

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Survey Expedition is once more in the field. Lieut. Kitchener's letters, dated the 29th of January, the 6th, 14th, and the 20th of February, announce in succession a delay of eight days at Port Said, his arrival at Beyrout and at Damascus, and his departure for Haifa. He received the greatest assistance at Beyrout from Consul-General Eldridge. The new Wali of Syria arrived while he was at Beyrout, and he had an opportunity of showing him a portion of the map-work. Horses, which are very dear, in consequence of an epidemic in Egypt and extensive purchases by the Government, were bought at Damascus. Here, too, Lieut. Kitchener saw Abd el Kader, who expressed his deep regret that the Safed outrage had been perpetrated by his followers, and gave him letters which should secure the party from a repetition of the attack. The country is reported quite quiet, and apparently safe for surveying purposes. The noncommissioned officers were to have landed at Haifa, but were carried on to Beyrout in consequence of bad weather. The heavy luggage was sent back to Haifa by sea under charge of Corporal Brophy; and Lieut. Kitchener, with Sergeant Malings and Corporal Sunderland, rode down the coast from Beyrout. Work was started on the 27th. The work already completed consists in the filling-in of the detail of the Akka plain, and running the line of levels from Mejdal to the Mediterranean.

Lieutenant Conder, as his papers in this number of the *Quarterly Statement* prove, is occupied entirely in the preparation of his notes for the Memoir to accompany the Map. All the sheets drawn during the last year are consigned to the charge of the Union Bank of London for greater safety. When Lieut. Kitchener has been able to clear up certain points of difficulty which require investigation on the ground, there will be nothing to prevent the publication of these sheets.

The programme for 1877, announced in January, has thus been fairly commenced. The cost of the whole is, as then stated, upwards of £300 a month. The supporters of the undertaking will remember that the Committee are always in want of money, and that the earlier subscriptions are paid, the better it is for the Society.

We publish a paper by M. Clermont-Ganneau on the "Tombs of Joseph and Nicodemus" in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The discovery there announced and described is of great importance from an archaeological point of view. If his conclusion be correct, then the Church of the Holy Sepulchre would seem to be built over—not one tomb only, but a collection of undoubted Jewish tombs.

Local Societies have been formed since last January in Norwich, where the Dean has consented to join the General Committee; in Derby; and at Melbourne. The particulars of the formation of the latter are given in a letter below.

Captain Anderson gives an account of Jacob's Well and its surroundings as he saw it on his visit ten years ago. We are able to promise for the next number a drawing from a sketch made on the spot two years ago, by Mr. H. W. Harper. Meantime Lieut. Kitchener will report to the Committee, as soon as he has time to visit the place, what can be done there. Until this report is received, no further action will be taken in the matter.

An offer has been made by Mr. F. Locock of £50 towards a special fund for the examination and preservation of Rachel's Tomb. The Committee have ordered this offer to be recorded. As in the case of Jacob's Well, no action can be taken until a report has been received from Lieut. Kitchener.

A letter has been received from the Rev. Selah Merrill, of the American Palestine Association. He has presented the Committee with a sketch of his route map east of Jordan. He was to start for Moab on the 6th of March, with the design of visiting Kerak, the south end of the Dead Sea, Bezer, Ramoth-Gilead, Penuel, and many other places.

The following is the financial position of the Fund (March 29th). Receipts from Jan. 1 to March 29th, £1,201 15s. 3d. Expenditure for the same period: Exploration, £856 1s. 3d.; office and management, £206 16s. 6d.; unpaid bills, £100. The balance in the banks on the 29th was £362 19s. 3d. This is only equal to the expenditure for the month of April. The sum of £2,000 is asked for between April 1st and Sept. 30th. This will be very easily raised if subscribers will be good enough to forward their subscriptions for the year at once instead of waiting till the end of the year. The balance-sheet and Treasurer's statement will be found in their usual places.

Several cases were discovered in 1876 of postage stamps being lost on their way to the office. The only way to avoid such loss is to send money by P.O.O. or by cheque, *in every case payable to the order of Walter Besant, and crossed to Coutts and Co., or the Union Bank, Charing Cross Branch.*

The ninth thousand of "Our Work in Palestine" is now ready, and may be ordered of booksellers. This book carries the work down to the commencement of the Survey, but does not embrace M. Ganneau's discoveries nor the results of the Survey.

The following are at present 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, Stow-upland, Stowmarket.

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

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

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.

The Committee are always glad to receive 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. 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 eighteen pence.

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.

FORMATION OF A NEW LOCAL ASSOCIATION AT MELBOURNE.

The following Report, dated Dec. 21st, 1876, has been received from Mr. H. W. Fry, authorised to act on behalf of the Society during his visit to Australia and New Zealand :—

"I have much pleasure in now sending a *résumé* of the work I have done in this town. When I arrived I presented your letter to Mr. W., but found that the interest he takes in the subject is only very general, and he has not the time to

assist us. I therefore wrote to the leading paper here on the subject, but before I got an answer I was introduced to the Rev. W. Poole, of Dorcas Street, Emerald Hill, Melbourne; and I determined to accept his offer to undertake the post of secretary. He knows almost every one, is very energetic, and takes great interest in the work. He promised to get up a committee, but after I left him I thought there would be nothing like doing what could be done at once, so I arranged to hold a meeting at the earliest date convenient, and did all I could to get a fair attendance. The meeting was held on Wednesday afternoon, an account of which you will find in the papers which I send you. It was there resolved to appoint a provisional committee, and Mr. Poole secretary *pro tem.*, and to hold another public meeting this afternoon, which was advertised and done. The committee were then made permanent, and one or two names added, and they all pledged themselves to support the Society. The committee consist of the following gentlemen: the Very Rev. Dean Macartney; Revs. S. L. Chase, A. Gosman, A. Davidson, C. M. Yelland, W. Wood, G. P. Lush, and Mr. E. M. Gibbs; also the treasurer, Dr. Iffla. There already exists a good deal of interest in the matter amongst the general public. Mr. Poole would like two calico maps similar to those I have, and he and the other clergy on the committee will give lectures on the subject. I asked the Governor, Sir Geo. Bowen, to let his name appear as patron, and I think he will do so. I am not able to write more fully now as I am just leaving for Tasmania. I think we may congratulate ourselves on having started very well here, and I quite believe it will prove a very valuable branch.

"H. W. FRY."

LIEUTENANT KITCHENER'S REPORTS.

I.

PALESTINE SURVEY CAMP, HAIFFA,
6th March, 1877.

AFTER seven days' delay at Port Said, owing to the non-arrival of the Russian steamer, I reached Beyrout on the 6th February, and found that the newly-appointed Governor-General of Syria, Zia Pacha, had not arrived. He was, however, daily expected, and on the 8th February he landed. On the 9th I went with Mr. Eldridge, who was making his official visit, and saw him. The Wali appeared to take considerable interest in our work, and wished me every success. I was informed that he probably would not be able to give me the letters I required until he reached the seat of his government at Damascus. On the 11th, therefore, I went to Damascus to await him there, as also to collect our scattered servants and to buy horses. Mr. Jago, the English Consul at Damascus, kindly asked me to stay with him.

After calling upon the acting Governor-General, I saw the Emir Abd el Kader, who received me very well, and expressed great regret for the conduct of his people in the late affair at Safed. On his returning my visit he gave me letters to his chiefs at Tiberias and Safed, which I hope will prove of great use to me.

While at Damascus I heard of the arrival of my noncommissioned officers at Beyrout, having been driven past Haiffa by stress of weather, and as the Wali did not seem likely to attempt the crossing of the mountains, I went back to Beyrout, hoping to get my letters there. After three days, by the kind efforts of our Consul-General, Mr. Eldridge,