

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 and other conclusions arrived at 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 have been advertised as out of print.

Attention is called to the statement already advertised, that subscribers 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 11 and 12, Charing Cross only.

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.

MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

THE General Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 11th, at the Society's Offices at Charing Cross.

The Chair was taken by Professor Donaldson.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the following Report of the Executive Committee was read.

“On resigning the trust committed to them on July 17th, 1877, the Committee have to render an account of their administration during the past twelve months.

1. On their first sitting Mr. Hepworth Dixon was elected for the second time Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. The number of meetings held during the year has been twenty-two, which does not include the meetings of Publication and other sub-committees, held for various objects.

3. The Committee were able to report at the last meeting of the General Committee that the whole of the northern portion of the Survey of Western Palestine was then completed, and that there remained to be surveyed at that date only a small district of 200 square miles in the north, together with the revision of certain sheets. On October 3rd, 1877, the Chairman was enabled, by the receipt of a telegram from Palestine, to send a letter to the papers containing the welcome intelligence that this remainder was also happily accomplished, and the whole of the work on its way home under charge of the noncommissioned officers. Lieut. Kitchener himself, to whom the Committee granted a month's leave of absence, arrived in January, and joined Lieut. Conder at the working office at South Kensington, very kindly lent to the Fund by Her Majesty's Government. Here he has been, and is still, employed in the preparation of his memoirs and plans and the reduction of the map.

4. It is due to this officer to state that his work, although it is in no respect inferior to that of his predecessor in command, was accomplished under the most urgent necessity for dispatch. For a large part of the eight months during which he was in the country he and his men worked without intermission in order to get the work completed while the country, then threatened with disturbances, was still tranquil. No serious hindrance was met with, nor was there any opposition from the natives, except at Nablus, where Lieut. Kitchener was attacked and stoned in the streets, and where he was prevented from executing the proposed repairs of Jacob's Well. The Committee desire to express their sense not only of the energy and ability, but also of the tact shown by this officer in the conduct of his expedition, and of the careful economy with which he kept his expenses below the estimate.

5. Lieut. Conder completed his Memoirs on the 30th April, and on the 1st May rejoined his corps, after a period of six years' consecutive work in the service of the Committee. No other officer has worked so long for the Society, and the Committee feel that they must ask the General Committee to record an expression of thanks for his services and of regret at his departure.

6. The Committee have the greatest satisfaction in announcing that they have made arrangements, through the courtesy which has always been extended to them by the different departments of Her Majesty's Government with whom they have been in correspondence, for photolithographing and preparing for publication the whole of the large map of

Western Palestine by the Ordnance Survey at Southampton. The sheets are now in the hands of General Cameron, R.E., the Director, for that purpose. Each sheet of the work will bear the usual imprint of the Department. There seems good reason to believe that the map will be ready for publication on this large scale as soon as the Committee can prepare the small map, which for business purposes must be issued simultaneously. The arrangement so made will enable the Committee to publish this large map on a scale of economy not originally considered possible. Facilities have been kindly offered by the department for preparing the smaller map also. Correspondence on this subject is still proceeding, and the Committee expect that their communications will result in an arrangement by which the publication of the smaller map will be greatly assisted both in time and economy. It is hoped that this may be completed within the coming twelve months.

7. The Committee, considering the desirability of providing a record of their Survey in a more popular form than their scientific memoirs, resolved on inviting Lieut. Conder to write for them a book which should contain such a record. This book, called 'Tent Work in Palestine,' is now ready. It is illustrated from drawings made by Lieut. Conder himself, and engraved by Mr. J. S. Whymper.

They have followed the example set in the 'Recovery of Jerusalem,' in making a large allowance for subscribers, by whom it can be obtained at a reduction of 27 per cent. post free.

8. The Committee have next to consider the present and future operations of the Society.

The original prospectus of the Society contemplated the following main branches of exploration:—

(1) *Archæology*.—In this branch Jerusalem alone has occupied the attention of the Committee. Their excavations under Major Warren, although extensive, were necessarily not exhaustive, in consequence of the impossibility of obtaining permission to dig in the Haram area. The other places mentioned in the original prospectus are still awaiting examination. Among them are Mount Gerizim, the Valley of Shechem, Samaria, the Roman cities of the coast, especially Cæsarea, Antipatris, Gaza, the tombs of Tibneh, the mounds in the valley of the Jordan, Bethshean, and Jezreel.

Special detailed plans of many of the places, especially Cæsarea, where Lieut. Conder believes that he has found the remains of the Temple erected by Herod, have been made during the Survey, but no excavations of any kind were conducted during the progress of that work.

A great quantity of archæological work has also been done for the Committee by the officers in charge of their several expeditions, especially by M. Clermont Ganneau in 1874. This work has all been published in the *Quarterly Statement*, which has been made, as far as possible, a medium for publishing other discoveries and researches made in Palestine.

(2) *Manners and Customs*.—Under this head the Committee originally

contemplated producing such a work on the Holy Land as was written by Mr. Lane for Egypt, which should describe in a systematic and exhaustive order, with clear and exact minuteness, the manners, habits, rites, and language of the present inhabitants. A mass of materials has been collected towards such a work. They have been published among the reports of M. Clermont Ganneau, Lieut. Conder, Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake, and others. This part of their programme, however, remains to be carried into execution.

(3) *Topography*.—The exact words of the original prospectus, written, it must be remembered, thirteen years ago, were:—

‘Of the coast-line of Palestine we now possess an accurate map in the recent Admiralty Charts. What is wanted is a survey which, when we advance inland, should give the position of the principal points throughout the country with equal accuracy. If these were fixed, the intermediate spots and the smaller places could be filled in with comparative ease and certainty. In connection with the topography is the accurate ascertainment of the levels of the various points. The elevation of Jerusalem and the depression of the Dead Sea are already provided for by the liberality of the Royal Society and the Royal Geographical Society; but the level of the Sea of Galilee (on which depends our knowledge of the true fall of the Jordan) is still uncertain within no less than 300 feet—as are other spots of almost equal moment.

‘The course of the ancient roads, and their coincidence with the modern tracks, has never been examined with the attention it deserves, considering its importance in the investigation of the history.’

It is gratifying to record that, so far as Western Palestine is concerned, all these points then noted as requiring examination have been entirely cleared up. We have a complete survey of the country; the positions of all the principal points are observed; the levels are noted; that of the Sea of Galilee has been obtained; the ancient roads have been laid down.

Of Geology, Botany, Zoology, and Meteorology, almost the same words may be used now as were used in 1865. The objects then proposed by the Committee remain still to be carried into execution.

So far, therefore, the Committee have carried into effect the original prospectus of the Society. It remains to be considered what steps should be recommended for the future.

a. For the immediate future, or rather for present work, the Committee recommend the publication of the map as speedily as possible. Every hope is entertained of having both the larger and the smaller map ready before the next meeting of the General Committee.

b. This should be followed by the publication of the Memoirs and special plans. The Executive Committee are not at present prepared to recommend a mode of undertaking this costly publication, which should include the special plans of Lieuts. Conder and Kitchener, those of Majors Wilson and Warren, and the drawings made for the Committee by M. Le Comte and others, now in their possession.

c. As regards future field work, the opinion of Major Wilson, Captain Anderson, and Lieuts. Conder and Kitchener, has been invited, and their views have been considered by the Committee.

It is recommended that an expedition should be sent out as soon as may be found convenient, with the special object of examining, by means of excavations where necessary, the shores of the Sea of Galilee, and the determination by this method of the sites of Capernaum, Chorazin, Bethsaida, and other places connected with the New Testament history. A special appeal might be made for this Mission to Galilee.

An alternative expedition would be the examination by a geologist of reputation of the Jordan valley and the Dead Sea. Both the Lake of Galilee and the Dead Sea must be examined at the same time of the year, namely, in the winter.

In the absence of any definite communication from the American Committee, nothing can be recommended as regards the survey east of Jordan. But it must be borne in mind that the work remains to be done.

Excavations would certainly yield valuable results at Jerusalem, Samaria, Cæsarea, Jezreel, Ras el Ain, Jericho, and many other places.

A special prospectus of future operations should be issued as soon as possible.

10. The Committee have to regret the loss by death of several members. These are, Mr. Ambrose de Lisle, a member of the General Committee from the commencement of the Fund; Mr. William Longman, on several occasions a member of the Executive Committee; Earl Russell, who showed his interest in the Society by several donations; Sir Gilbert Scott, one of its original founders; and the Rev. Canon Williams, author of the "Holy City," who, from the foundation of the Society, was active in rendering assistance on every possible occasion by addresses, by writing, by counsel, and by presiding or assisting at meetings.

It is proposed to fill up these losses by inviting the following gentlemen to join the General Committee:—

Lord TALBOT DE MALAHIDE.
 Sir HOWARD ELPHINSTONE.
 Col. Sir JOHN COWELL.
 General CAMERON, R.E.
 Dr. ERASMUS WILSON.
 Col. HOME, R.E., C.M.G.
 Bishop of LICHFIELD.
 Lieut. CONDER, R.E.

The Committee also recommend that Lord Dufferin and Mr. William Simpson be invited to join the Executive Committee.

11. The income of the Fund from June 30th, 1877, to June 11th, 1878, from all sources, has been £3,029 1s. 3d., a sum less than that received during the preceding twelve months by £680 12s. 10d. The falling off is not due to a decrease in the number of annual subscribers so much as

to the cessation of donations on the announcement that the Survey was finished.

The Committee have no doubt that when another expedition is announced their income will rise to its former level.

The balance in hand this day amounts to £160 11s. 10d. The expenditure has been distributed as follows:—Exploration, £2,002 8s. 0d.; sundries, petty cash, postage, &c., £126 12s.; printing, £390; salaries, management, advertising, rent, and all other expenses, £681 8s. 6d.

12. The best thanks of the Committee are due to those ladies who have kindly opened their drawing-rooms for meetings to be addressed by Mrs. Finn.

13. The special thanks of the Committee are due to the Rev. W. F. Maclagan (now Bishop Designate of Lichfield) for taking the chair at a meeting at the Kensington Vestry Hall, to the gentlemen who addressed the meeting, and to the Rev. Horrocks Cocks for the great trouble he took in organising it. Also to Mr. James Bateman, F.R.S., Mr. Robinson Douglas, Mr. Hall Dare, Lord Lawrence, Mr. J. P. Bacon, Mr. Dimmock, General Lefroy, Mr. R. D. Wilson, Mr. S. H. Officer, Mr. Burges, Miss Peache, Colonel Haig, Mr. Ormerod, Mr. Harper, Mr. Mackinnon, "Esther and Maud," the Sunday School Union, Lady Tite, Miss Hockley, Miss Mary Hockley, Mrs. Deane Browne, Mr. Cecil Turner, Mr. S. Morley, Dr. Gladstone, Lord Kensington, Mr. Jones, Mr. Gotto, Mr. Herbert Dalton, Miss Wakeham, Rev. F. E. Wigram, Mr. Wingfield Digby, Rev. G. H. Egerton, Rev. W. D. Maclagan, C.E., Rev. H. Hall-Houghton, Rev. W. H. Walford, H. Heywood, the Dean of Lincoln, Rev. C. Watson, Mr. Hastings Middleton, Rev. W. H. Gamlen, Mr. J. T. Houghton, C.D., Miss Ridding, Mr. David Johnstone, Mr. William Atkinson, Mr. W. Scott, the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Bishop of Exeter, Mr. J. S. Mander, Valley Field, Mr. J. F. Gibson, Mr. Peter Denny, Mrs. Nathaniel Muggeridge, and others, for donations, many of them annual, of sums varying from £5 to £100. Also to all the Hon. Local Secretaries, by whose assistance and encouragement interest in the work of the Fund is maintained.

W. HEPWORTH DIXON,
Chairman."

It was RESOLVED that this Report be accepted.

A letter was then read from Mr. George Grove, proposing to resign his office as Honorary Secretary on the ground of pressure of work. It was RESOLVED—That the Committee receive this letter with the greatest regret; that they hope Mr. Grove will reconsider his resignation, and will continue as Honorary Secretary, to give the Committee his counsel on occasions of emergency and importance; and that in this hope they should proceed to re-elect the Honorary Officers of the Fund.

It was next RESOLVED—That the thanks of the General Committee be conveyed to Lieutenants Conder and Kitchener for the skill and devotion displayed in the successful conduct of the Survey of Western Palestine.

It was then RESOLVED—That the thanks of the Committee be passed (1) to Mr. Hepworth Dixon, for his two years of office as Chairman of the Executive Committee; and (2) to Mr. Walter Besant for his zeal and activity as Secretary to the Society.

After a vote of thanks to Professor Donaldson for taking the chair the Committee adjourned.

TENT WORK IN PALESTINE.

We published in the last *Quarterly Statement* the table of contents of these two volumes, which have since been issued. These pages are not the place for a criticism of Lieut. Conder's book, but we may be allowed to show by a few extracts something of the nature of the work and of the manner in which the prospectus we gave last quarter has been carried out. We confine ourselves exclusively to those passages which most directly concern the special work of the Fund, Biblical illustration. Lieut. Conder's conclusions on the topography of Jerusalem, the present state of the Samaritans, the Bedawin, the modern colonists of Palestine, the fertility of the country, and other topics of the greatest interest, must be looked for in the book itself.

THE SITE OF KIRJATH JEARIM.

“This fine site, standing out black against the sky, with its grand ravine and wild copses, is evidently an important spot; yet the name Sôba does not recall any Scriptural place, though not far different from the Hebrew Zuph where Saul met Samuel. In modern Arabic it means ‘a heap,’ such as the grain-heaps of the threshing-floors, a title which applies well to the shape of the hill, but probably this is a corruption of some older word. Dr. Chaplin, of Jerusalem, who is perhaps the soundest antiquarian in the country, supposes it to mark the real site of Kirjath Jearim, and there many points in favour of such a view. First of all, Kirjath Jearim is mentioned as on the boundary of Judah next to Mount Seir, which, in turn, is next to Chesalon. Chesalon is known to be the present Kesla, a village on the same ridge with Sôba, and between them is a mountain called Saghîr, a word radically identical with Seir. Then again the thickets west of Sôba may well represent those of the ancient Mount Jearim, ‘the hill of thickets.’ Geba also was a place near Kirjath Jearim, and a ruin called Jeb'a exists close to Sôba. Baalah was another name for Kirjath Jearim, and the word means ‘high’ or ‘elevated,’ applying well to Sôba, which is a strong place. It is also not impossible that in the name Sôba we have a trace of Shobal the founder of Kirjath Jearim.”

THE SYCHAR OF ST. JOHN (iv. 4).

“It is here no doubt that we recognise the Sychar of the Fourth Gospel. An unaccountable confusion has grown up lately between