractised speaker to follow an eloquent orator like Dr. Manning, but there are one or two things which struck me in Lieutenant Conder's Report, and I cannot help mentioning them to you as they struck me, because it appears to me that they form a strong testimony to the admirable manner in which this survey is being carried out, and the operations of the Committee and the efforts of the exploring officers are being executed. You will remember what Lieutenant Conder said about a new and large town being found, the existence of which was actually unknown and unsuspected before. It is perfectly impossible, it seems to me, that anything can be a greater testimony than that to what the exploration has done. There may be, and doubtless are, a hundred such cases in that little country; but that our exploring officers should suddenly come upon a large town, the existence of which was unknown, and the name of which has never come in any map before, is a proof that the efforts which they are engaged upon are quite worthy of being prosecuted. (Cheers.) Then I was much amused and struck with one thing. He said that they had overcome obstacles which baffled the great King of Assyria himself, when they came to the very ravine where Sennacherib laid up his baggage. Lieutenant Conder said "Never mind," and they went on, and have not been stopped by the ravine of Michmah, which stopped Sennacherib. That is the way he carries out his explorations. (Cheers.) There is another thing which has been mentioned by others, but which I think has not been sufficiently insisted upon. I myself have been editing, with the able and indefatigable help of Mr. Saunders, for Mr. Murray, a map of Palestine and the Holy Land. That map contains every name that we could scrape together with authority. Now we have cut out to-day a square of that map, equivalent to a square of Lieutenant Conder's map, and we find that while

my map contains 160 names, his contains more than 1,600 in the same space. (Cheers.) I do not mention that as casting any blame on to me or the map-maker; but there the map is, and this space of ground contains in Lieutenant Conder's map between eight and ten times the number of names which mine contained with all the information we could obtain before. (Cheers.) I think these are good indications of the way in which the survey is being carried out. What we proposed to ourselves when we started the Palestine Fund, was that we should get a map containing everything there was in Palestine, so that it should be the most accurate record of a country that was ever made, and that the Biblical places should be traced on the map by the modern names which, in nine cases out of ten, have been in existence from the remotest times to the present. I cannot describe to you the feeling with which I saw those sheets when they arrived the other day. I felt that one great object of my life, and that which I did so much for when I was better able, would be accomplished—and a man may take a pride in the accomplishment of the great object of his life. (Cheers.) We shall have at last the great thing which Dr. Pusey said was wanted,—an Ordnance Map of Palestine—that is a common term which every one understands. We shall have a map representing everything which appears above the soil,—every name, and every particular we can collect about every site. (Cheers.)

It is well that I should recall to you the machinery by which this is being carried into effect. We have Lieutenant Conder and a small party of surveyors, and Captain Wilson, who is better able to judge than I am, can tell you they are working as no party of surveyors ever worked before. They work not only during ordinary hours, but day and night, like men devoted to the employment, and they have worked at it, not because it was the thing they had to do, but because they liked to do it, and wished to do it. (Loud cheers.) Then there is Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake, who, though an amateur, is a devoted explorer. I am sorry to say the news received to-day of Mr. Drake's health is anything but reassuring, and it is doubtful whether, if he recovers, he will do any more work for us; but that is a reason why we should be more grateful to him. In a very self-sacrificing manner he has been with the party, and has done work which no other man in his position could do. (Cheers.) Then, before I leave the survey, I may say that if we get the money the map of the country on this side of Jordan ought to be finished in 1875. (Hear, hear.) The other side of Jordan is to be done by the Americans, who have raised £12,000 for the purpose. That, I think, is most encouraging to us, and ought to act as a good example. (Hear, hear.) But leaving the survey, I will go to Jerusalem, where M. Ganneau is carrying on the work which was begun so well by Captain Warren. That is more difficult than the other. A survey is a survey; you know what you have to do, although there are difficulties in the nature of the soil and the scrub; but in Jerusalem you have got that extraordinary fact that the old city is covered up, and it is only by boring

down and tunneling that you can find anything; it is all work in the dark; but the two men we have got there, M. Ganneau and M. Lecomte, are fully able to do that. (Cheers.) I do not think a more able, intelligent, and devoted person than M. Ganneau exists; I do not think even Lieutenant Conder himself is more so. I have known him for long,—he has lived in Jerusalem many years,—he is an excellent Arabic scholar, both in the literary and the vulgar Arabic, and is thus extraordinarily well fitted for the work he is about; and if we can get money enough to keep him there, we shall be sure of solid and substantial results with regard to the city of Jerusalem, which, after all, survey or no survey, must be the point of the greatest interest in Palestine. (Cheers.)

And now with regard to the money that must be raised for this. I do not think that any of you now present, or any one that thinks of these things in England, can realise the fact that we are *in want of money*. If we want £5,000 a year, spread over England, Scotland, and Ireland, it really is nothing. It is only for every one of you to realise and take home with you the fact that we want it, and we want you to get it from your friends. (Cheers.) We are at present in great difficulties. It is all very well to find in the report that we have received this year £300 more than last year, but our expenses are greater,—we have more parties of people at work in Palestine, and we must have more money to do it than we had when we had fewer men; and therefore I do appeal to you with all the earnestness that I am master of. (Cheers.) I should like to find,—notwithstanding what Dr. Manning has said,—some great piece of sensation there, such as that when we discovered that the real original Jerusalem was 150 feet below the present one, because I know that the report of that discovery in the *Times* brought us in more money than anything else, although in fact our actual results are more important than our sensational ones. (Cheers.) I hope my remarks have not been very tedious to you, and that you will take to heart what I have said, and that each one of you will resolve to do what you can to get us funds to go on with this great work. (Loud cheers.)

The Rev. Dr. PORTER: I cannot refuse to make a few observations on this resolution. As some who are here know, I take a very deep interest in Palestine, in everything connected with its history and geography; and especially I look upon that land as the scene where the greatest events that ever the world saw transpired; consequently it must be dear to the heart of every student of the Bible. For this reason especially it is dear to my heart. But I have made this subject a matter of special study for near a quarter of a century; I have spent a good deal of time in Palestine, and I believe, not even excluding Lieut. Conder, I am the most recent importation from the Holy Land. (Hear, hear.) It was only on Saturday that I arrived, after a journey of more than three months in the East, and I have gone over during that time a large portion of the country described by the speakers who have preceded me; and I must join my testimony to theirs in this respect, that such a map as is being prepared is abso-

lutely necessary for the student of the Holy Scriptures. (Cheers.) I had the pleasure of meeting M. Ganneau in Jerusalem. I saw there something of the work in which he was engaged, and I believe it to be of the deepest interest and importance to every one who would know Jerusalem thoroughly. (Cheers.) M. Ganneau is prosecuting that work with a rare enthusiasm, and I believe with a rare success. I have never seen any man enter so heartily into any work, or carry it on with so much tact and so much success. (Cheers.) With regard to the Survey of Palestine, it is my conviction that no one can take too much interest in such a work. I am here unexpectedly. I did not know anything of this meeting until yesterday, and I have been speaking Arabic for the last three months almost exclusively; but I am most anxious to show from my recent journey the absolute necessity of such a map as that which is being prepared by Lieutenant Conder. It was my privilege to travel with the best map of Palestine that has yet been made—that which has been referred to by Mr. George Grove, and which, through the kindness of Mr. Murray, was placed in my hands. I used it, and I found that not one-tenth of the places I discovered during my route in Palestine were marked upon that map. I shall give you a short sketch of the route I took. It was unusual; and being unusual, I shall point it out for that reason, because it is better fitted to illustrate the point I wish to put before you. I went from Joppa to Jerusalem, from Jerusalem to Hebron, and then down here, through this section [*referring to the map*] of the wilderness to Tekoa, and afterwards up the Jordan valley as far as the place where the River Jabbok enters the Jordan. Crossing the Jordan there, I ascended the highest point of Mount Gilead, where I had the most magnificent views—views which the old patriarchs enjoyed. I went along the western brow of the mountains of Gilead, and down here to Mount Nebo. I stood two months ago upon the summit of that peak, and I enjoyed the very view which I believe Moses enjoyed, and saw that land which he saw, but which he was not permitted to enter; and when I put a question to a well-known Arab chief, and asked him the name of this peak, I was delighted when he said it was called *Jebel Neba*. I looked down into a valley immediately to my right, and saw a fountain there. I asked the name of that fountain, thinking it might be in the valley in which Moses was buried, and he told me it was called *Ain Mûsa*, “the Fountain of Moses.” ~ (Hear, hear.) All this shows how absolutely necessary it is for us to have a full knowledge of the geography and topography of Palestine in order to see the minute accuracy of Scripture history. (Cheers.) I travelled from Nebo across the plain of Moab for some distance, and then took a course through this vast plain to Rabbath Ammon; here I found my map very defective. There were ruins everywhere around me of large towns and villages, but none of them appeared on the map. Then I went up in the course followed by Moses when he led the Israelites against Og, King of Bashan—following in his route, and in the route pursued by

Esau when he went to meet his brother Jacob; and I found that route, so interesting to us historically, an absolute blank upon the very best map of Palestine that has hitherto been published. (Hear, hear.) Now, is it creditable to Christian England, with all its wealth and its love of Scripture truth, to allow that section of the Holy Land to remain for so many ages a blank upon our maps? (Cheers.) In proportion to the veneration we have for our Bible, so ought we to contribute for the exploration and survey of that land. (Cheers.) I encamped upon the banks of the Jabbok, where Jacob had his wonderful vision; and then I struck out a new route, to visit a place which was dear to me in former days—Bashan—to visit those old giant cities, the existence of which some people do not believe. After some difficulties, and negotiations with Arab chiefs, we succeeded in securing an escort to conduct us from Gerasa over the mountains to Bozra, in the southern border of Bashan. I found at every step of my journey the remains of large towns, scarcely one of them noted upon any map. Then I journeyed northward, in footsteps I had followed before; and there, within a few miles of a city where I had spent some days sixteen years ago, I heard of the existence of a large town which I had never heard of before, the town of Siah, founded apparently by one of the Herods. I believe it was visited a few years ago by the Count de Vogüé. There I found a number of inscriptions, and, among others, a Nabathean inscription which my companion, Mr. Tombe, brought to this country. That shows the necessity of a minute survey of Palestine. (Cheers.) From Siah I came across the central plain of Bashan, and then in a zig-zag line across the northern portion of Gilead to Gadara. I not only found a great defect in the map there, but the most interesting sites misplaced—for example, Capitolias is on the map south of Arbela, when it should be north;—this shows how necessary it is to make a survey of that country. I came westward to Amatha, and then across the Jordan to Bethshean, and travelled by, to me, a new route, generally in the line of the Roman road, to Shechem, passing Tirzah, famed for its beauty in the Bible, and still famed for its richness in the present day. I then went by the ordinary route to Nazareth, Tiberias, and Damascus. The more I saw, the more I was impressed with the necessity of an accurate survey of the whole country. (Cheers.) There is an idea entertained by large numbers of Christian people in this country that Palestine has been so often visited by persons who are accustomed to investigate and explore, that there is no necessity for any organised Exploration Society to be sent abroad. This is a total, a complete delusion. I have spent as much time, as an amateur, in the exploration of Palestine as any man, and travelled there as much as any man not given to scientific pursuits; but it was impossible for me to explore thoroughly, even in the direct line of my route. For half a mile on each side I can see what ruins there are, but beyond that all is unknown except what I hear. If I pass through a mountainous country, beyond a height a quarter of a mile from me, there may be a large city, of which I know nothing. *It*

is only by an organised Exploration Society that the geography of Palestine can be thoroughly investigated. (Cheers.) We cannot fully understand the history contained in our Bible without a survey. Let any student take the Book of Joshua, and attempt to follow the descriptions given in it, or try to understand the lines of road and divisions there laid down, and he will find it impossible with our present knowledge of Palestine; but when we have a thorough survey made, then we shall be able to follow every line of route in any of the historical portions of the Bible. Or come to the Gospels—take the routes of our Lord—his routes through Galilee and Judæa, and you find that every illustration He makes use of is characteristic of the route He followed; and if you understand the scenery and the topographical features of the places in which our Lord spoke, a flood of light will be cast upon His words, and you will read Gospel history with a new and an absorbing interest. (Cheers.) I trust the people of this country will subscribe largely to this purpose. I do not see why £20,000 or £40,000 should not be contributed within the year, and this would complete the work at once. I trust, too, we shall not be content with surveying the western side of Jordan, but that we shall give some aid to our friends who have undertaken to survey the eastern side, not to take it from them, but to enable them to complete it sooner, for it cannot be accomplished too soon. (Loud cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure we are very much obliged to Dr. Porter; no one has done more than he has for our cause. Those who are in favour of the resolution will hold up their hands. (The resolution was carried unanimously.) I will now call upon Sir Bartle Frere to propose the second resolution. (Cheers.)

SIR BARTLE FRERE: The resolution which has been placed in my hands is this:—"Resolved, That this meeting receives with great satisfaction the report of the progress of the survey of Palestine under Lieut. Conder and Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake, and rejoices to learn the prosperity of the American Society, and the establishment of a German Association for the systematic exploration of Phœnicia." I think, sir, after what we have heard from the gentlemen who have already addressed the meeting, there can be very little doubt as to the satisfaction with which we have heard of the progress already made, and the impression which must have been produced as to the great importance of all those researches in almost every branch of Biblical knowledge. But on hearing what has passed, a question suggests itself to me: How comes it that this survey has been hitherto so very ill-supported? And I think the cause is not very far to seek. There is, no doubt, an impression abroad that this Palestine survey is rather a matter of *dilettante* personal interest to a small knot of persons. The reading world in England has not recognised the more than national importance of the work—that the work is of interest to every branch of Christendom; and if the impression Dr. Porter has described as made on him as to the defects of our general knowledge could be brought home to the general mass of readers

of the Bible, they would be impressed with the great importance of this survey to the inspired word of God, and as the foundation of what is of such immense personal importance to every one. (Cheers.) Then there is another cause which has interfered with the prosperity of the Fund, and that was alluded to by Dr. Porter when he spoke of the general impression that we know a great deal about the country. I would ask gentlemen who are not perhaps so well acquainted with Syria as with Italy, to remember if this was not exactly the case with regard to Rome. I remember when I visited Rome first—thirty years ago—you did not meet one Englishman out of ten who did not believe that everything about Rome had been learnt long before; but at the end of some months' residence in the city, they found themselves discovering that there was hardly an ascertained point in the classical history of the city. Since then much has been done on the lines which, I think, it is desirable to follow in this Palestine survey, and that is, by a most thorough investigation, a complete cartography on the largest possible scale. This has been carried out in England. At first, people were content with the maps in Camden's "Britannia," and then they got to county maps, and then, after a long process of time, we got to an Ordnance Survey; but I doubt whether until quite lately we have realised the waste of time, money, and energy which was incurred by beginning at the wrong end—by using bad maps, and eye-sketches, and only arriving by a gradual development to a better kind of map. I speak in the presence of gentlemen who will correct me if I am wrong, but I believe if you have money to spend on map-making it is the best plan to do it in the best way from the beginning—(hear, hear)—and just in the way Lieut. Conder has done. (Cheers.) If you refer to the greatest authority we have on this subject, Sir Henry James, he will tell you that if the survey of England had only been begun in the way in which it is now carried on, hundreds of thousands of pounds might have been saved, and enormous incidental advantages gained; and this is of greater importance to realise when we are so straitened for funds. (Hear, hear.) I have heard people say, "What nonsense, when we know so little of the country, to have such an elaborate survey!" On the contrary, any man who knows anything of the economical bearings of the subject will admit that those surveys we are now asked to make are the very most economical way of spending any money you have, whether it is much or little. That, I believe, is a point which any gentleman who is skilled in surveying and map-making will confirm. (Cheers.) The resolution has a second portion, which says that we rejoice in the prosperity of the American Society, and the establishment of a German Association for the systematic exploration of Phœnicia. I feel certain that all who have the prosperity of the work at heart will rejoice in this; but there is a feeling of dissatisfaction with ourselves. When we hear of £12,000 being raised in America, we ask, Why should we not have raised £20,000? It is difficult to find an answer to that. And when we see a German Association formed for the systematic exploration of Phœnicia, we may well look

to ourselves, and take care that we are not surpassed in this by our accurate, painstaking, and thoroughgoing German neighbours. (Cheers.) I ask those interested in the matter—having divided Syria and the work to be done between these three Associations—if they find that the work of other nations is done more quickly, more accurately, and more thoroughly than ours. It behoves us to do what we have to do—to finish in the most complete manner our part of the work, and then turn round and assist others. (Cheers.) I trust this resolution, in commending itself to this meeting, will incite every one to follow the track so well pointed out by Mr. Grove, and to look upon this as a matter of individual importance to every one. (Cheers.) Sir Henry James said that the Ordnance Survey never got a hold on the nation till we recognised the fact that every man could get a sheet and find the spot he was most interested in himself; and I will put it to the meeting if the map of Palestine is not of the intensest interest to every one, so as to make it a matter of thorough individual and practical interest to each one of us. (Cheers.)

Sir FREDERICK GOLDSMID: Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—I was about to express my regret that the task of seconding the resolution which has been moved by Sir Bartle Frere had not been put into more efficient and practised hands than my own, but there is no need for that, because on the present occasion everything that can be said has been already said by those practised speakers who have preceded me, and therefore I should be doing you the greatest service by calling your kind attention to and seconding the resolution which has been so ably spoken to by Sir Bartle Frere. (Cheers.) (The resolution was unanimously carried.)

The Rev. GEORGE WILLIAMS: I am called upon to perform a pleasing duty, in which you are to take part. I am asked to propose a vote of thanks to our two Chairmen, the Very Reverend the Dean of Westminster, and Mr. Walter Morrison, who has so ably succeeded him in the chair. I will not detain you with any words of my own, and I am quite sure the vote will be carried by acclamation. (Loud cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the Dean of Westminster and myself I must return you my thanks for the compliment you have paid us. The Dean has always been present at our meetings, and may always be depended upon to fill up a gap when we find ourselves short of speakers, and he has not failed us under the loss of our usual chairman to-day.
