

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

PREFACE.

THE Survey has been resumed, and is now in active progress, the party having been at work since the middle of October in the hill country south of Judah. This little-known region has yielded results of the greatest importance to the cause of Biblical topography. Among the identifications proposed by Lieut. Conder are especially that of Dhoheriyeh, with the Levitical city of Debir, on which Lieut. Conder writes with great force and clearness; that of Bezetho or Beth Zetho, 1 Maccab. vii. 19; Chozeba, 1 Chron. iv. 22; Maarath, Joshua xv. 59; Arab, Joshua xv. 52; Zanoah, Joshua xv. 56; the Rock of Maon, 1 Sam. xxiii. 25; and the Hill of Hachilah, 1 Sam. xxiii. 19. His reports may be also referred to for his valuable information on the Rock Etam, the Forest of Hareth, the wood of Ziph, and other places.

The Survey party have been searching for boundary marks round the Levitical cities of Juttah and Eshtemoa. No such inscriptions as those which rewarded M. Clermont-Ganneau at Gezer have been yet discovered; but, on the other hand, boundary stones, which may be ancient, are observed at Eshtemoa, and it is curious that at both places the cardinal points at the presumed Levitical distance are on hill-tops.

Lieut. Conder's discoveries in the Passages north of the Kubbet es Sakhra (pp. 7 and 11), and those of Mr. Maudsley on Mount Zion, promise to be of great importance in the topographical difficulties of Jerusalem.

The specimen of the new map published this quarter is of the Carmel ridge, one of the least known and most interesting parts of the Holy Land. It is on the scale of one inch to the mile, and contains about eight times the number of names to be found in any other map, besides the sites of ruins, ancient towns, vineyards, &c., upon it. One of the most important features in the new map—less important, perhaps, in this portion of Palestine than in those connected with the Books of Judges and Samuel—is the course of the ravines and valleys. A great step is taken in the issue of this specimen portion of the new map: it is an earnest of the whole, and the Committee are certain that its appearance will serve as an assurance to subscribers that the work is being carried out in the most thorough and complete manner.

The Committee in July last asked for £2,500 before the end of the year. Of this sum, up to the present date (Dec. 29th), less than £2,000 have been paid in, the total income of the Fund for the year being about £200 less than that of last year. Owing, too, to a great increase in prices in Palestine, the expenses of the two expeditions have been much higher than was anticipated, consequently the new year begins with a heavy load of debt. The Committee most earnestly beg their friends not to allow this Survey—the greatest work ever attempted in the Holy Land, a work for all time and the whole world—to languish for want of assistance.

NOTES.

M. Clermont-Ganneau landed at Marseilles early in December. He has brought with him the "Vase of Bezetha," of which a full account was given in the *Quarterly Statement* for October last; a cast of the supposed "Head of Hadrian;" two of the Gezer letters; and a very large quantity of inedited inscriptions and squeezes.

In the autumn it is hoped to publish in one large volume a complete account of his Archæological work in Palestine, with a great number of illustrations. Full particulars will be advertised. Meantime, a reduction in the price will be made in the case of subscribers, as was done with the "Recovery of Jerusalem," and names of those wishing to have a copy will be received at the office of the Fund.

The Report from the late Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake, published in this number of the *Statement*, was found after his death among his papers. It had not received his corrections, but is published as it was found.

His pamphlet on "Modern Jerusalem" has been now published by Mr. Stanford, 6, Charing Cross. It contains a report on the population, the industries, and the characteristics of the city, which will be read with great interest. It was written for the Committee of the Fund, but not published in the *Quarterly Statement*, as it appeared not to fall within the objects of the Society.

It is proposed to hold a meeting in January in order to review and discuss some of the latest work of M. Ganneau. When the day is fixed it will be advertised in the *Times* and other papers.

Lieutenant H. H. Kitchener, R.E., the successor to Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake, arrived in Palestine in November. The health of the party is reported to be good, with the exception of that of Sergeant Black, of whom, however, the latest report speaks favourably.

There are no new facts connected with the Shapira Collection. An eminent Semitic scholar, M. Neubauer, has added his voice to that of those who regard the inscriptions as forgeries (*Academy*, Dec. 12, 1874). So-called "Mouabite" pottery is now exhibited for sale at other places in Jerusalem besides the establishment of Mr. Shapira. Photographs of some of these have been brought home by M. Clermont-Ganneau. They are precisely similar to all the rest, no variety of type being presented in any yet sketched or brought home.

The researches of Mr. Henry Maudsley on Mount Zion (see Lieut. Conder's Reports, p. 7) have resulted in discoveries of great interest and topographical importance. It is to be hoped that he will be encouraged to carry on investigations which have been crowned with such great success.

The American Association have not yet despatched their second expedition. The Committee, however, are carefully considering their next step. It has already been reported that a far larger sum has been collected in the States than that with which our own Fund was started.

The amount received from September 22nd to December 22nd, from all sources, was £1,243 15s. 5d., being more than £300 a month, a rate which, if it could be maintained through the whole year, would place the Committee fairly beyond anxiety. The income always asked for is £5,000. The balance in the banks on the latter date was £107 6s. 3d. The expenses of the Survey amount, necessarily, and at the lowest estimate, to £200 a month.

A meeting was held at Manchester on Thursday, Dec. 17th, under the presidency of Mr. Hugh Birley, M.P., which was addressed by Mr. Grove, M. Clermont-Ganneau, Major Wilson, Rev. W. F. Birch, and other gentlemen. The meeting pledged itself to raise the sum of £500 for the Fund during the following year.

The Rev. William Wright, of Damascus, has kindly consented to act as Honorary Secretary for the Fund in that city. Dr. Chaplin has already for some years acted as the Honorary Secretary for Jerusalem, while the Consul-General at Beyrout and the Consul at Jerusalem are both members of the General Committee.
