

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Survey party are at this moment actively engaged in preparing for their departure. It has been decided to dispatch Lieutenant Kitchener, who assumes the command, to Damascus, where he will buy horses and provide for the starting of the party. Everything ready, he will repair to Haifa *via* Beyrout and the coast road, there to await the arrival of his staff, who will probably reach Palestine early in February, and will consist of Sergeant Armstrong, who has been in the Survey from the commencement; Sergeant Malings, who was with Major Wilson on the Survey of Sinai; Corporal Brophy, who was with Lieut. Conder in 1873—1875; and one other non-commissioned officer of Royal Engineers.

Meantime, Lieut. Conder remains in England engaged in the preparation of the memoirs to accompany the sheets of the map. A great deal of work has already been done towards the reduction to order of his voluminous notes; but a great deal remains. The map will be safely locked up until the Survey is completed, and the difficulties which have arisen in the laying down of the work have been settled by a revision on the field.

Consul-General Eldridge reports from Beyrout that the country is quiet. Two of the men engaged in the Safed attack were still in prison when he wrote (Nov. 30). The sum of £270 has been forwarded to England out of the £340 granted for fines and damages levied on the Safed people, and there can be no doubt that the moral effect of this firmness will be excellent. The £200 claimed for compensation has not yet been allowed.

The Survey of Galilee, including the levelling for the depth of the Lake below the surface of the sea, for which a grant of £100 was made by the British Association two years ago, is calculated to take until the middle of August. Lieutenant Kitchener proposes then to finish off the two hundred and fifty square miles at the south-west of Palestine yet remaining to be surveyed; and, this done, will then ride through the country to clear up various points of difficulty which have arisen during the execution of the map from the notes.

Such is the programme for the year 1877. If it is carried out successfully, the Committee will be, at its close, in possession of a complete map of Western Palestine, on the scale of one inch to a mile, with every town, village, ruin, tell, wady, hill, and plantation marked upon it, and every name which our officers have been able to collect.

The cost of this expedition, including the office expenses, printing, postage, &c., will amount to over £320 a month. The income of the Fund, which was, roughly, £4,200 in 1875, fell to £3,800 in 1876, in consequence of no special effort having been made beyond the ordinary machinery of reminding subscribers and holding occasional lectures. The latter amount, which may fairly be assumed as an average income, seems to promise to the Committee a sufficient guarantee that means will be found to carry on their work even on this large scale of expenditure. *It is, however, very earnestly requested that subscriptions may this year be paid as early as is convenient, so that the Committee may be free to act.*

The financial position on Jan. 4, 1877, was as follows. Income, Sept. 28, 1876, to Jan. 4, 1877, £1,146 2s. 9d., and the balance in the bank on the latter day was £538 0s. 10d. Opportunity has been taken of the lessened expenditure during the year to pay off nearly all the debts, as will be shown in April by the balance-sheet of the year.

We have to announce with great pleasure that the offer made by Dr. Nathaniel Rogers, of Exeter, to subscribe £50 towards the complete clearing out of Jacob's Well, has been seconded by a promise from Miss Peache, of Wimbledon, to give the remaining £50 required for the work. Miss Peache also offers to give £50 more for the purpose of surrounding and protecting the well with proper stonework. The Committee have accepted this proposal of Miss Peache, and desire to

record here their grateful sense of this munificence. A design for the stone-work will be contributed by Mr. J. D. Crace.

At least three cases have come to the knowledge of the Secretary during the year of letters containing stamps being purloined or lost on their way to the office. It is extremely difficult, even next to impossible, to trace the theft home in such a case, and the only way to avoid its recurrence is to send subscriptions by cheque or P.O.O., in every case payable to the order of *Walter Besant*, and crossed to *Coutts and Co. or the Union Bank of London*.

The ninth thousand of "Our Work in Palestine" is now in the press, and will be ready by the end of the month. It contains a full account of the work done, the results obtained, and the reasons for undertaking the work, down to the commencement of the Survey. It does not contain any of M. Ganneau's archaeological work, or any account, except a few brief notes, of the Survey. A special work will probably be issued eventually, containing popular narratives of these explorations.

The literary remains of the late Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake will be published early in the year by Messrs. R. Bentley and Son, 8, New Burlington Street. They will be edited, with a memoir, by Mr. Walter Besant, and will contain, among other papers, his pamphlet on Modern Jerusalem, his Report on the Natural History of the Desert of the Exodus, materials towards a new Historical and Archaeological Guide to Palestine, Natural History Notes, Notes on Travel, &c., chiefly unpublished. His letters and reports which have appeared in the *Quarterly Statements* of the Fund will not be reproduced in the volume.

The Bishop of Adelaide has informed the Committee that he has established a Local Committee for the furtherance of the Society's objects in his diocese. Among the members are at present—

The Hon. J. J. Way, Chief Justice ;
 The Hon. G. W. Guy, Surveyor-General ;
 C. Todd, Esq., Telegraph and Postmaster-General ;
 Lieutenant-Colonel Barber ;
 J. C. Muir, Esq., Engineer-in-Chief ;

and J. Hyndman, Esq., Hon. Secretary.

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

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

City and neighbourhood of Manchester : Rev. W. F. Birch, St. Saviour's Rectory.

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).

Dioceses of Canterbury, Rochester, and Winchester : Rev. R. J. Griffiths, 10, Trafalgar Road, Old Kent Road, S.E.

Diocese of Ripon : Rev. T. C. Henley, Kirkby Malham Vicarage.

IRELAND.

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

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 glad to receive old numbers of the *Quarterly Statement*, especially those which are advertised as out of print. That for January, 1872, is especially wanted.

Ladies desirous of joining the Ladies' Associations are requested to communicate with Mrs. Finn, The Elms, Brook Green, London, W. The full report of meetings held by Mrs. Finn during the last quarter will be found in the business sheet.

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," and are sold at the price of one shilling.

Lieut. Kitchener's Guinea Book of Biblical Photographs is now ready, and can be bought at Mr. Stanford's establishment, 55, Charing Cross. It contains twelve views, with a short account of each. They are mounted on tinted boards, and handsomely bound.

GRANT OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

The following is the Report of the Committee, consisting of Major Wilson, R.E., and Mr. Ravenstein, appointed for the purpose of furthering the Palestine Explorations :—

The sum of £100, granted at the last meeting of the British Association for the purpose of furthering the Palestine explorations, was paid over by Major Wilson to the Palestine Exploration Fund, with a request that the wishes of the General Committee of the Association, as expressed in their resolution, might be carried out.

No complete account of the work of the last twelve months has yet been received from Lieutenant Conder, R.E., the officer in charge of the Survey; but from his monthly reports to the Committee of the Fund, it would appear that, since the grant of £100 was made, the triangulation of Palestine has been carried southwards as far as Beersheba, and that a large tract of interesting country, including the plain of Philistia and the southern slopes of the mountains of Judah, has been surveyed and plotted on a scale of one inch to a mile.

Amongst other results have been the recovery of several ancient sites, and the corrections of many errors in the topography of Southern Palestine.

Lieutenants Conder and Kitchener, R.E., were recently engaged in running a line of levels from the Mediterranean to the Sea of Galilee; but this work was unfortunately stopped by the attack made upon Lieutenant Conder and his party by the people of Safed.

Lieutenant Conder, who was badly wounded, has been unable to send a full report on the levelling; but in a letter written shortly before the affray he mentioned that more than ten miles, or about one third of the levelling, had been completed, and gave some details of the manner in which the work was being carried out. The line of levels was being run by two independent observers (non-commissioned officers from the Ordnance Survey); bench-marks were being cut at frequent intervals, and their position fixed by a line of traverse survey

from the Mediterranean to the Sea of Galilee, which will be laid down on the one-inch survey.

Lieutenant-General Sir Henry James, the Director-General of the Ordnance Survey, was kind enough to lend instruments for the work, and he has taken much interest in its progress.

In consequence of the attack on the Survey party and the spread of cholera, it has been decided to withdraw Lieutenant Conder and his staff from Palestine for the present ; but as soon as the Survey is recommenced the levelling will be completed.

ITINERARIES OF OUR LORD.

IN the history of our Lord's life and labours no subject is of deeper interest (apart from the purely sacred aspect of His work) than the itineraries. Yet no special and continuous study has been given to this important subject. Every one who writes about the Sacred Story has, of course, to mention His various journeys, and to mention that He went up to Jerusalem for the great feasts and returned to His home in Galilee. Certain points in these journeys are, of course, fixed points. Our Lord is at Bethlehem, at Nazareth, at Jerusalem, at Jericho, at Sychar, at Cana, at Capernaum, at Bethany, and so forth. But the roads by which He travelled from place to place have not been scientifically laid down. We are not certain, as yet, by which road He came up from the Jordan valley to Jerusalem. There was a great military highway from Jericho to Jerusalem by way of Bethany. This was probably the road usually followed by the Teacher and His disciples. But there was another road by way of Wady Farah—a less frequented road. It is probable that road passed by Ænon, the place where John baptized. If it can be proved, as I think it can, that Ænon lay on or near this second road from Jericho to Jerusalem, we shall have a fixed point in this part of our Lord's journeyings.

The whole subject invites evidence and discussion, and the attention of special students of New Testament archæology cannot be too seriously called to it. I shall be glad to see the matter taken up and elucidated by our subscribers and correspondents in the next and following *Quarterly Statements*.

W. HEPWORTH DIXON.