

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

WE are happy to announce that the survey of the north of Palestine is at length completed. It was commenced by Lieut. Kitchener on the 27th of February, and finished on the 10th of July. In the course of the work 1,000 square miles of country were surveyed; 2,773 names were collected, and 476 ruins were visited and described, some with special plans. All the villages were also described with regard to the number and religion of inhabitants, the remains of ancient buildings, and the nature of the country. The water-supply has also in all cases been specially described. The whole country has been hill-shaded; the altitudes of a great number of points have been obtained by aneroid readings besides the observed heights: special notes have been taken on the geology, archæology, &c., of the country. The line of levels connecting the Mediterranean and the Sea of Galilee was completed on the 24th March. Photographs have been taken of the more interesting sites.

The whole of this work, except the photographs, has arrived in England, having been brought home by Sergeant Malings. It is now placed under the charge of Lieutenant Conder, at the Royal Albert Hall.

Among the reports sent home by Lieut. Kitchener were a number of Greek inscriptions, many in a fragmentary condition. These will all be published together in January.

With regard to the progress of the Memoir, Lieutenant Conder writes that since the last report two more sheets have been entirely completed. Sheet 13 contains the coast round Jaffa and Ramleh, and these towns and Lydda are described. The site of Antipatris, as suggested in 1850 by Consul Finn ("Byeways of Palestine," p. 133), and upheld by Major Wilson, is shown to agree with the distances in the Antonine Itinerary (see *Quarterly Statement*, January, 1876, p. 13). The *Minet Rubin*, or harbour of Jamnia, is described, as well as the White Mosque at Ramleh and the Church of the Virgin, first planned by the Survey party, with the inscriptions of the time of Bibars in the mosque. Sheet 5, though not a full sheet, has a very long memoir. It includes Nazareth, Carmel, the Kishon, Haifa, Shefa 'Amr, Seffurieh, and other places of import-

ance. The towns are all described at length, and the population of every inhabited place on the sheet given on Consul Rogers's authority. From this an average population of four hundred and fifty souls is deduced as that of a country village, which will allow of an estimate of the population of Palæstine when the Memoir is finished.

Dr. Chaplin has forwarded an account, with a plan by Herr Schiek, of a discovery at Jerusalem about which we have written for further information. He says, in a letter dated Aug. 2, 1877: "There seems little room for doubt that the lower portions of the tower Psephinus has been at last discovered. In the plan of the so-called "Goliath's Castle" appended to the Ordnance Survey of Jerusalem, two square masses marked "Old masonry" are shown, and corresponding to these, on the west, two other similar structures have been recently exposed by the Latins in their excavations for the foundations of a new college. These four huge piers are connected by an arch of very ancient appearance, and appear to have formed the foundation of the tower. Mr. Schiek has been good enough to make a plan of the locality in its present state. The angle of a very old wall of rough megalithic masonry which is shown lying to the south of the piers is very interesting. It is the only relic I know of which seems likely to have formed part of the hastily erected wall of Nehemiah."

At the annual meeting of the General Committee (see the Report, p. 192), Mr. John MacGregor, after an absence of three years, again became a member of the Executive Committee. The death of Mr. William Longman has deprived the Committee of a member who took a very deep interest in the welfare of the Society and the progress of its work.

A report on the levelling of the Sea of Galilee was read before the British Association in August by Major Wilson. We shall be probably able to publish this in the January *Quarterly Statement*.

The following is the financial position of the Fund (Sept. 19th). Receipts, June 30th to September 19th, £706 13s. 5d. Expenditure: Exploration, £650 6s. 2d.; office and management, £170 4s. 11d. Reduction of debt, £55. The balance in the banks on the latter day was £208 1s. 3d. We asked in July for £1,000 between then and September 30th. We now ask for £1,500 in the present quarter.

Attention is called to the statement already advertised, that subscribers to the Fund are privileged by the publishers 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.

Several cases were discovered in 1876, and one or two this year, 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. 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 local 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, Fardish 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.

North Wales : Rev. John Jones, Treborth, Bangor.

Yorkshire and Durham : Rev. James King, 13, Paradise Terrace, Darlington.

IRELAND.—Diocese of Armagh : Rev. J. H. Townsend.

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

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

The Rev. Horrocks Cocks, 19, Edwardees Square, Kensington, has also kindly offered his services among the 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.

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 eighteenpence.

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.

JOURNAL OF THE SURVEY.

Nakura, June 24.—All well so far. I hope that before you get this you will have got a telegram, "North finished, all well, Lebanon," which will mean that I have finished the north and am off to the Lebanon for three weeks after that. . . . Phœnicia was the worst country we have surveyed yet, all up and down, and crowded with ruins and villages; where Murray has 7 names I had 116; instead of 7 villages and ruins I had 63. . . . I took the last observations for the triangulation of the country the other day.

Haifa, July 11.—I have finished the north under my original estimate and without Armstrong, and there has been no accident, as you will have been informed by telegram. We are now off for the Lebanon for three weeks' rest, which we sadly want. . . . A report was started in the Beyrout paper that I had been attacked and wounded by Bedouin near Baniyas. Eldridge sent soldiers and scoured the country. I in the meantime had gone peacefully across to Tyre, so there was no end of alarm at my not being found or heard of.

Aleih, Mount Lebanon, July 24.—We arrived here safely on the 21st, after a hot march from Haifa. I have now started office work in a room close to our camp, and I think we shall have a month or more hard work; everything has to be made in duplicate, and all observations, descriptions, &c., have to be copied out. It is charmingly cool up here compared to what we have been used to in the low country. Mr. Eldridge and several Europeans are living here for the summer