

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

* * ON and after December 27th, the address of the Fund will be at 11 and 12, Charing Cross, S. W.

We were able early in October, immediately after the issue of the *Quarterly Statement*, to announce that the Survey of the *whole* of Western Palestine was completed on the 28th of September, and that Lieut. Kitchener had started from Jerusalem to execute the revision of certain portions of the country. This, too, is now finished, and the materials for completing Map and Memoirs have all arrived in England. Thus the Survey, announced in the *Quarterly Statement* of January, 1872, as then commenced, has taken exactly six years to execute. Had it not been for the interruption due to the attack at Safed, it would have been accomplished a year ago.

We print at page 5 the letter sent by the Chairman of the Executive Committee to the papers announcing the completion of the Survey.

Lieut. Conder's Memoirs steadily progress. His party are now at work in an office placed at the disposal of the Committee by Her Majesty's Government in the South Kensington Museum.

The work of the Committee for 1878 will probably consist entirely in the preparation of Map and Memoirs. It is believed that Lieut. Conder will finish his part of the Memoirs early in the spring. Probably Lieut. Kitchener will not require more than a year for the Memoirs of North Palestine, and the hill-shading, observations, and map-drawing will be pushed on as rapidly as possible.

The following is the financial position of the Fund (Dec. 12, 1877). Receipts, September 19th to December 12, £874 13s. 9d. Expenditure: Exploration, £485; office and management, £172 17s. 7d. Printers, &c., £190 19s. 7d. The balance in the banks on the latter day was £230 16s.

The maintenance of a large staff of engineers, with the current expense of printing our reports, &c., requires an expenditure of over £200 a month; there are debts to pay amounting to about £600, and it will be most desirable to have a fund in hand for future work. Will subscribers remember *that the earlier their subscriptions are paid in the better it is for the Committee?* It would be, indeed, best that all subscriptions should date from the beginning of the year, but this point is only suggested, as it has always been the practice in the Fund for subscribers to choose their own time.

Lieut. Kitchener writes with regard to Jacob's Well :—"When passing Nablus, on my way to Jerusalem, I paid a visit to Jacob's Well. As it was late when I arrived, and I was obliged to leave early next morning, I had not much time to examine the well very thoroughly. The well is situated in an almost square enclosure, which measures 192 ft. by 151 ft.; the wall of this enclosure is almost entirely destroyed; in many cases it is completely levelled with the ground; the ground contained by this enclosure is completely covered with shapeless ruins, forming a large mound. The well is situated in a vaulted chamber, the entrance being through a broken portion of the roof of the vault, with about 7 ft. drop on the inside. Above this vault there is about 3 ft. to 6 ft. of rubbish accumulated. The entrance to the well itself was closed by large stones."

The shield of Hamseh has been taken down from the mosque by the Pasha, and is now in the serail. It was said that a brass plate was found in the Haram bearing the arms of the twelve tribes of Israel, and there was some excitement amongst the Jews. It appears to have been the cover of a baptismal font or of some vessel, and is made of bronze containing a great deal of silver. The work appears to Lieut. Kitchener to be Italian, of the twelfth century; the shield was cast.

Outside the Damascus gate an inscription has been found in a tomb west of Jeremiah's grotto and near the probable site of St. Stephen's Church; it is in one line on a slab of stone 4 ft. by 2 ft. $\frac{1}{2}$ in., and runs as follows :—

+ΘΗΚΗΔΙΑΦΕΡΣC

Lieut. Conder reports that he has obtained from Jacob Shellaby, now in London, some interesting information on Samaritan traditions. He states that the Samaritans believe the Cave of Makkedah to be a certain cavern now blocked up on the side of Gerizim, between the place of sacrifice and the road leading down to Râs el 'Ain.

At 'Awertah are not only the tombs of Eleazar and Phinehas, but also of Ithamar and Abishuah (supposed author of the famous Samaritan Roll), close to the tomb of Eleazar. At Kefr Hâris, south of Shechem, they believe Joshua, of Nun, and Caleb, son of Jephunneh, to be buried. Joshua died in 'Awertah, which agrees with the account in the Samaritan book of Joshua.

Lieut. Conder also reports as follows on the nomenclature :—"During the months of August and September Mr. S. Bergheim, of Jerusalem, was in London. Being the owner of 5,000 acres of land at Abu Shûsheh, he has lived there many years, and knows thoroughly the peculiar dialect of the peasantry. I was glad to submit to him, therefore, the translation of the nomenclature, on which he pronounced a very favourable opinion, and also gave me the local meaning attached to a variety of curious words, and special information as to the neighbourhood of Abu Shushah, and as to many places in Jerusalem. It must be borne in mind that the peasant dialect proves to be much nearer to Aramaic (which Jerome says was the native language in his time) than to modern literary Arabic, and the criticism of persons who are familiar with this dialect is thus of the highest value. The natives of the great towns are often quite at a loss to understand the peasants, and ignorant entirely of the meaning of many words which they use commonly.

Lieut. Conder proposes (see p. 46) that the Rose of Sharon, the meaning of which has never been certainly determined, is probably the Narcissus, a plant which grows freely in spring in the Plain of Sharon.

A letter from the German Consul at Jerusalem, Baron Von Munchausen, which we reproduce from the *Athenæum*, describes a visit to Moab, in which he found certain vases and idols resembling the "Moabite" antiquities sold by

Mr. Shapira to the German Government. We publish this letter, with Mr. Shapira's notes, and Professor Neubauer's reply, in continuation of the arguments for and against the genuineness of this collection which have already appeared in these pages.

Lieut. Conder is engaged on a work entitled "Tent-work in Palestine," in which he will give an account of his work, its progress, its difficulties, and some of its results. The book, which will be published for the Committee by Messrs. Bentley and Son, will be in two volumes at 24s. But a large reduction will be made for subscribers. As in the case of other writers, the Committee leave Lieut. Conder to express his own conclusions, without in any way sanctioning or adopting them.

Several cases were discovered in 1876, and one or two last 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. 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 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.

Lancashire : Rev. John Bone, St. Thomas's Vicarage, Lancaster.

London : Rev. Henry Geary, 16, Somerset Street, Portman Square.

Norwich : Rev. F. C. Long, Stow-upland, Stowmarket.

Peterborough : Rev. A. J. 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.

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, Edwardes 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.

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.

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 published in April, as, owing to the early publication of this *Statement*, it could not be prepared in time.

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 eighteenthpence.

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.

MEETING AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.

ON Monday evening, November 12th, a meeting on behalf of the Palestine Exploration Fund was held in the Vestry Hall, Kensington, the Vicar presiding. The hall was densely crowded by an attentive and enthusiastic audience, and a large number of persons were unable to obtain admission. On the platform were the Rev. Dr. Hessey, Rev. Dr. Stoughton, Dr. Gladstone, F.R.S., Mr. J. MacGregor, M.A., Mr. W. S. W. Vaux, Rev. H. Cocks, Dr. Raleigh, Mr. S. C. Hall, Rev. S. Sabunjee, D.D., of Beyrout, Rev. G. Wingate, M.A., Rev. R. Macbeth, Mr. T. Fordham, Lieutenant C. R. Conder, R.E., Dr. Grove, Mr. Edmond Beales, M.A., Mr. Walter Besant, Dr. Dudfield, Rev. J. S. Russell, M.A., Mr. H. Wright, J.P., Rev. C. T. Ackland, Mr. Hugh Matheson, and other gentlemen. The Rev. Horrocks Cocks having stated that letters from the Earl of Shaftesbury, Lord Lawrence, G.C.B., Mr. J. A. Froude, M.A., the Bishop of Sydney, Sir Trevor Lawrence, M.P., Mr. W. Hepworth Dixon, Rev. Dr. Forrest, Major Wilson, Hon. Captain Maude, R.N., Lord Kensington, M.P., and several other gentlemen, had been received, all cordially approving of the object of the meeting, the Vicar, after a short but suggestive address, called upon Mr. George Grove, founder of the Fund, to address the meeting. Mr. Grove, in a most lucid address, explained the origin and purposes of the Exploration Fund. Mr. John MacGregor (Rob Roy) gave a description of the size of the Holy Land, and taking Hyde Park as representing Jerusalem, gave the relative positions of the Temple, the Mount of Olives, the Dead Sea, Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, and other localities. Mr. MacGregor said that the outline was but a rough one, but it was suggestive. Thus modern Jerusalem might be supposed to occupy that part of