

48. Castle at Seffurieh.  
 49. Convent at Kasr-Hajlah (Beth Hogla).  
 50. Masada from North-West, showing the Roman Bank.  
 51. The Moabite Stone. Restored by M. Clermont-Ganneau.  
 52. The Vase of Bezetha. The vase found by M. Clermont-Ganneau in his excavations at Jerusalem; the most remarkable specimen yet discovered of Syrian art in the Herodian or post-Herodian period.

### LADIES' ASSOCIATIONS.

WE are able to announce the steady progress of our work in forming Ladies' Associations. This has been done by Mrs. Finn wherever friends have been found able to co-operate; first, by inviting people to their houses to hear a description of the exploration in Palestine; secondly, by the no less useful assistance rendered by those who have sufficient spare time to become local hon. secretaries. Ladies who are able to do this are especially entitled to our gratitude for the trouble they take in collecting contributions and diffusing information.

Some ladies have arranged to assemble their friends from time to time in order to read our reports, and whatever has been published on the subject of Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

Besides the General Ladies' Association, having its head-quarters in London, we have now Branch Associations in the following places:—

- Chichester, under the presidency of Mrs. Durnford: Hon. Secs., Mrs. H. Smith and Miss Durnford.  
 Sydenham: Hon. Sec., Mrs. Standing.  
 Edinburgh: Hon. Sec., Mrs. Main.  
 Glasgow: Hon. Sec., Miss Watson.  
 Weston-super-Mare: Hon. Sec., Mrs. Tomkins.  
 Sherborne: Hon. Sec., Miss Wilks.  
 Sparkford: Hon. Sec., Mrs. H. Bennett.  
 Early, Reading: Hon. Sec., Mrs. Stephens.  
 Oxford: Hon. Sec., Mrs. Turner.  
 Taunton: Hon. Sec., Mrs. Wolff.  
 Honiton: Hon. Sec., Charlotte Countess of Castle Stuart.  
 Snaresbrook and Wanstead: Hon. Sec., Mrs. Norman.

Meetings have been held in many places since the date of our last report—namely, on March 28, at the house of Mrs. Gurney Hoare, Hampstead Heath; on March 29, at the Rev. E. and Mrs. Bøger's, St. Saviour's Grammar School, Southwark; on April 15, at Mrs. Beresford's, 4, Gloucester Crescent, Hyde Park. This last meeting was but a small one. Mrs. Beresford and her friends, however, were so much interested by the information given them, that another meeting has since been arranged by Mrs. Beresford at her house—*i.e.*, on the 14th of this month, when some of those who had been present the first time

came again to hear more on the subject. It has been very pleasant to observe that a good many people have attended our ladies' meetings again and again, sometimes on four successive occasions; and this because of the intense interest aroused by the facts narrated about the work in the Holy Land. These persons, like a great many others, were so surprised and delighted to find that so much had been done, that they were willing to give themselves the trouble of repeated attendance, in the hope of each time gathering some fresh information on this important theme. And they were not disappointed; there was something fresh to be heard each time. So great a work as that which has been accomplished by our explorers, Wilson, Anderson, Warren, Conder, &c., cannot be described in an hour or two. There is abundant material for a succession of addresses upon this topic in its manifold branches and aspects.

At Bournemouth Miss Wingfield Digby had kindly arranged with her friends for meetings, and two were held there: one on April 18, at the house of Mrs. H. Abel Smith, at which the Rev. Dr. Edersheim made a short introductory address. Another meeting was held on April 20, at the house of Dr. and Mrs. Nankivell. Both were well attended.

In Somersetshire the interest awakened during Mrs. Finn's former visit was so great that she was asked to return and hold meetings in various fresh places. This was done. The Rev. F. B. Portman, who had been present at the meeting held in February at Sherborne Castle, arranged a meeting at the Rev. W. and Mrs. Lance's, Thurlbear, near Taunton. Sir Percy Douglas expressed, at the end of the proceedings, the great delight which he and others present felt in the being able to help forward so great a work. Another was held at the Vicarage of the Rev. W. R. Clark, vicar of Taunton, prebendary of Wells. The room was crowded, and several persons had to go away, being unable to find room. Mr. Clark opened the proceedings by a short address. Sir Percy Douglas and Mr. Pinchard both spoke before the conclusion of the meeting, and the former proposed that a Ladies' Association be at once formed, which was done. The office of hon. sec. was undertaken by Mrs. Wolff, widow of the Rev. Dr. Joseph Wolff, the well-known traveller and missionary in the East.

Early in May, Charlotte Countess of Castlestuart, who had been present at the meeting held in Kensington in January at the house of Mrs. De Bergue, had two meetings in her house at Honiton, and herself undertook the office of local hon. secretary.

Mr. and Mrs. Benthall, of Sherborne, had attended the meeting given by Mr. and Mrs. Wingfield Digby at Sherborne Castle in February, and they assembled their friends on May 5 to hear something of what had so much interested themselves. The Rev. W. H. Lyon, the vicar, Mrs. Lyon, Mrs. Wingfield Digby, and many others were present, and afterwards Miss Wilks accepted the office of hon. sec.

On May 9 a meeting was held at the Manor House, Bishop's Hull, Taunton, the residence of Colonel and Mrs. Rawlins, who had been

present at the meeting at Taunton Vicarage, and now in their turn assembled a party of friends to hear the account of the explorations.

Mrs. Ames, of 4, Cavendish Place, Bath, had a meeting at her house on the 11th May, at which the Rev. J. Methuen, local hon. sec., made a short introductory address.

The second meeting of the Chichester Ladies' Association was held on Wednesday, May 17, at Chichester. The Association was formed in September, 1874, under the auspices of the Bishop and Mrs. Durnford, who then had a very large meeting in the Palace in order to give their friends an opportunity of hearing about the nature and the progress of our work. The last meeting was also attended by the Bishop and Mrs. Durnford and by a large number of people, including several of the Cathedral clergy, and Mrs. H. Smith, the hon. sec.

The Bishop took the chair, and spoke with great feeling of the advantage which all, even children, possess in these days, in knowing so much about Palestine, that land where the great events recorded in Holy Scripture took place. His lordship mentioned the beauty of the mountains and the valleys of Palestine, the rich fertility of the soil where cultivated, as it was by the people of Israel; he spoke of the deep interest attaching to Olivet, to "those Holy Fields" which our Saviour Himself had trodden, to the land where He had dwelt as man. The Bishop alluded to the services in the Cathedral of that morning [the lessons had contained the account of Solomon's building of the Temple], and especially to the 137th Psalm, which had formed the anthem for afternoon service, and concluded by asking attention to the facts which would be related in connection with the exploration of the Holy Land and the site of the Temple, and of the wonderful confirmation which they afford to the truths of Holy Scripture. His lordship at the close of the proceedings summed up in a few words the object which had brought the assembly together, and commended the Society to the support of all present.

Two more meetings have grown out of the one held in January by the Rev. T. Cornthwaite at his house at Walthamstow, making four in all. One was given on May 18 by Mr. and Mrs. Carter, at the Limes, Walthamstow. The vicar of the parish, the Rev. E. T. Bullinger, presided, and opened the proceedings. The other was given by the Rev. W. and Mrs. Norman, at the Parsonage, Snaresbrook. This meeting, like almost all the others, was numerously attended, and at the close the Rev. G. S. Fitzgerald, rector of Wanstead, proposed the immediate formation of a Ladies' Association. Mrs. Norman kindly undertook to be the hon. secretary.

On Saturday, May 27, the Rev. B. W. Bucke (vicar of Holy Trinity, Lee, S.E.), and Mrs. Bucke, assembled their friends to hear about the exploration work. Mr. Martin opened the proceedings, and at the close the Rev. J. Bardsley made a most interesting speech. He confirmed what had been said on many points from his own personal observation when in Palestine, especially as to the need for losing no time in completing our work. Mr. Bardsley had lately been there a

second time, and was grieved to find that some of the rich carved remains which he had seen on his first visit were destroyed and gone, especially a beautiful lintel at Tell Hum, all gone now; it has been broken up by the natives for building-stone, and for being burnt into lime. Again, in the chambers of the tombs of the kings they had come upon an American who was carrying off fragments purposely broken off as mementoes of the beautiful sarcophagi.

Mr. Bardsley confirmed what had been said about the valuable confirmation of Holy Scripture given by the Survey, and the discoveries made by our Society. He illustrated his meaning by an anecdote. A cloth factor in Yorkshire had a piece of cloth stolen from him. After careful inquiry he came to the conclusion that a neighbour of his, also a dealer in cloth, had stolen it. He went and claimed the cloth, saying that he thought this must be his cloth. "Prove it," said the other. "I think I can," said the first. He had reflected that if the cloth were really his the holes in the selvedge would exactly fit the distances of the posts and nails in his field along which the cloth had been stretched. Those holes had of course been made by the nails at the time of stretching. The cloth was carried to the field and tried. Every hole fitted every nail, no more and no less, and the distances were exactly right. The proof was sufficient. The man confessed the theft. Now this is what the Society have been doing with the Bible and the Holy Land. They take the Bible to the Holy Land and everything fits. The incidental allusions, the places, manners, customs, products, climate, all correspond. The Bible fits the Land and the Land fits the Bible.

On June 1 a very large party met at the house of Lady Smith and Colonel Pinney to hear about the explorations. Colonel Pinney made a short address describing the present state of the work, especially referring to the fact that only one-third of the Survey remains to be completed, and that Lieutenant Conder and his brave companions will soon, it is hoped, be able to finish this part of the work. Lady Smith had held a meeting in January at her house, Somerton Erleigh, and out of that meeting many others have arisen, in Somersetshire, Dorsetshire, and London.

With this brief notice we conclude our account of the Ladies' Associations, and beg to offer hearty thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have given us their kind and valuable assistance. The above will serve to explain to any one disposed to come forward and help us in this branch of our undertaking how this may be done, and we feel assured that those who have already been present at these ladies' meetings will gladly render us the further help we seek in the arrangement of other meetings wherever practicable.

Since the above was written Justice Sir Thos. D. and Lady Archibald have held a meeting at their house, on June 22nd, at 7, Porchester Gate, which was attended by a large number of persons.

Communications on this subject should be addressed to Mrs. Finn, The Elms, Brook Green, London, W.