



KURN SURTABEH (THE ALTAR OF ED)
LOOKING SOUTH THE DEAD SEA IN THE DISTANCE
FROM A SKETCH BY THE LATE C. F. TYRWHITT DRAKE.

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

PREFACE.

THE latest news from the Survey party is satisfactory. Lieut. Conder had removed from Jerusalem to the Wilderness of Judah, whither he was to be followed by Lieutenant Kitchener, who had completely recovered from a severe attack of fever. Sergeant Black has returned to England, and will be immediately replaced by another non-commissioned officer who has already been asked for. The reports furnished in the present number of this *Quarterly Statement* contain the Survey of Tell Jezer, a proposed identification of Bethabara (John i. 28), a paper on the Mediæval Topography of Palestine, a detailed account of Mr. Henry Maudslay's work on Mount Zion, and a report from Halhul which should have been published in the last *Quarterly Statement*.

The illustration which appears as the frontispiece is drawn from a water-colour sketch made by the late Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake. It represents the peak, now called Kurn Surtabeh, which Lieutenant Conder proposes as that on which the "Altar of Witness" was raised (see *Quarterly Statement*, October, 1874).

With regard to their financial position the Committee ask for the sum of £3,500 before the end of the year. This will enable them to clear off their debts as well as to support the Survey expedition.

Perhaps it would be possible for other towns to follow the example of Manchester and to endeavour to raise a definite sum.

While desiring to give all publicity to the suggestions of the exploring officers of the Fund, the Committee again beg it to be distinctly understood that they leave such statements to be accepted or not, on their own merits, and that their publication here of proposed identifications, conclusion as to tribe boundaries, theories in the date of any building, and such subjects, does not imply their sanction and adoption by the Committee.

NOTES.

A meeting was held on March 11th at the Theatre of the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, at which a paper by M. Clermont-Ganneau, on "Unknown Palestine," was read, the chair being occupied by Dr. Birch, F.R.S. The author, after enumerating some of the principal archaeological results of his expedition, plunged at once into the subject of his paper, which was an attempt to prove the lineal descent of the modern fellaheen from the Canaanites by reference to their language, their manners, customs, and superstitions, and by a comparison of the two invasions of Joshua and the Caliph Omar. The paper was heard with the greatest interest. It will be published, in the first instance, in the May number of *Macmillan's Magazine*.

The forthcoming work by M. Clermont-Ganneau will be the second great published instalment of the Society's labours. It will thus be the successor to the "Recovery of Jerusalem." Full particulars will be advertised in the next *Quarterly Statement*. Meantime, those who wish to possess the work may forward their names to the Secretary. It will be issued at a reduced rate to subscribers.

Lieutenant Conder reports that he has now duplicate lists of names in Arabic as follows:—

Jerusalem sheet	1,400 names.
Nablus	„	900 „
Jaffa	„	300 approximately.
Cæsarea	„	300 „

In all 2,900 names. The Jerusalem sheet was submitted to Mr. Noel Temple

Moore, H.M. Consul at Jerusalem, who very kindly went through it, finding only twenty corrections to make out of the whole, and these consisting of vulgarisms used by the fellaheen and purposely adopted by Lieut. Conder.

The Balance Sheet and Treasurer's Statement for 1874 will be found in their usual place. The Balance Sheet shows a larger expenditure on exploration than in any preceding year. The heavy debt under the head of Sundry Unpaid Accounts has already been reduced by £450.

The amount of subscriptions, donations, and proceeds from lectures and other sources paid to the central office from June 1 to March 22nd, was £1,439 14s. 5d. The balance of current account at the same date was £469 18s. 1d.

It will be a great help to the Committee if subscribers will kindly pay their subscriptions to the local secretaries or to the central office without waiting to be reminded.

The following are the Resolutions which have been passed by the Manchester Committee :—

“That this meeting warmly approves of the objects of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and pledges itself to use every exertion to raise the sum of at least £500 during the year 1875.”

“That the Committee are highly gratified to learn that there is a prospect of the £500 asked for at the Manchester meeting being raised, and that it shall be devoted to the outfit and maintenance of another special man on the Survey.”

“That an effort be made to raise the sum of £500 *as soon as possible*.”

Meantime up to the present date (March 20) the sum of £272 has been subscribed and forwarded to the central office. A new man has been asked for at the War Office.

Among Lieutenant Conder's reports will be found a special account of the discoveries made by Mr. Henry Maudslay, M. Inst. C.E. (whose name was erroneously spelt Maudsley in the last *Quarterly Statement*) of the rock scarp on Zion already referred to.

A part of the collections made in Palestine by Captain Warren, M. Clermont-Ganneau, and other officers of the Fund, will be sent in April to the Yorkshire Exhibition, which will be held in Leeds.

Many of the back numbers of the *Quarterly Statement* are out of print. Inquiries are constantly made as to the possibility of procuring complete sets. The Committee would be very much obliged to any subscriber who does not want his old copies if he will kindly forward them to the Secretary.

In the January *Quarterly Statement*, p. 6, the name of Dr. Thevictz is wrongly called Thevier.

Also, p. 51, *Lekiyeh* should have been placed opposite to *Giloh*: opposite to *Holon* should be *Hileh*. No identification has been as yet suggested by Lieut. Conder for *Goshen*.
