

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE papers of Lieutenant Conder, which we publish this quarter, will be received as a proof that the work of preparing the memoirs is advancing steadily. The memoirs for one sheet are already completed, and are in the hands of the Executive Committee as already reported (meeting of General Committee, June, 1876). They contain the information acquired during the progress of the Survey, divided into the following sections:—

(a) TOPOGRAPHY.—Minute details as to all springs, streams, valleys, hills, position of villages, and other natural features; with special descriptions of interesting localities.

(b) ARCHÆOLOGY.—A description of every ruin in the sheet, with illustrative plans and sketches. To this Section belong all inscriptions found in the area covered by the sheet.

(c) NAME LISTS.—The modern names in each sheet arranged alphabetically, showing them in Arabic and English character (transliterated according to Dr. Robinson's system), and the meaning of the names when they can be found.

(d) PROPOSED BIBLICAL AND OTHER IDENTIFICATIONS, with notes and explanatory arguments.

(e) ETHNOLOGY.—Special legends or traditions attached to ruins, buildings, trees, &c., in the sheet.

(f) GEOLOGY.—Detailed notes on the geological features of each sheet.

This order has been followed for the convenience of Lieutenant Conder, and to give the Committee a ready means of estimating the extent and value of their materials. Any suggestions from subscribers will be received and carefully considered by the Committee.

Some of the papers recently published may be taken as illustrations of this division. The "Notes from the Memoir" (*Quarterly Statement*, July, 1876), belong to Section D. The new site proposed for Emmaus in the present number comes from a study of Section C. The paper on the "Fertility of Palestine" is a special paper, which might belong to Section A. That on the Language of the Native Peasantry in Palestine would be classed under Section E.

A copy of a vizierial letter, sent from Constantinople to Damascus, has been received from the Foreign Office. This contained an order that the whole of the fine asked for by the Consul Moore for damages in the Safed affair is to be paid to the Consul General at Beyrout. The amount was £340, of which the sum of £150 has been already paid. The claim of £200 for compensation does not seem to have been allowed.

A letter received from the Rev. Selah Merrill informs us that he is still working in and about the Jordan Valley. We reproduce, by permission of the proprietors of the *Athenaeum*, a report sent by him to that journal. The New York Committee have not yet issued their Report of Colonel Lane's expedition.

Captain Warren, R.E., is engaged upon a work in which he will give the history of his three years in Palestine, with the conclusions to which, in his opinion, the results of the Jerusalem excavations point. It will be published by Messrs. R. Bentley and Son, about the middle of October.

The Rev. R. J. Griffiths has made the lecturing tour through Wales, which was announced in the last *Quarterly Statement*. He lectured at Brecon, Cardiff, Carmarthen, Tenby, Aberystwyth, Oswestry, Rhyl, Mold, Ruthin, Wrexham, Llandudno, and Carnarvon. He also preached in the Cathedrals of Bangor and St. Asaph. The result of his exertions has been to introduce the work of the Society for the first time into Wales. What is wanted now is, that this newly raised interest may be followed up, and the Committee will be grateful to gentlemen who may be willing to act for them in any part of the Principality. Mr. W. Adams, of Cardiff, and Mr. Richard Mills, of Brecon, are Honorary Secretaries for those towns.

The Committee take this opportunity of returning their best thanks to the gentlemen who assisted Mr. Griffiths on a journey which was necessarily too rapid for him to stay at any place, and would have been unsuccessful but for their efforts.

The financial position of the Fund is as follows:—

Received from June 28th to September 28th the sum of £616 6s. 9d.
Balance in the banks at the latter date, £344 18s. 5d.

The current expenses are about £200 a month to cover all liabilities. The party at the Royal Albert Hall consists of Lieutenants Conder and Kitchener, with five non-commissioned officers of Royal Engineers. It would be a great help to the work if the strength of the Survey office could be increased so that the whole work might be handed over to the engravers so far as is done when Lieutenant Conder again takes the field. In order to clear themselves from outstanding liabilities, and to have a sum in hand ready to meet the expenses of starting the Survey party again, the Committee ask for £1,500 between October 1st and December 31st.

The following is the list of the newly formed Committee of the Dublin Association. One or two of the names were incorrectly given in the last *Quarterly Statement*:—

Chairman—Right Hon. W. Brooke, Q.C., M.C.

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| Rev. G. W. Carroll, M.A. | Rev. A. Lawson, M.A. |
| Rev. M. C. Close, M.A. | Rev. T. A. Maher. |
| Rev. G. Cowell, M.A. | Rev. Professor Porter, LL.D. |
| Rev. G. Dalton, M.A. | Rev. R. T. Smith, B.D. |
| A. D. M'Gusty, Esq., B.A. | Rev. W. D. Stevenson, M.A. |
| R. R. Garstin, Esq., M.A., F.S.A. | Rev. H. West, M.A. |

Hon. Secs. { Denis Crofton, Esq., B.A.
Rev. G. J. Stokes, M.A.

Treasurer—The Munster Bank.

The first list of Dublin contributors has also been received. It is as follows:—

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|---|---|
| Right Hon. W. Brooke | £2 | 0 | 0 |
| Hon. George F. Colley | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Denis H. Kelly, Esq., D.L. | 1 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|---|
| Rev. Henry West | £1 | 0 | 0 |
| Rev. Maxwell Close | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| A. D. M'Gusty, Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Denis Crofton, Esq. | 0 | 10 | 6 |

The following are at present the Diocesan Representatives of the Society :—

PROVINCE OF CANTERBURY.

Diocese of Exeter : Rev. Franklin Bellamy, St. Mary's Vicarage, Devonport.

Archdeaconry of Hereford : Rev. J. S. Stooke-Vaughan, Wellington Heath Vicarage, Ledbury.

Archdeaconry of Salop : Rev. A. F. Forbes, Badger Rectory.

 Lichfield :

London : Rev. Henry Geary, 16, Somerset Street, Portman Square.

Norwich : Rev. F. C. Long, Stowupland, Stowmarket.

Peterborough : Rev. A. F. Foster, Fardish Rectory, Wellingborough.

Worcester : Rev. F. W. Holland, Evesham (Member of General and Executive Committee, and one of the Hon. Secretaries to the Fund).

Archdeacons of Canterbury, Maidstone, and Surrey : Rev. R. J. Griffiths, 10, Trafalgar Road, Old Kent Road, S.E.

PROVINCE OF YORK.

York : Rev. J. De Courcy Baldwin, Training College, York.

Archdeaconry of Craven : Rev. J. C. Henley, Kirkby Malham Vicarage.

IRELAND.

Rev. G. J. Stokes, Blackrock, Dublin.

The Rev. Horrocks Cocks, 19, Edwardes Square, Kensington, W., has also kindly offered his services among Nonconformist churches.

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 when due, at their *earliest convenience*, and without waiting for application. It is best to cross all cheques and post-office orders to Coutts and Co.

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

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

Cases for binding the *Quarterly Statement* are now ready, and can be had on application to Messrs. R. Bentley and Son, 8, New Burlington Street. They are in green or brown cloth, with the stamp of the Society, uniform in appearance with "Our Work in Palestine," price one shilling. They can be obtained for any year by subscribers who have complete sets.

Lieut. Kitchener's Guinea Book of Biblical Photographs is now ready, and can be bought at Mr. Stanford's establishment, 55, Charing Cross. It is recommended as a book for Christmas presents. It contains twelve views, with a short account of each. They are mounted on tinted boards, and handsomely bound. The following is the list of the selected views :—

1. The Valley of Sorek (1 Sam. vi. 12).
2. The Valley of Michmash (Judges xx. 31, and Isaiah x. 28).
3. Mount Moriah.
4. The Mosque El Aksa.
5. Elisha's Fountain (2 Kings ii. 22).
6. Bethlehem.
7. Interior of the Dome of the Rock.
8. The Baptism in Jordan.
9. Cana in Galilee.
10. Bethany.
11. The "Via Dolorosa."
12. The Traditional Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

All Lieut. Kitchener's views can be obtained at the same rate as the ordinary photographs of the Fund, of the agent, Mr. Edward Stanford, 55, Charing Cross.

JACOB'S WELL.

ONE of the few sites in Palestine, the identity of which has never been assailed, is that of Jacob's Well. It is situated a mile and a-half east of Nablus, on the edge of the Plain of Mukhna, and at the eastern base of Mount Gerizim. Captain Anderson, who examined it in 1866, cleared out the mouth, and was lowered by a rope to the bottom. He found it 75 feet deep, of a circular form, with a diameter of 7 feet 6 inches, and lined throughout with rough masonry. The bottom of the well was perfectly dry (in May), but the presence of a small unbroken pitcher proved that water is sometimes found in it. Captain Anderson thinks, however, that the well—into which every visitor throws a stone—was formerly very much deeper. Besides the stones, the débris of a ruined church, built over the well in the fourth century, have fallen into it and helped to fill it up. An offer has been made by Dr. Nathaniel Rogers, of Exeter, one of the subscribers to the Fund, to contribute the sum of £50 towards the complete clearing out of this well, so rich in Scriptural associations. The Committee have accepted his offer, and propose to perform this work on the return of the Survey party. It is estimated that an additional £50 will be required for the labour, making £100 in all; and it will be expedient to have the work superintended by the English officers of the Fund. When cleared out, however, steps should be taken to prevent its being filled up again, and the Committee would like to surround the mouth of the well with some sort of memorial stone-work, the nature and design of which will be a matter for careful consideration. Should any subscribers desire to unite with Dr. Rogers in this interesting piece of work, their names will be gladly received by the Committee.

NEW PHOTOGRAPHS.

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.
3. Mount Moriah, the Site of Solomon's Temple.
4. Proposed Site of Solomon's Palace (Mosque El Aksa).
5. Elisha's Fountain.
6. Bethlehem.
7. Interior of Dome of the Rock.
8. The Jordan.
9. Cana of Galilee.