

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,

I received the required letters, and as my party was now complete, men and animals, I started the same day for Haiffa, where I arrived with my noncommissioned officers on Saturday, the 24th.

Some time was lost in getting our things out of store, in repairing damages, and in cleaning instruments. On Wednesday, the 28th, I am glad to report that work was fairly started. The day before I saw the Pacha of Acca, who received me very well and gave me a letter to all his kaimacams; also, after a short correspondence, I have received from him a special letter for the kaimacam of Safed and two zabtiehs to be permanently attached to the expedition. The country seems to be very quiet and orderly, the Government having determined to put down all fanaticism, and the calling out of the redifs has drained the country of young men. I have, therefore, no apprehension of any difficulty occurring to delay our work or to interfere with the manner of its progress.

The work that had to be done from this camp was: 1st. The detail of the Acca Plain had to be worked in; 2nd, the line of levels running from the Mediterranean to the Sea of Galilee had to be completed from Mejdal to the sea. I am glad to be able to report that both these works have been satisfactorily finished. The detail of forty-five square miles has been worked in, and two bench-marks have been cut at Haiffa on the rocks, and one at Jiden, thus finishing the levelling on this side.

Owing to the lateness of the rainy season this year the country is still in a very swampy condition, and even had we not been unavoidably delayed, work could hardly have been begun before. The Kishon has to be crossed in a boat, the horses and mules swimming, and as we have had to cross it twice every day it has caused great loss of time. The first day we found considerable difficulty in crossing the Plain of Acca owing to the marshy nature of the ground after the late rains, and could only get to our work by making a long detour after some of us had experienced the pleasures of a mud bath. We were also delayed one day by wet weather.

I have also made a strict inquiry after the name of "Kulmon" or "Kalamon," mentioned in *Quarterly Statement*, January, 1876, p. 20, as to be found on the maps of Robinson, Ritter, and Jacotin, but not on those of M. Guerin and Vandevelde, and which also occurs on Murray's map. The German colony here have purchased nearly all the land north of Tireh, and by the kind permission of Mr. Sennaker, I have been allowed to carefully examine their title-deeds; though they have land all round Khurbet Kefr es Samir, no such name occurs.

I have also ridden to Tireh with the sole object of finding this name. I asked every one I met on the road there and back, about twenty people, first for all the names of the country round, and as a last resource, if they had ever heard of "Kulmon," "Kulamon," or anything like it. At Kh. Kefr es Samir I found an old man who inhabited a cave close by, and put the same questions. At Tireh I saw the sheikh and about

two dozen men ; none had ever heard of such a name. Since then the superior of the convent of Mount Carmel, who knows the district most thoroughly, has assured me that no such name occurs. I can therefore only assume that the name does not exist, and that our map is therefore right in not putting it on. How other maps have procured the name seems difficult to understand ; but, as in some other case, it may have been supplied by some too enthusiastic traveller, who looked more for what ought to be in the country than what is.

Lieutenant Conder appears to have got over the difficulty of the want of the name in the case of the identification of Kalamon, *vide Quarterly Statement*, January, 1876, p. 20.

I hope to-morrow to move my camp to Hattin, and from thence, and the camp after, to survey the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

H. H. KITCHENER, Lieut. R.E.,
Commanding Survey of Palestine.

JACOB'S WELL.

A PARAGRAPH in the last *Quarterly Statement* informed subscribers that Dr. Nathaniel Rogers, of Exeter, had contributed £50, and Miss Peache, of Wimbledon, £100, for the purpose of clearing out Jacob's Well, and for surrounding and protecting the well with stonework. Before this can be done it is necessary that a careful examination should be made of the site, and this will be carried out at the earliest opportunity by Lieutenant Kitchener, who is now in Palestine. Pending the receipt of Lieutenant Kitchener's report, it may be interesting to the subscribers to have before them an account of the well and the adjacent site from notes taken on the spot by our explorer, Captain Anderson, in 1866.

“*March 31st*, 1877.

“Jacob's Well is situated at the spot where the Vale of Shechem merges into the Plain of El Mukna, and the site is acknowledged by Jews, Moslems, and Christians. The existence of a well sunk to a great depth in a place where watersprings on the surface are abundant is sufficiently remarkable to give this well a peculiar history. It is remarkably characteristic of the prudence and forethought of the great Patriarch, who, having purchased a parcel of ground at the entrance of the vale, secured on his own property, by dint of great toil, a perennial supply of water at a time when the adjacent watersprings were in the hands of unfriendly, if not actually hostile neighbours.

“In the midst of a mass of ruined stones, among which are two or three columns still standing, is a vaulted chamber about fifteen feet square, and in the floor of the chamber are two openings four feet apart, one of which is the proper mouth of the well. The other opening is either an accidental breach, or has been designedly made in a rough and ready way for the convenience of having two mouths, by which pitchers