

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

HELD AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTION, 10TH JUNE, 1875.

HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK IN THE CHAIR.

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

Mr. GROVE read the Report as follows:—

“The Committee rejoice in being enabled to report a year of uninterrupted progress and thoroughly sound work.

“The archæological mission of M. Clermont-Ganneau, for which his services had been granted for one year by the French Foreign Office, terminated in November last, when he returned to Europe.

“Reports of his labours were published as they arrived in the *Quarterly Statements* of the Fund; these will now be re-written and published in a single volume, which the Committee hope to issue in the autumn of the present year, when the importance of his discoveries will be fully recognised.

“The present work of the Committee consists wholly of the survey.

“A heavy loss was sustained last year in the lamentable death of Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake, which took place on the very day of the Annual Meeting. His place has been taken by Lieut. H. H. Kitchener, of the Royal Engineers.

“The party now consists of Lieuts. Conder and Kitchener, Corporals Armstrong, Brophy, and Junor, with a Syrian scribe.

“Field work was resumed in October in the hill country south of Judah, a little known and most important part of Palestine. It was interrupted for a short time by the extremely severe weather of January, but, by the last account received a few days ago, the Committee are enabled to report that in spite of this drawback the whole of the south country, including Philistia, with the exception of a very small area, is now completely triangulated. Fifteen hundred square miles have been added to the map since the last meeting. The survey has not been confined to map-making alone. Among the more important identifications proposed or confirmed by Lieut. Conder are those of the Hill of Hachilah, the Rock of Maon, Zanoah, Arab, Maarath, Chozeba, Beth Zetho, the Levitical City of Debir, the Cave of Adullam, the Tower of Ader, the Forest of Hareth, the Wood of Ziph, the Altar of Ed, the Ford of Bethabara, and many others. Some idea of the work done by the surveying party may be gathered from the facts that during the spring campaign alone 1,000 square miles have been surveyed, and 1,067 names, a very large number of which were previously unknown, have been collected.

“Further, Lieut. Conder reports in his last letter thirty new identifications, the details of which he reserves until he has been able to consult books. It will be understood that such archæological results as are obtained in the course of exhausting labours in triangulation must not be taken as part of the duty which the officers are sent out to execute, so much as additional proofs, if any were needed, of their zeal and ability. The real work for which Lieuts. Conder and Kitchener are responsible is the great map of Palestine.

“Two of the most valuable discoveries of the year are due to M. Clermont-Ganneau. The first of these is that of the boundary of Gezer. He has found *in situ*, and absolutely for the first time, the actual inscriptions marking the limits of a Levitical city. There are two of these, carved on the rock, in Greek and square Hebrew, and pointing probably to a Maccabean date, which contain the word Gezer precisely as it is written in the Bible. Casts of the inscriptions have been sent to England, and a full account of this precious contribution to Biblical research will be found in M. Ganneau’s new volume. This discovery is the more interesting as it confirms the theory which M. Ganneau had already advanced on the site of Gezer. The fact, also, that the name of the place is still Tell Jezer, furnishes another illustration of the vitality of Bible names. The second discovery is that of the city of Adullam. The name had been found and the place visited by M. Ganneau in 1871, and again in 1874. It was first mentioned in Captain Burton’s “Unexplored Syria” (1873). Lieut. Conder has now, acting on M. Ganneau’s information, visited and examined the site in the course of the survey.

“The identification of the Altar of Ed must not be passed over. This most striking recovery of a site mentioned only once in the Bible, and belonging almost to the earliest history of the Hebrew race, is entirely due to Lieut. Conder. Full particulars have already been published.

“The total area surveyed up to this time reaches the amount of 4,430 square miles, leaving some 1,500 miles still to be filled in. To this must be added the reconnaissance of the Negeb or south country, on the completion of which the survey of Western Palestine will be finished. The Committee can now with reasonable confidence promise that a complete and exhaustive map of the whole of Western Palestine—including, that is, nine-tenths of the scenes of the Bible narrative—will be brought to England in the autumn of 1876 and given to the world about a year later.

“This invaluable and enduring work will be the result of the subscriptions of private individuals united by the one common bond of being students of the Bible; it will be completed without State aid, and once finished will be a work for all time absolutely indispensable to every future student of the Bible. As the survey approaches completion the Committee feel more deeply thankful, not only that the necessary funds have been subscribed by their friends, but also that it has been carried on without hindrance or opposition, and up to the present time without any serious check.

“The Committee of the American Association are now sending out

their second expedition. It will be commanded by Colonel Lane, who will have under his orders Herr Rudolph Meyer, of Hamburg, as assistant surveyor, and the Rev. Selah Merrill as archæologist. The New York Committee have set aside the sum of £6,000 to meet the expenses for the two years which, it is believed, the survey of Moab and the country east of Jordan will require. It is worthy of remark that whereas most of our income is derived from one-guinea subscribers, the larger part of the money raised by the American Society has been subscribed by leading New York merchants.

“The Committee have to report that a special effort has been made in Manchester to raise the sum of £500, more than half of which, by the liberality of the residents in that city, has been already forwarded to the London office. The expenses of one man, Corporal Junor, will be wholly defrayed by the Manchester subscribers.

“The income of the Fund since the last annual meeting has been up to this morning, from all sources, £4,179 18s. 11d., and the amount received since the 1st of January is £2,163 4s. 5d., being £550 more than that subscribed up to the same date of last year. The cost of the expeditions in Palestine has been £3,500.

“The Committee have realised during the year, by the sale of their books and publications, the sum of £160. They have just published the eighth edition of their small popular book called ‘Our Work in Palestine.’

“The present year was commenced under a heavy load of debt but a diminished expenditure. About half of the liabilities have been already cleared off.

“Among the donations received within the last twelve months must be specially mentioned those of the British Association, the Syrian Improvement Committee, Mr. Charles Morrison, the Grocers’ Company, and an anonymous donor whose initials are “G. M. E.” These have each given £100 to the Fund. Dr. Peter Wood, Miss Chafyn Grove, and the Mercers’ Company, have also given £50 and 50 guineas respectively.

“The Edinburgh Local Association has sent £100, Leeds £65, and Newark (an association of ladies) £77, and smaller sums have been received from other Local Associations.

“To these donors, to the city companies, to the hon. secretaries who have given their personal exertions to the cause, and to all their friends and subscribers, the Committee desire to express their most sincere thanks.”

The CHAIRMAN: My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is not my fault that I occupy this chair again this year. It would have been much more in accordance with my feelings if I could have made way for some worthier person instead of occupying this responsible post. I have no pretension to be connected with the inner working of this Society, for I feel myself rather in this position to represent the figure-head of the ship, while Mr. Grove may be likened to the engine that gives it its rapidity and successful motion. At the same time, in zeal for the

objects of this Fund, I yield to none. No member of this Association watches its proceedings with a greater wish for its success than I do myself. I am obliged to repeat what I have said in former years, because it is necessary for the chairman to say something of the general purposes of the Association. I have, however, first to mention that I have received a letter from that venerable man, Sir Moses Montefiore, who regrets his inability to attend the meeting, and I have also a letter from the Rev. William Wright, who was advertised to speak at this meeting, but who finds he cannot attend. I shall presently give way to the Earl of Shaftesbury, and no one is more fully entitled to speak to a meeting of this kind than the President of the Bible Society, because we are in our way a kind of Bible Society. We have also to-day to welcome the Rev. Dr. Barclay, who for many years lived at Jerusalem, and who there welcomed and assisted our explorers to the utmost of his power. We have also the presence of Captain Burton, who has been our Consul at Damascus, a gentleman whom it would be impertinent in me to praise, whose reputation is of European growth, and who, I am sure, does not require a word of mine to introduce to you. We have, moreover, to welcome the Rev. Horrocks Cocks, who has paid great attention to this subject. I will now proceed to discharge my duty in the best way in my power. This Society was instituted some years ago for the purpose of increasing our knowledge of the Holy Land, and at our first meeting it was surprising to listen to the testimony of people representing almost every field of human knowledge to the effect that we knew very little about the Holy Land. Many had visited it, and a great deal of excellent and accurate work had been done, and if I were permitted to lift my hand I could point out some of the principal explorers in that sacred country. But they found that they could do but little. The work of exploration in Palestine is attended with great expense, great risk to health and life, if continued month after month and year after year; and it was found that there must be some organisation with a good long purse in the background, so that when one investigator is weary another might be found to take his place. I am obliged to say it is not merely that weariness may overtake them, but sometimes they sink under their exertions. Only a year ago Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake, as you know, lost his life in our cause. The Society whose claims we are now considering takes its origin from the meeting I refer to, and there is no cause, on the whole, to say that we have been unsuccessful in the high task we then proposed to ourselves. It is very true that persons who do not accurately attend to the subject might have expected greater and more sudden results; not those who did give attention to it, and who knew the country, because they knew that the work would necessarily lie underground, and that work of this kind is necessarily slow and difficult; and as Sir Henry Rawlinson said at one of our meetings, our explorers are not always very welcome to householders in that country. I am sure we can well understand that, for if I knew that a gentleman was burrowing 100 feet under York Minster, it is very probable that I should wish to

go down myself and put a stop to his operations; and we find that persons in Jerusalem take the same line of action. We have done a good deal of exploration in Jerusalem itself. Those among you who have looked at our *Quarterly Statements* and the Reports of Major Wilson and Captain Warren, and particularly the book called "The Recovery of Jerusalem," must have come to the conclusion that a great deal has been done by this Society in the way of actual exploration. But we have for the last three years turned our attention in another direction—namely, to the survey of the country of Palestine. We depart somewhat from our original undertaking about the poetry and romance of exploration, in comparison with which a survey of the land is a most prosaic thing. The signification of the names of places, and putting them upon the map, would appear to be no better or worse than going on our own hill-tops and making an ordnance survey of England. Nevertheless, I may appeal to every geographer and man of science whether we have not taken the right line in endeavouring to get a great work completed upon which many future discoveries might be hung. And here, to our general astonishment, we find that we had a great deal to do. The outer black line shown upon that map on the wall marks out what has been already *triangulated*. There is a little portion at the bottom which has not yet been done, but all the rest is as correctly laid down as our own ordnance survey of England. Now, I do say this is the very work for the people of England to undertake. The people of England have done more for the Bible than any other people in the world. They have circulated more copies over the face of the earth, and I believe they have read it more than any other people; and, if so, our going on to pay attention to the scene or stage upon which the great events recorded in the Bible transpired was a natural and logical proceeding on our part. We pride ourselves on being a logical people, and on a belief that no obstacles can daunt us. If there is a mountain higher than the rest in all the world, half a dozen Englishmen will be sure to be climbing up it. If there is ever an expedition involving some kind of danger in it, an Englishman is sure to volunteer to go upon it. It was said that people could not be found to go in the Arctic Expedition which has recently left our shores, but it was soon found that there were not only plenty of volunteers well qualified for the work, but others who it was thought would not be able to survive the rigors of the climate, and who were rejected on that account. And in like manner we have gone in for this Survey of Palestine. I will admit that it has cost a great deal of money, and people may say, "Oh, your box of ointment might have been sold for a great deal and given to the poor, and there are many things that you might have given your money for which would have been better than that." But I do not admit that argument. It is always used in the wrong place, and by the wrong people. It is used by those who wish to give to the poor, but it is not as if there was only one purse. The wealth of the earth is great, and the wealth of the people of England is enormous, and the wealth we have drawn from it is not worth mentioning. What is the money spent for a purpose like

this to the honour and glory of the people of England. What is it to the 130 millions of money which they spend for their drink every year? But I approach the subject from a totally different side. So far from taking money from higher and better objects, if higher and better there be, it is taken for the purpose of increasing our interest in that religion which we profess, and to which we belong, and to give a higher aim and open fresh sources to our benevolence, so that the poor will still take the benefit of our exertions, and a purer tone of thought will be created about these things. Therefore on that score I have not the slightest sympathy with the objectors to our proceedings. We are striving to get a rich nation, which is spending thousands and thousands on its amusements, to spend a little in order to put on record an object worthy of the nation. But we are no monopolists. Every man, whatever his profession or religion may be, or whatever country he belongs to, may co-operate with us. It is true that an archbishop of the English Church occupies the chair of your Committee, but on that Committee are members of the most various denominations, and there is only one qualification for a supporter of this Fund, that he shall feel an interest in the land of the Bible, and a desire to promote a knowledge of that land. With regard to other nations, I may remind you that while we are exploring Palestine on one side of Jordan, the Americans are exploring it on the other side. And we have here a proof of what I wish to draw your attention to, and that is the power we have to raise up an interest in the subject in others who have not yet taken an interest in it. Here are two great peoples busy in exploring Palestine. America is a younger sister of England, and, I say it with great respect, perhaps a little emulous of her elder sister; but she does not sit down and grumble at what we are doing, she wishes to take a share in our work, and, in fact, we are working in entire harmony; and when the question was asked about the copyright of the map which we shall produce together, it was answered immediately that there is not the slightest reason to suppose that our American brethren will offer any difficulty in that respect. That is, of course, very delightful, and it will do a great deal of good in every way. I have a little sheet here, issued by Mr. Henry Maudslay, who has been exploring at his own expense, which is most valuable and important; and I dare say Mr. Maudslay would admit that the fact of our having paid attention to the subject turned his own attention to it: so that besides the work we do ourselves, we stimulate enterprise and interest in this direction, and I have no doubt we shall in time have a great many explorations going on besides our own. With regard to this Survey of Palestine, it may be supposed after all that there is very little to do beyond the triangulation of well-known sites. I do not pretend to give an explanation of the operations of surveying, but I know it is a great organised system of research, and that it requires the very closest research. It is all very well for a policeman to walk up and down Regent Street, but that is a very different thing from a house-to-house visitation and exploration of the lanes and alleys adjoining it. We have to search

in every hole and corner of the country and see what is there, and classify everything in proper form. We know that in the best maps of Palestine eight fords of the Jordan are marked, but we have ascertained that there are about fifty across the river. What is topography if it does not give the roads and passages across the country? Upon the whole, not to detain you longer, our object is to know Palestine through and through, to work with every one who will assist us; and our reason for turning to Palestine is that Palestine is our country. I have used that expression before, and I refuse to adopt any other. That is my country, which has given me the laws by which I try to live—which has given me the best knowledge I possess—that is my country, to which I look for rules in the conduct of my life—in which has dwelt my King and my Lord. England is my country, I know it and feel it, but Palestine also is my country. I am sure you all know and feel as I do, and that is the reason you take such an interest in the quiet work of this excellent Society. (Cheers.) I have now great pleasure in calling upon the Earl of Shaftesbury to move the first resolution. (Cheers.)

The Right Hon. the EARL of SHAFTESBURY, K.G.:—May it please your Grace, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It has always appeared to me a matter of great wonder in past times that men did not rush by common consent into the exploration of the Holy Land; but since the discoveries which have been made, and the certainty of greater treasures which are yet to be developed, I am perfectly astonished that our Report should only represent an income of about £4,000 a year—and as to those antagonists of this Society who complain of the waste of money which we expend on foreign objects, I repudiate it altogether. Gentlemen of that kind might well be informed of the advice which Bishop Stanley, of Norwich, gave me many years ago. He was often pestered by similar remarks, but he said, “Whenever I give a guinea to go across the water, I give a guinea to be spent on this side of it.” These are convenient arguments which cover parsimony under a pretext of discrimination. I have not in this matter any great geographical or antiquarian knowledge; though I have a strong antiquarian feeling on the subject. I have always considered this question upon a broader basis, and therefore this resolution is one of the most satisfactory I ever moved in my life, although the words in which it is expressed are somewhat too weak to express my feelings:—It is “That this meeting cordially approves of the action of the Committee, and pledges itself to use every effort to carry the survey to a successful termination.” Now, *approval* is much too weak a word; we ought to have one far more powerful to express what we feel. And then, as to the successful termination of our work, we must use a stronger expression than that we *pledge ourselves* to bring this about. Let us not delay to instruct our friend the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Grove, to send out the best agents he has in his power to search the length and breadth of Palestine, to survey the land; and if possible to go over every corner of it, drain it, measure it, and, if you will, prepare it for the return of its ancient possessors, for I must believe that the time cannot be far off

before that great event will come to pass. We have there a land teeming with fertility and rich in history, but almost without an inhabitant—a country without a people, and look! scattered over the world, a people without a country. I recollect speaking to Lord Aberdeen, when he was Prime Minister, on the subject of the Holy Land; and he said to me, “If the Holy Land should pass out of the hands of the Turks, into whose hands should it fall?” Why, the reply was ready, “Not into the hands of other powers, but let it return into the hands of the Israelites,” and surely there are signs to show that the time is near at hand when the Lord will have mercy upon Zion. I had once a conversation with that grand old Hebrew, Sir Moses Montefiore, now in his ninety-first year, but yet on the point of starting again on a pilgrimage of mercy. I had a conversation with him a few years ago, and we entered upon the whole subject of the Jewish question. A more liberal-hearted man does not exist on the face of the earth. I see in him a concentration of the spirit of the Maccabees. “The future of the Holy Land,” he said, “is this: Give us security for life and property, and the Jews will return and take possession of their ancient territory.” I have had letters to a similar purport from the Bishop of Jerusalem, who will no doubt confirm what I say. The number of Jews who have already returned to their land is considerable. Villas are growing up in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem, they are occupied by Jews, and I hear that there is manifested a great inclination among the Jews in all parts of the South and the East for their return to the Holy Land, whenever they are assured that the Turkish Government will be not only able but willing to carry into effect the measures which have been ratified in their behalf. I do not wish, far from it, to disparage the labours of those men who hitherto have been engaged in the exploration of Palestine. On the contrary, I am astonished at the skill, diligence, and ability they have manifested, and I feel that everything they have added to our knowledge of the country is so much added to our knowledge of revealed truth, and, therefore, their exertions are to be spoken of with the highest gratitude and esteem. But I cannot help saying that we want to go much farther than the point they have reached. We may be told that we are impatient, and that we are not prosaic enough. I admit all that, and yet I cannot restrain myself, when I have such an object before me, from a desire to go into the matter deeper and deeper, so that not the coasts only, but the very bed of the River Jordan, should be explored; but, more than all, do I want to get, where we shall get at last, into the Mosque of Omar itself, and dive down into the cellars and recesses which are excavated in that limestone rock. I have heard from Jews, living on tradition as they do—and some of their traditions are well-founded—that the Ark of the Covenant is yet to be found there. They know that it was never taken away—there is, at least, no record of it—either in the time of Nebuchadnezzar or of Titus. Then, how could it disappear? The priests regarded it as the holiest of all their treasures; they hid it in some hour of peril in the vaults of the rock on which the Temple was built.

The priests who did it, so runs the belief, were slain in the siege, and the secret perished with them. At any rate, it is well worth our looking for; and if it could be brought to light—that grand old Ark of the Covenant—good heavens! what a discovery it would be! What an evidence in a day of trouble, of rebuke, and of blasphemy! This is particularly an age in which all our thoughts, and the whole of our hearts, are given to the present, indifferent to the past, and regardless of the future; but if we can bring men's minds to look back with reverence to days gone by, we shall, as Dr. Johnson says, have advanced somewhat in the dignity of thinking beings; and it might create in the minds of many people that strong desire expressed in the happy and burning words of old Moses, "Lord, I pray thee let me pass over and see that good land," that goodly mountain, and Lebanon. I can only say that such feelings have passed through my own heart thousands and thousands of times. My old age is on this point not much tamer than my early life, nor am I singular, for I believe you will find, among the great mass of our people, thousands who read and love their Bibles, and who have a burning affection for that land, over whose "acres walked those blessed feet which eighteen hundred years ago were nailed, for our advantage, to the bitter Cross." It is somewhat remarkable the passion which people in my own county of Dorsetshire have for Hebrew names, so delighted are they to be connected with the Old Testament. Thus, in my little churchyard, there is a tombstone, which I have often shown to strangers, with this inscription: "To the memory of Methuselah Coney, who died at the age of twelve months." The love they have of Bible names neglects all consistency. Who would speak in disparagement of the antiquities of Mexico, of Greece, or Rome? but none of these can lead us to the sentiment which must be derived from the antiquities of Palestine, to the sanctifying effect of such researches, and which must excite solemn and reverential feelings in the heart of man. I may be speaking only my own sentiments, you may perhaps not all sympathise with me, but if so, I can only apologise for warmth of expressions which come from the depths of my own heart; and I cannot stand forward to move a resolution of this sort without saying thus much. And here, to conclude, I wear upon my finger something which hourly reminds me of these truths. When Dr. Alexander, the first bishop of Jerusalem, himself a Hebrew, went to the Holy City, he found one man, and one man only, who was cunning to engrave. That one man presented to him a small square bloodstone, which you see here on my finger, very rudely carved. Knowing the zeal I felt in the welfare of Israel, he sent it to me in a letter, and I have had it set, and wear it in a ring, which I hope to transmit to my posterity. On that stone is engraven—and I may point it out as a ground of union between us and the poorest Hebrews, though they believe but one half of the Bible—you will concur with me in the prayer which is engraved upon it—it will, I trust, be the prayer of all this assembly—"Oh, pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee." (Cheers.)

The Rev. Dr. BARCLAY:—My Lord Archbishop, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—When the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund did me the honour of inviting me to second this resolution, I naturally turned over in my mind what I ought to say, and a story flashed across my memory, which was once told me by a clerical friend of mine. Many years since, some friends of his were travelling in Palestine, and he directed a letter to one of them in Jerusalem. Two months elapsed, but he received no answer. Another month passed by, and there was still no answer. He then went to the village post-office, and asked the post-mistress if she had seen such a letter. After thinking the matter over, she said, “Oh yes, that is the letter I have upon the shelf. I have not posted it, because I knew Jerusalem was a place in the Bible, but I did not think it was a place on earth.” The schoolmaster has been abroad since then, but people are not altogether so wise as they should be now. Five years ago I was living with my family in Jerusalem, in which holy city some of my children were born; and there were people who saw them afterwards, not perhaps with disappointment, but with surprise that they were not born black. Now, the Americans have done much to spread the Bible abroad, and we cannot know too much about its history and geography. When an American minister proves to be a useful man to his congregation, they put apart a certain sum of money to send him to Palestine, on the condition of his writing to them a series of letters describing what he sees: and they consider that money has been well invested, for they feel that a religious teacher ought to be stored with information. But the majority of book writers cannot speak the language of the country when they get to Palestine, and they are therefore cut off from information, and are obliged to rely upon their dragomen. These men are very polite, and give them every information they think they desire, but the Arabs sum up their position by saying that “unless a man speaks the language of the country he is in danger of dying of starvation.” All the information we have got respecting Palestine does not satisfy the increased desire for further enlightenment on this important subject; and we especially want an accurate Ordnance map and survey of the whole country. Some people have an imaginary Palestine of their own, and do not want to go too much into detail about it. I have met with clergymen who have declined to visit Palestine because their minds are so made up about its geography that they do not wish to be disturbed in their ideas. Such persons have a paradise of their own, in which they live, but we want men who are competent to seek after truth, and they cannot seek after truth in a better land than Palestine. It is the whole earth in miniature, for while you have perpetual snow on the summit of Lebanon, you have, perhaps, the hottest spot on earth in the neighbourhood of the Dead Sea. In the mountains and valleys, also, we have a variety of climates, which are not met with anywhere else. All animals can live there; all plants can grow there; and a ride of a few miles will take you to another atmo-

sphere. Besides, Palestine is a special object of interest to the devout mind. When you turn to the Bible you find it said, "It is a land the Lord thy God careth for; the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year." "Careth for," in this passage means "seeketh after," and consequently it ought to be an object of interest to us. I am sure that underlying this movement there is a desire to know more and more of Palestine, and it is with this object that different explorations have been made in different parts of the country. I remember, by the kind permission of Captain Warren, going down the shafts which were sunk under Jerusalem, and particularly under the south-eastern wall of the Haram enclosure, and I shall never forget the wonderful feeling I experienced in seeing the red-paint marks upon the stones, as fresh as if the workmen had just left them. I felt as if Hiram and Solomon were quite close to me. When we investigated the fallen arch in the Tyropœon valley, we searched the court pavement for the ruts of the carriage wheels of ancient times, and it brought before us vividly the scene when the Temple was in flames, and Titus was standing in the outer court expostulating with the Jews and entreating them to spare the upper town. In exploring Jerusalem, my Lord Shaftesbury has touched upon one important point. We have still to get under the Mosque of Omar. I do not think the arguments I have heard, and which his Grace has alluded to, are valid ones. There is under the "Dome of the Rock" a place with a slab laid over the entrance, and if we could lift that up and let a man down, we might make important discoveries. I have often remonstrated with the keepers of the mosque, and tried from time to time to induce them to let me go down, but the answer was, "My beloved, we love you too much to let you do that; we do not know what might occur to you. There was once a sultan from Egypt who went into the Cave of Machpelah, and there he saw Sarah sitting up combing her hair, and she struck him blind." "Well," I replied, "you have more concern for me than I have for myself." "Even so, my beloved," was the reply. There is, however, still another work to be done in Jerusalem, and that is the exploration of the second wall. Captain Warren made some excavations in this direction, but he could not find the continuation of the wall. But, twelve years ago, I was commissioned to build a house in Jerusalem, and the plans were sent out to me from England. It was to be built on the northern slope of Mount Zion. We excavated to the depth of 39 feet, and could not find a foundation; but after a time we came upon the remains of an old tower, in what we thought was the wall. I had neither the means nor the time to engage further in the exploration, but we made it into a cistern to contain rain-water. But, even supposing that to be the second wall, it would only obviate one objection to the Holy Sepulchre, it would not prove the genuineness of the present site. Time would fail me to allude further to these excavations; but it is most interesting to

think of any spot on which our Lord stood. The question is often asked, "Can you show us, amid all these traditions, any place where our Lord stood?" Now, as you go out to Bethany there is a road on the hill-side, cut in the solid rock; an old Roman pavement remains there now, and a gentleman of eminence and knowledge of this question rode out with me upon this road, and when we came to the spot where our Lord must have passed, he said, "I cannot ride over that place: will you hold my horse?" and he walked over it. I hope, by the exertions of this Society, we shall arrive at a true solution of the dimensions of the Jewish cubit. With regard to the other discoveries which have been made there is specially that one of the Moabite stone, which I look upon as a page from Josephus himself. And, with regard to Josephus, I may say that I went to Palestine with a prejudice against that author, but I have tested him, so far as his topography is concerned, and have found it correct, and therefore my estimate of his accuracy has been increased a hundredfold. The more we investigate these things the more we shall be able to realise the facts of our religion, for it is a system of facts. Before I sit down I will venture to express what I think is the feeling of all Bible scholars, that we owe the greatest gratitude to Sir Henry James and his officers for the work they have done in Sinai. We have now established without doubt the site of the giving of the Law. What we wish done for Palestine is the same that was done for Mount Sinai; but we must not forget that this is expensive work, and that we want money. There is not only the cost in money, but the wear and tear of human life. Some of our explorers have given their lives to this work and are now sleeping their last sleep there till the roll-call of the Great Captain; and others may have to suffer in the work. It is a very difficult thing to make explorations amongst old ruins, but the men selected to do the work of this Society have been the right men in the right place. They have felt their responsibility, and they have done their duty. Everywhere throughout the world people are now waiting for the result of this Survey, and I have no doubt the speech of the noble Earl this day will find a response, for it is written, "Thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof." (Cheers.) I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Capt. R. BURTON: Your Grace, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—Almost at the last moment your excellent Secretary, my good friend Mr. Walter Besant, sent me an "immediate" inviting me to speak about the trans-Jordanic region, and gave me the following resolution :

"That this meeting has heard with great satisfaction of the despatch of a second expedition by the American Association for the exploration of the Holy Land, and heartily wishes it every possible success."

As this meeting well knows, that part of Syria has been the happy hunting ground of your Anglo-American colleagues, who propose continuing their researches. They will doubtless prove formidable rivals

in the extent and value of their discoveries. The invitation so kindly conveyed orders me to renew a great sorrow. I had, as early as 1870, proposed to myself two trans-Jordanic trips. The first was to the great plateau of central Arabia, known as El Nejd, on a line a little north of that taken by Mr. Gifford Palgrave, whose charming book is in the hands of every one. But his geography is perhaps the loosest on record; he gives us no intelligible account of the mysterious region El Jauf, or the "hollow," an exceptional feature which, from the reports of the Bedawin, I am disposed to consider a great meridional depression corresponding in lay and length with the Jordan Valley, but wanting the river. To this feature especially I would draw the attention of our future travellers. The picturesque pages of Mr. Palgrave give no notice of the Roman, or rather the classical ruins which are said to extend from the Haurán to the highlands of El Nejd. I have often been assured of their existence by the Bedawin, who compared them with the Kasr el Hayr, the ruin near Karyatayn, on the way to Palmyra, and for a description of the latter I venture to refer you to Mrs. Burton's book, "Inner Life in Syria." The walls are reported to be "mukattab," that is, covered with inscriptions. The second excursion which I had kept for myself, and which I now recommend to others, is a visit to El Hijr, the district lying south-west of the Dead Sea, on the road to El Medinah. It is annually traversed by the great pilgrimage caravan which travels from Damascus to Meccah, and I had made all my arrangements to travel with the Arab chief who escorts the Tayyáreh or flying caravan sent to relieve the returning pilgrims with provisions and medical comforts. The strangest tales are told concerning El Hijr, and yet, though many have proposed visiting it, the tract remains unexplored. Thirty years ago the Ritter von Kremer, at the recommendation of that most distinguished Orientalist, Baron von Hugel, went to Damascus for the purpose, and was deterred by the large sums demanded from him. Lately at Bern, in Switzerland, I passed a couple of days with my kind friend Professor Aloys Sprenger, and we discussed at full length the wonders of El Hijr. I only hope that our Anglo-American collaborateurs will not neglect to borrow some of his local knowledge. Finally at Basel I strongly advised my young friend Prof. Socin, so well known by his travels from Damascus to the Euphrates, to attack El Hijr. He is one of the best men for explorations amongst Arabs, as he knows them thoroughly. The following two anecdotes may prove his tact and *savoir-faire*. On one occasion when a revolver was stolen from him he procured its restitution by threatening the Shaykh with a reference to Constantinople, and he punished him by the fine of a dollar by way of permit to his servant. They who know what the Bedawi thinks about a "stone dollar," as he calls it, will appreciate the just severity of the proceeding. On another occasion his escort attempted to desert him, when he cocked his rifle and declared he would shoot the first mare that moved. Had he said the first man, all would have laughed at his beard, but they thought much more seriously

about the murder of a mare. Mohammed, as many of you know, when passing through El Hijr, hooded his head, veiled his face, and hurried at full speed to escape from the phantoms which appal the sight, and the terrible voices which shriek in the wayfarer's ear. He declared it to be an accursed land, and every caravan, I am told, still follows his example. I would suggest that the idea arises from the number of statues and figures carved in the rocks. The peculiar measure of converting Damascus, the metropolis and head-quarters of Syria, from a consulate to a vice-consulate, caused my recall in 1872, and lost for me the chance of visiting the Nejd and El Hijr. But the glory of a discoverer is not the small addition to general knowledge which his individual efforts may secure; his aim is to excite emulation, and induce others to labour in the field which he has opened up. A certain book called "Unexplored Syria," has, I am told, had this effect, and has sent to Palmyra many students who before never thought of going there. The same, I hope, will be the result of a translation of Dr. Wetzstein's "Reise" to Haurán and the (two) Trachones. He describes and figures a world of ruins which is now passing away; the next generation will probably see nothing of these weird and ghostly basalt walls, which, deserted a thousand years ago and more, look as if the tenants had passed from them yesterday. These wondrous buildings, in which the hardest stone was worked like wood, are being pulled to pieces by the Druzes, and other races, to make their miserable cots. I will not call them, with the Rev. Dr. Porter, "the giant cities of Bashan"—in fact I hold, with Mr. Freshfield, that they are not "giant cities" at all. But I strongly recommend them to Colonel Lane. Another book is about to appear, and you will hail its appearance. The irreparable loss which the Palestine Exploration Fund, not to mention individuals, has sustained in the death of my lamented friend, that noble worker, Charles F. Tyrwhitt Drake, need not be enlarged upon in your presence, especially as it has been alluded to by Mr. George Grove. His widowed mother has resolved, you will be glad to hear, to publish in a collected form all those letters whose arrival in England used to be anticipated with so much eager curiosity, and read with so much pleasure and profit. *Non omnis moriar* will thus apply to the memory of that good and gallant English gentleman.

It is reported that the United States expedition has been amply provided with funds, the sinews of travel and of war, and we may believe the report, for our Anglo-American cousins never "do things by halves," as the phrase is. Their liberality contrasts strongly with the feeble support which the general public of England has bestowed upon your great undertaking; and this lukewarmness has ever been a marvel and enigma to me. We should of course have expected that in a country in which the Bible is the book most read, Bible lands would have been the most interesting on earth, and that your especial object, which is to illustrate those lands, would be the most popular of objects. You are changing careless and incorrect for highly finished maps upon a large

scale; a *κτῆμα ἐς αἰ*—you are labouring at the geology, the botany, the archæology, and the *omnis res scibilis* of Palestine. “*Sylvia’s Lovers*,” a clever novel by Mrs. Gaskell, told me long ago that amongst the lower, that is, the uneducated classes of England, there is an idea that Biblical sites and cities like Jerusalem and Nazareth once existed, but now exist no longer; and did this idea extend to cultivated levels it would explain the curious apathy with which the vast additions to our knowledge proposed by the Palestine Exploration Fund have been received. The same, strange to say, appears to be the case with the Israelites dwelling in Europe; theoretically they take an immense interest in the homes of their forefathers—practically, it is difficult, I am assured, to unloose their purse-strings for the benefit of Judea. I have trespassed long upon the patience and courtesy of this meeting; but when wishing long life and success to the Palestine Exploration Fund, I would also express a hope that it will not consider its mission perfect when its map is published. North, south, and east of Palestine proper, there are wide regions whose inhabitants were and are still connected with it by ties of blood, and by the sympathisers of society. The country immediately about Damascus, the Lejá, the ‘Alah, the Haurán, and many others, still await serious study, and this will be the work of long and laborious years. I will conclude with proposing the resolution, and with requesting this influential meeting to join me in offering our best wishes for the safety and success of Colonel Lane, the chief of the American Expedition, and his adventurous companions.

The Rev. HORROCKS COCKS, of Kensington, on rising to second the resolution, expressed the great pleasure it afforded him to be present at this annual meeting. He said he presumed that one of the reasons why he had been requested to speak to the resolution so ably moved by Captain Burton was, that he had several times visited the United States and Canada, though he thought that on this question England could justly claim the co-operation of the friends of Palestine in the Dominion, and he had, therefore, endeavoured to awaken an interest in the minds of some of the leading men of Canada in the important investigations which the Committee were carrying on in the Holy Land. The United States had no hoary past to glory in, no great international questions to discuss, no York Minster, no Westminster Abbey, no grand old buildings nor ruins to boast of; but most of the problems the Americans had to solve were territorial and material, and this to some extent explained the characteristics of the Transatlantic press. Still a section of the American people were devoting their attention to Palestine, and as this Society was rather emulous of co-operation than jealous of competition, the resolution would commend itself to them for cordial adoption. Having in a very humorous manner replied to the objections of certain would-be philanthropists who maintained that the dens of London needed exploration more than the sites of Palestine, the speaker pointed to the untiring labours of the Earl of Shaftesbury in grappling with the evils of our overcrowded cities, and said that the noble Earl was quite as much

interested in foreign as in home enterprises, as indeed his speech that day indicated. The speaker said that his mind was first awakened to the claims of Palestine by the labours of Dr. Traill and Isaac Taylor, whose joint translation of Josephus he eulogised, and said that some of the plates for this important work were prepared in his own residence, though he regretted that Dr. Traill was cut off so sadly and so suddenly by disease. He felt assured that in ten years to come where ten travellers now visited the Holy Land fifty would explore the regions east and west of the Jordan, and the important work projected and accomplished by this Society would materially assist future travellers and explorers in the Eastern lands. The speaker then said that he did not think it necessary, after the admirable addresses which had been delivered, for him to detain the meeting by any speech, though if there was one theme which fired his enthusiasm, and on which he delighted to dwell, it was Palestine, and he had come prepared to speak for an hour, if necessary, upon the work which this Society had accomplished. He did not intend to dogmatise on questions of theology or prophecy, but if he might be allowed to add another article to his creed it would be—Judea for the Jews. Dwelling on this topic for a few moments, the speaker concluded by stating that the Palestine Exploration Society was carrying on a most important enterprise which challenged the sympathy and support of all Christian people. The survey which they had already accomplished was of great importance, and he predicted for the land which they were now exploring a brilliant industrial, commercial, agricultural, and spiritual future.

Mr. GROVE proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Rev. G. WILLIAMS: I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution, and am glad to avail myself of the occasion of doing so to say that lately when I was staying at Oxford I had an opportunity of talking over this map of Palestine with Dr. Pusey, and I promised him that if I had the opportunity I would communicate to this meeting the very great value he attaches to the work which is being done in Palestine by this Association. No person can better appreciate the work than Dr. Pusey, and I am glad to say that it has his most entire approval and support; and I may perhaps be allowed to mention, as a hint to the Executive Committee, that many of us would, I am sure, be very glad indeed if this map could be at once taken in hand and published in parts as rapidly as those parts can be completed, and then put into a complete form perhaps two or three years hence. In the meantime many of us who are interested in the geography of Palestine are exceedingly impatient to have the results of that great work which this Society has undertaken. It is a great satisfaction to me, my Lord Archbishop, to second the vote of thanks to your Grace, who has watched with such interest the proceedings of this Society, and whose services in advocating it have been so valuable. (Cheers.)