

MEETING OF GENERAL COMMITTEE.

A MEETING of General Committee was held at 9, Pall Mall East, on Tuesday, June 27. The chair was taken by Mr. James Glaisher. Letters expressing regret at inability to attend were read from the Archbishop of York, the Rev. Joseph Barclay, Mr. W. Morrison, and Mr. S. Gurney.

The following report was then read :—

The Executive Committee, in resigning the trust committed to them in June, 1875, have to render to the General Committee an account of their stewardship during the twelve months which have elapsed since their appointment.

At the last meeting the Executive Committee of 1874-75 took occasion to express their deep thankfulness that the Survey had up to that time proceeded uninterruptedly and without check or hindrance on the part of the natives.

Three weeks after that meeting a savage and unprovoked attack was made upon the Survey party by certain Algerines and others near the town of Safed. The party, consisting in all of fifteen men, including the two officers of Royal Engineers in command and three non-commissioned officers, all received injuries of greater or less importance; property to the value of nearly £40 was destroyed or stolen; and Lieutenant Conder was obliged to break up the Survey and retire to Mount Carmel. Here the whole of the Englishmen, with the exception of Sergeant Armstrong, were laid up with fever, and it was decided that there was nothing for the present but to recall the expedition.

This was accordingly done after the case had been tried at Acre. The result of the trial was the infliction of a fine of £150 and imprisonment upon the ringleaders, who were easily identified. The whole amount of damages claimed by Mr. Consul Moore, who acted on this occasion, was £540. The amount at present received by the Committee is £146, being the sum of £150 less the amount due to exchange. There seems to be little doubt that the enforcement of the imprisonment and the levying of the fine have produced an excellent moral effect upon the whole country, which will probably be shown in the altered behaviour of the fanatics in the North of Palestine on the return of the party. Had it not been for this untoward accident the whole of the Survey would by this time be finished. As it is, no more field-work has been done than was reported at the last general meeting.

It must not, however, be supposed that the Survey is standing still because the-field work has been suspended. On the contrary, the work has gone on uninterruptedly since the return of the party. On their arrival in London a temporary office was taken for them near the Strand, where they proceeded to put in order some of the great mass of material brought home with them, and at the beginning of this year an office was taken at the Royal Albert Hall, where, their strength being raised

by four more men, so that the Survey party now consists of two officers and five non-commissioned officers, they are engaged in drawing the map and preparing the memoirs. The amount of valuable material brought home by Lieutenant Conder far surpasses the expectation of the Committee, and gives evidence of the untiring labour, zeal, and intelligence which this indefatigable officer has brought to his work. In this he has been most ably seconded by Lieutenant Kitchener, who has found time, in addition to his other work, to take fifty photographic views, some of sites never before photographed. The negatives are at home, and the list has been added to the others already published. The materials brought home by Lieutenant Conder consist of the map work proper, to which are added voluminous notes on every subject within the power of the officers in command to treat. No idea can be conveyed of the extent and value of this information until a sheet of the map, accompanied by a memoir, is ready for publication. Lieutenant Conder is now preparing memoirs from his notes under the following heads:—

Section A.—TOPOGRAPHY.—This includes minute details as to all springs, streams, valleys, hills, positions of villages, and other natural features; with special descriptions of interesting localities.

Section B.—ARCHÆOLOGY.—A description of every ruin in the sheet, with such illustrative plates, photographs, and sketches as may be necessary; the ruins to be arranged alphabetically; with all inscriptions found.

Section C.—NAME LISTS.—The modern names to be arranged alphabetically, and the lists to show the names in Arabic; in English character according to Robinson's system of transliteration; and the meanings of the Arabic words when they exist.

Section D.—PROPOSED BIBLICAL AND OTHER IDENTIFICATIONS, with such notes as may be necessary for the sake of argument or explanation.

Section E.—ETHNOLOGY.—Special legends or traditions attached to buildings, ruins, trees, &c.

Section F.—GEOLOGY.—Detailed notes on the geology of the country.

These memoirs will further be subdivided according to the different sheets of the map, each sheet being provided with a special memoir touching on all these points separately.

There will be twenty-six sheets in all.

It will thus be seen that the Committee are now engaged upon the most important part of their work, the collection, summing up, subdivision, and publication of the vast materials now in their hands. The best way of dealing with these materials has occupied the attention of the Executive Committee at their fortnightly meetings, and also that of a Special Survey Publication Committee appointed to examine into the various points of difficulty occurring and to report progress.

As a result of these deliberations the Executive Committee now report that they have appointed Major Wilson, R.E., and Mr. Grove

The report was formally adopted.

The Committee then proceeded to the election of new members.

The following, who had previously expressed their readiness to serve, were proposed, seconded, and unanimously elected :—

Lord Clermont,
 Rev. W. F. Birch,
 Mr. E. H. Lawrence, F.S.A.,
 Dr. Samuel Manning.

The following were next proposed, seconded, and unanimously elected, subject to their own acceptance of the invitation :—

Duke of Marlborough,
 Duke of Northumberland,
 Earl of Chichester,
 Admiral Sir John Ommanney,
 Mr. R. B. Martin,
 Mr. S. Tomkins,
 Prof. Erasmus Wilson, F.R.S.,
 Mr. William Simpson.

The Executive Committee for the next year were then elected, Professor Donaldson and Mr. Maudslay having resigned their seats. The following were elected :—

Captain Anderson, R.E.,
 Mr. Samuel Birch, LL.D.,
 Mr. J. D. Crace,
 Mr. W. Hepworth Dixon,
 Mr. F. A. Eaton,
 Mr. James Glaisher,
 Mr. S. Gurney,
 Mr. H. A. Harper,
 Mr. William Longman,
 Rev. Canon Tristram,
 Mr. W. S. W. Vaux,
 Captain Warren, R.E.,
 Major Wilson, R.E.

The honorary officers were re-elected.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman, and the Committee adjourned.

NEW PHOTOGRAPHS.

Agent : Edward Stanford, 55, Charing Cross.

The following is Lieut. Kitchener's complete list :—

1. Scene of the Return of the Ark.
2. Scene of the Attack on the Philistines' Camp by Jonathan and his Armour-bearer.