



JACOB'S WELL.

[From a sketch by H. A. Harper.]

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE following Resolution of the Executive Committee, passed July 3, 1877, has been ordered to be communicated by means of the *Quarterly Statement* of July to all subscribers :—“That considering the heavy expenses of the Survey now in progress, which must be met during the next three months, the Committee beg that every subscriber who has not yet paid his subscription for the current year will kindly send it in at once, either to the Head Office or to the Hon. Sec. of his town, although it may not fall due till the last quarter ; that intending donors will bear in mind the urgent importance of finishing the Survey at once ; and that Honorary Secretaries be asked to forward the subscriptions paid to them as soon as they may be conveniently collected.”

The progress of the Survey is detailed at fortnightly intervals in the “Journal” extracted from Lieut. Kitchener’s letters. In starting the work he received the greatest assistance from Consul-General Eldridge ; got letters from the new Wali of Syria and from Abd-el-Kader ; was welcomed at Safed, the scene of the late attack ; and has proceeded undisturbed with his triangulation. Up to the latest account the total amount surveyed was 550 square miles, leaving about an equal amount to complete the Survey of Northern Palestine.

If things remain tranquil, Lieut. Kitchener will have finished Northern Palestine by the middle of August. He will then probably move southwards, in order to settle various points of difficulty which have arisen in laying down the map. This done, there will remain only a small area of 200 miles at the extreme south, where two tribes have been carrying on war against each other for the last three years.

In order to assist in promoting a friendly feeling towards the party, the Committee have resolved on giving up their claim to the rest of the fine imposed on the Safed people. They have addressed a letter, which is now under consideration, to the Foreign Office, asking for the re-establishment of the Haiffa consulate.

† The actual depression of the Sea of Galilee has been ascertained to be 682·554. This result may be slightly modified on re-examination. The papers are in the

hands of Major Wilson, and will be read at the next meeting of the British Association.

From the camp of Tiberias five extinct volcanoes were observed from which the basalt has been thrown out over the surrounding country: the plains being covered by the ashes and boulders of basalt are rendered extremely fertile. Two miles south of the Kurn Hattin occur two extinct volcanoes, and Lieut. Kitchener is of opinion that the Kurn Hattin is another.

The drawing of Jacob's Well as it now appears, which is our frontispiece to the present number, has been drawn and presented to the Committee by Mr. H. A. Harper from a sketch taken by himself on his last visit to the Holy Land.

The Rev. Selah Merrill, Archaeologist of the American Association, passed through London last month on his way to New York. He was received by the Committee, to whom he showed his route map and explained some of his discoveries and theories. These will shortly be published by the American Committee.

Lieut. Conder is still occupied upon the Memoirs; part of his work, with his own conclusions, is published in this *Statement*.

An office has been taken at the Royal Albert Hall, where the work of map-drawing can be at once proceeded with. The services of two non-commissioned officers have been granted by the War Office, who will work under the superintendence of Lieut. Conder.

The Committee have to thank Captain Hamilton, R.E., for the two sketches which are published to illustrate Lieut. Kitchener's report. They were taken on the spot while Captain Hamilton was with the Survey party.

A complete set of the American photographs, one hundred in number, has been presented to the London Committee. They are large and handsomely mounted. About fifty of them are views of places never before taken. Among them are photographs of Um el Jemeil, Lake Phiala, Bozrah, Salchad, &c. There are also views of Canon Tristram's discovery, the Ruins of Mashita. These photographs are lying at the office in 9, Pall Mall East, where they may be seen by any visitor.

The new *Statement* (the fourth) of the American Society is also ready. Extracts from this will be given in the October *Quarterly Statement*.

The following is the financial position of the Fund (June 30th). Receipts, March 29th to June 30th, £936 3s. 8d. Expenditure: Exploration, £673 1s. 9d.; office and management, £185 5s. 11d. The balance in the banks on the latter day was £398 0s. 4d. We asked in April for £2,000 between then and September 30th. At present we have received less than £1000. We now ask for £1000 in the present quarter, or rather in the present month, before the summer holidays begin.

Attention is called to the statement advertised on the cover, that subscribers to the Fund are privileged by the publisher to receive both the "Literary Remains of the late Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake," and the "Underground Jerusalem" of Captain Warren, at reduced rates. The former book will be sent for ten shillings, the latter for sixteen shillings, postage paid. But letters asking for them must be sent to the office at 9, Pall Mall East only.

Oxford subscribers will make a note that an account of the Old Bank by Canon Ridgway for the receipt of subscriptions and donations.

An Association for the Exploration of Palestine has been formed in Germany. The prospectus is signed by Dr. Zimmermann, and Professors Socin, of Tübingen, and Kautzsch, of Basel. Among the committee are Count von Moltke, Karl Baedeker, Dr. Kiepert, the German Consul of Jerusalem, Dr. Sandreczki, and Herr Schick. A long list of those who have promised support includes the names of Professors Ebers, Schlottmann, Sepp, and Sprenger, Herr Weser, and other well-known men. The society will publish a "Quarterly Journal of Palestine Research," which, like our *Quarterly Statement*, will be issued free to all its subscribers. It will contain papers on Topography, Natural History, Ethnology, including Folk-lore, Statistics, Political History, Coins and Inscriptions, and General Literary News. The yearly subscriptions will in the first instance be devoted to this magazine, and if the revenue of the society exceed the cost of the periodical, a fund will be formed for the issue of scientific works on the subject.

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 (price 3s. 6d.), 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 itself.

The following are at present Representatives and Lecturers of the Society, in addition to the Hon. Secs. :—

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, Farndish 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.—Diocese of Armagh : Rev. J. H. Townsend.

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

SCOTLAND.—Rev. R. J. Craig, Dalgetty, Burntisland.

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 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.