

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

PREFACE.

THE following pages contain the final reports on the survey of the south of Palestine, with accounts of Masada, Gaza, Gerar, the Shefalah, Gath, Adullam, Keilah, Ascalon, Ashdod, the Crusading sites, the caves, and Roman camps. The papers written by Lieutenant Conder and M. Clermont-Ganneau, separately, on the site of Adullam, will be found, between them, to give everything that can be urged in favour of a site whose identification, if it be accepted, will remove many difficulties.

The survey of western Palestine, which has occupied the Committee for four years and a half, now approaches completion. It is calculated that another year's work in the country will finish it completely. The work of the Americans will be fitted in to our own, and the whole may be expected to be published in the course of the next three years. As yet nothing has been decided as to the manner of publication.

In April last the Committee asked for £3,500 before the end of the year. One-third of this sum has already been received

since that date. Perhaps subscribers will remember that the summer months are comparatively barren, and that those who forward their subscriptions at once are helping the Committee to tide over the dead season. A great part of the debt has already been cleared, and the Committee look confidently to work it off completely before the end of the year.

NOTES.

While desiring to give every publicity to proposed identifications by officers of the Fund, the Committee beg it to be distinctly understood that they leave such proposals to be discussed on their own merits, and that by publishing them in the *Quarterly Statement* the Committee do not sanction or adopt them.

Annual subscribers are earnestly requested to forward their subscriptions for the current year at their *earliest convenience* and without waiting for application. It is best to cross all cheques to Coutts and Co., and if so crossed they may be safely left payable to bearer.

The Committee are always grateful for the return of old numbers of the *Quarterly Statement*, especially those which are advertised as out of print.

At a meeting of the General Committee held on June 22nd, 1875, Mr. William Longman in the chair, the following were added to the General Committee :—

The President of the American Association,

Rev. Dr. Joseph Barclay.

Mr. John Cunliffe.

Rev. F. W. Farrar, D.D.

M. Clermont-Ganneau.

Mr. Holman Hunt.

General Sir Henry James.

Mr. F. Leighton, R.A.

Mr. Henry Maudslay.
 Sir Charles Nicholson.
 Herr Petermann.
 Viscount Sandon.
 Dr. Sandreczky.

It was also resolved that the Executive Committee should in future all resign at the annual meeting of the General Committee in June.

The following gentlemen were then elected from the General Committee, to serve as an Executive Committee for 1875-76 :—

Mr. S. Birch, LL.D.
 Mr. J. D. Crace.
 Mr. W. Hepworth Dixon.
 Professor Donaldson.
 Mr. F. A. Eaton.
 Mr. Glaisher.
 Mr. William Longman.
 Mr. Henry Maudslay.
 Rev. Canon Tristram.
 Mr. W. S. W. Vaux, F.R.S.
 Capt. Warren, R.E.
 Major Wilson, R.E.

The honorary officers were re-elected.

The amount received from all sources from March 22nd to June 30th was £950 5s. 7d. The balance of current account at the latter date was £320 10s.

In the last *Quarterly Statement*, page 61, it was stated that the amount received from June 1st to March 22nd was £1,439 14s. 5d.; it should have been from *January* 1st.

M. Ganneau's paper has been unavoidably delayed in publication. It is expected to appear in the August number of *Macmillan's Magazine*.

The second American expedition is now (July 7th) in London on its way to Syria. It is commanded by Colonel S. Lane, who has with him the Rev. Selah Merrill, Mr. Treat, and Mr. Rudolph Meyer.

At Beyrout his party will be increased by the accession of a photographer. The graduated students of the Syrian Protestant College will act as his Arabic interpreters. The tract of country which Colonel Lane proposes to triangulate reaches from the south of the Dead Sea to Damascus, and has an average width of forty miles. He considers that two years will suffice for the completion of his survey.

Ladies desirous of joining the Ladies' Association are requested to communicate with Mrs. Finn, The Elms, Brook Green, London, W.
