

Thus the whole of Sisera's flight is reduced to the far more probable distance of five or six miles from the scene of his defeat—a distance possible for the powers of a man so exhausted as Sisera was, and is directed in a line just opposite to that of the pursuit of his army towards Harosheth. It may be added that the name Bitzaanaim has not been recovered in the old supposed position, and does not occur in any other part of Palestine.

Much might be added in illustration of this episode with regard to the storm, the meteor shower, the butter given by Jael, the hammer and nail, and the alleged reasons, according to the Jews, for the murder; but this paper is intended to point out only the probable topography of the account.

C. R. C.

MEETING OF GENERAL COMMITTEE.

THE Annual Meeting of the General Committee was held at the office of the Fund on Tuesday, July 17th, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Barclay in the chair.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

2. The following Report of the Executive Committee was then read:—

“The Executive Committee have, on resigning the trust committed to them on June 26th, 1876, to render an account of their administration and work during the past twelve months.

1. On their first sitting Mr. W. Hepworth Dixon was elected Chairman for the year.

2. The number of meetings held during the year has been twenty-four. There have also been meetings of the Publication Committee, the Finance Committee, and various sub-committees, specially appointed from time to time, to investigate and report on matters of importance as they occurred.

3. The exploration work of the year divides itself into two portions—the field work, and that of drawing the map, calculating the observations, and preparing the memoirs. From June to January the whole strength of the Royal Engineers in the service of the Committee was employed on the latter branch of work, two officers and five non-commissioned officers being engaged upon the map in an office taken for them for this purpose. The result is that out of twenty-six sheets, twenty are so far advanced that, were it not for a few points of difficulty which must be answered by re-examination of the ground, they might be put into an engraver's hands at once. As regards the memoirs, which are the special work of Lieutenant Conder, the last report of progress shows that the whole of the names collected by Lieutenant Conder for the map—6,000 in number—have been translated, compared with the official lists and those of Rogers, Robinson, Zeller, and others, and the translation has been completed as far as possible. This very important part of the

work will be carefully examined before publication by the best Arabic scholars.

The memoirs of three of the sheets (Nos. 13, 16, and 18) have been completed, and two more (viz., 7 and 9) only have to be rearranged in accordance with the modified plan of the editors.

The greater part of the indexes of the remaining sheets have been made.

At the beginning of the year the Committee thought themselves justified in sending out Lieutenant Kitchener with a party of three non-commissioned officers to complete the survey of Western Palestine. There remained, as was estimated, about 1,200 square miles in northern Palestine, and 200 in the south. Lieutenant Kitchener's letters have reported steady and uninterrupted progress. In his last letter he estimated that the work would be finished in the north by the end of July. By a telegram which reached the Chairman on Saturday last, the Committee receive the gratifying intelligence that the whole of the northern portion, which appears to consist of 1,000 square miles, or 200 less than was estimated, has been now completed.

There remain, therefore, only the 200 square miles in the south and the examination of certain points in the country to clear up the difficulties mentioned above.

The Committee take this opportunity of expressing their high sense of Lieutenant Kitchener's ability and zeal. He has conducted the work for six months without any accidents during a period of suspicion and excitement. His reports, which are in the hands of the General Committee, are careful and intelligent, and his monthly accounts show due regard to economy. He has hitherto managed to conduct the Survey for a monthly sum less than that which the Committee gave him as a maximum. It is hoped that he will return to England in the autumn, bringing his work with him, after which the Committee recommend that no time will be lost in arranging and working up the detail, with a view to the early publication of the map and its accompanying memoirs.

This map, when produced, will, the Committee may fairly promise, fully justify the work and expenditure of the last five years, and will form by far the most important contribution ever yet made to the knowledge of the lands of the Bible.

4. The income of the Fund from June 30th, 1876, to June 30th, 1877, was £3,709 14s. 1d. The classified expenditure during the same period was as follows:—Exploration account, £2,399 12s. 8d.; Printers, £317 12s. 4d.; Loan repaid to Treasurer, £100; Postage, £80 18s. 10d.; paid to Photographer, £109 7s. 9d.; Office, Rent, Salaries, and Advertising, £649 15s. 5d. The balance in hand on June 30th was £398 0s. 4d.

The Committee, on considerations of general policy, have decided on abandoning their claim to the rest of the damages awarded for the Safed outrage. They have received from Consul-General Eldridge the sum of £262 12s. 5d., representing an amount of £270, less exchange.

5. Several new Local Societies have been formed in Australia and

New Zealand through the exertions of Mr. H. W. Fry, to whom the best thanks of the Committee are due.

6. The holding of drawing-room meetings continues to be carried on by Mrs. Finn, and the best thanks of the Committee are due to those ladies who have held meetings.

7. The publication of the *Quarterly Statement* has been under the consideration of the Committee. It has been proposed to make certain changes in the contents of the periodical, which shall tend to make it more generally interesting. The matter has been referred to a sub-committee, consisting of the Chairman and one of the Hon. Secretaries, who will report and recommend what, if any, change is to be made. The Executive Committee recommend that powers be granted from the General Committee to adopt such improvements in the management of the *Quarterly Statement* as, on consideration, they may find best suited to serve the interests of the Fund.

8. The Committee have undertaken to examine and restore to its proper use, so far as may be found practicable, the interesting site of Jacob's Well. For this purpose £100 has been given by Miss Peache, and £50 promised by Dr. Rogers, of Exeter. It is proposed to clear out the well, take away the rubbish which lies round it, and have it guarded by the low wall, part of which is still standing, that once formed part of a church erected over it. Another special offer of £50 has been made to the Committee for the purpose of examining Rachel's Tomb. This will be done if possible.

9. The special thanks of the Committee are due to Consul-General Eldridge for the very great trouble he has taken in starting Lieutenant Kitchener in his work; to Mr. Harper, Captain Anderson, and Captain Hamilton for sketches published in the *Quarterly Statement*; to the Duke of Northumberland, Mr. G. Harris, the Hon. W. Cowper-Temple, the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Forbes, Miss Baxter, of Ellangowan, Mr. H. N. Middleton, Mr. Jno. Edward Wilson, Mr. P. Mackinnon, G. M. E., Sir T. Archibald, Mr. W. H. Gamlen, Lord Lawrence, Mr. Dimmock, Mr. Arthur Jones, Mr. Maitland Spencer, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Robinson Douglas, Mr. H. M. Ormerod, Mrs. Stewart Dykes, Mr. W. Kemble, Rev. W. Hall-Houghton, the Bishop of Norwich, Rev. Archibald Morrison, Sir W. Ramsay Fairfax, Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Lady Herschel, Mr. S. H. Officer, G. C., Rev. C. Watson, Mrs. Atkinson, Rev. S. S. Mander, Mrs. Cunliffe, Rev. G. Lawrence, Mrs. Oliphant, Mr. Wagner, M. J. T. Houghton, Professor Kinke, Mr. F. Pease, J. S., Captain Warren, Mr. E. H. Palmer, and others for donations varying from £5 to £100. Many of these are second, third, or fourth donations."

3. This Report having been formally adopted, the Committee proceeded to confirm the action of the late Executive Committee in strengthening the body of the General Committee by the names of the Bishop of Adelaide, Mr. M'Arthur, M.P., and the Dean of Norwich.

4. The Executive Committee was then re-elected for the following year, with the addition of Mr. John MacGregor.

The Honorary Officers were re-elected.

5. A vote of thanks was passed to the President of the American Association for the gift of their photographs.

6. The Executive Committee received full powers to deal with the improvement or alteration of the *Quarterly Statement* as might be found expedient.

7. A vote of thanks was then passed to the Chairman, and the Committee adjourned.

THE SEPULCHRES OF DAVID AND OF THE KINGS OF JUDAH.

A HALO of intense interest surrounds the tomb of David. While its true position is a much disputed point in the topography of Jerusalem, its discovery would reveal the most ancient monument connected with the Holy City, and perhaps might throw some light upon the expression, "the city of David."

The recovery of such a precious relic of the past is a reward yet in store for some successful explorer; the definition of its exact or probable position it is now proposed once more to assay by argument.

We possess but scanty knowledge about early Jewish tombs, yet in three instances in the Old Testament (the sepulchre of Abraham, of the prophet at Bethel, and of Elisha) their situation seems to have been at least at some little distance from human habitations.

It is stated, however, in the Bible more than twenty times of some one or other of the kings of Judah, that he was *buried in the city of David*, frequently with the additional words, "with his fathers." No special honour was necessarily conferred by such burial "in the city of David," as is clear from the case of Jehoram, who was so buried (2 Kings viii. 24; 2 Chron. xxi. 20), whilst Josephus says (Ant. ix. 5. 3), "They neither buried him in the sepulchres of his fathers, nor vouchsafed him any honours, but buried him like a private man."

The surprise naturally arising at this intramural sepulture on the part of the Jews increases to amazement when one reads that all Israel "buried Samuel in his house at Ramah" (1 Sam. xxv. 1).

Perhaps, however, in our simplicity we have been making the Jews to do what they neither did nor thought of doing; so that it is necessary to examine the two expressions, "buried in his house," and "buried in the city of David," with the view of ascertaining the precise meaning of the three words "house," "city," and "in."

(A.) House. "They buried Samuel in his house."

The Hebrew word here used for house is "Beth." In the following passages the same term is applied to a tomb:—

Job xxx. 23. "The *house* appointed for all living."