

THE

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

PREFACE.

THE Survey of Western Palestine, after three years and a half of uninterrupted work, has received a temporary check by the attack on the party at Safed, on July 10th. The full particulars of this attack will be found in the report partly drawn up by Lieutenant Conder, but signed and despatched during his illness, by Lieutenant Kitchener. On the arrival of the intelligence the Foreign Office was at once communicated with, and no time was lost in sending instructions to Palestine. Our last news, dated August 25th, informs us that the trial was fixed to come on at Acre. Lieutenants Conder and Kitchener remained in the Convent of Carmel in order to give their evidence ; they will stay there till the affair is settled : and the British Consul-General of Beyrouth has been instructed by the Foreign Office to be represented on the occasion. No provocation of any kind has yet been discovered for the attack.

Meantime the triangulation is for the moment stopped. The Committee have been put to great additional expense, and, pending

the result of the trial—in consideration, also, of the unhealthy state of the country—the non-commissioned officers have been sent home.

It is hoped to resume the triangulation without much delay; the office work will meanwhile go on in England as well as in Palestine, and the check to the Survey will not, it is trusted, be greater than the time occupied in settling the affair. Justice must, however, be obtained before the party can again venture into the disturbed district.

Such an accident has naturally caused a considerable strain upon the finances, and our supporters are earnestly requested to remember that the expenses of the year have to be met. In April last the Committee asked for £3,500 before the end of the year. This appeal has been so far met that a fair proportion of the amount has been forwarded to the office within the six months which have elapsed since April 1st. The sum looked for up to the end of the year to meet expenses and pay off the more important liabilities is about £1,500. Subscribers are *most earnestly* asked to make their payments as early in October as possible.

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 a *friendly 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.

Dr. Chaplin writes from Jerusalem, August 13, 1875:—"The souterrain north of the platform in the Haram has recently been opened. On comparing my notes with those of Captain Warren, it appears that the chamber is in the same state as when he saw it. If the earth can be removed into the bays it will be possible to examine the two ends. As to the northern side and what is beyond it, I fear that we shall learn nothing more than we know at present. They may perhaps dig a hole in the wall and try to ascertain if there is, or has been, a chamber beyond. The present aspect of the wall does not give much hope of finding a church beyond. It is a comparatively modern wall of very rough workmanship, and I could not find any trace of pillars, or piles, or arches, such as might be supposed to separate the aisles of a church from the nave."

Further examination was stopped by command of the authorities.

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

The amount received from all sources between June 30th and September 30th was £867 1s. 6d. The balance of current accounts at the latter date was only £140 0s. 6d.

The Committee regret to announce that Mr. St. Clair, who has lectured for the Fund for nearly six years, has resigned his appointment. Application for lectures can be addressed to the Secretary, by whom, for the present, arrangements for the season will be made.

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

A memorial window to the late Charles F. Tyrwhitt Drake is to be put up in the chapel of Wellington College. Half of the expense will be borne by the College, half by Mr. Drake's personal friends. Any of these who desire to contribute to this tribute may address the Rev. W. F. Tyrwhitt.