

our Lord. I allude to the synagogue of Capernaum, which is rapidly disappearing owing to the stones being burnt for lime.

Ought we not to preserve for ourselves and our children buildings so hallowed, so unique? Let us hope that if this expedition succeeds it may be the means of leaving some footprints in the sand of time—

“Footprints that perhaps another
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, may take heart again.”

Major Wilson, C.B., F.R.S., observed that Lieutenant Kitchener had omitted to mention, through modesty, the difficulties he had to surmount owing to the country being at war. From private information he had received from the consuls in Palestine he could assure the meeting that the tact and energy displayed by Lieutenant Kitchener in protecting the Christian population had greatly tended to the preservation of peace in that country.

Canon Tristram pointed out the great value the map displayed would have on the Biblical knowledge of the future, and hoped that not only this Association, but all who took an interest in the work, would help in the renewed efforts that were about to be made by the Society.

The Chairman, Sir Wyville Thompson, said that he felt sure that such a project would not fail for want of funds. He hoped that the Association would be able to assist the work by a grant, and he felt sure that the meeting would unanimously pass a vote of thanks to Lieutenant Kitchener for his interesting paper.

REPORT ON THE COMPLETION OF THE WORK.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—It is with great regret that I leave the service of the Palestine Exploration Fund after a period of four years' work. I beg to tender to you and to the other members of the Committee who are not present on this occasion my best thanks for the universally kind and indulgent way in which I have been treated, particularly during the time I was in command of the Survey of Palestine in that country. During that very critical period when Turkey was at war the confidence placed in me by the Committee enabled me to carry out the survey in my own way, when, had it been necessary to apply home for detailed directions, I should very probably not have succeeded in the enterprise.

I strongly recommend to the Committee to adopt the same course with any brother officer who may be sent out in a similar position, and I feel sure that the Committee will not find their confidence misplaced in any officers of the corps of Royal Engineers who may hereafter carry on their work.

In handing over to the Committee the completed survey of Western Palestine, I beg leave to state what they have now in hand.

1st. A completed survey, 1-inch scale, of rather more than 6,000 square miles, prepared for publication with hill shading by the Ordnance Survey department.

2nd. Twenty-six volumes of Memoirs—viz., twenty by Lieutenant Conder and six by myself, comprising the notes made by the survey party while at work.

3rd. A reduced map prepared by myself in accordance with your instructions for the engraver, with corrected photographs to enable the printer to proceed.

4th. A number of photographs taken by me.

5th. A number of special plans by Lieutenant Conder and myself. A few of these are not fair drawn, but all are in such a state that they can be rapidly finished without further instruction.

With regard to publishing the reduced map, I have asked for and received black impressions of the hills, from which the engraver can work, and I shall be glad to correct the proofs.

With regard to the publication of the Memoirs, a considerable number of plans and sketches, in addition to those now in your hands, will probably have to be drawn from Lieutenant Conder's and my own notebooks. An editor with a thorough knowledge of the subject is necessary, as it may be thought desirable to comprise the results of Major Wilson's, Major Warren's, Captain Anderson's, and M. Clermont Ganneau's investigations, so as to make a complete publication up to date in every respect. This will be no light task, and in some cases the observations of different officers may not be found exactly to agree. A year's work for a capable man would, in my opinion, be necessary to produce a thoroughly good and permanent result.

The maps I hope will be published early next year, the Memoirs a year later.

I cannot conclude without mentioning the excellent services of Sergeant Armstrong and Corporal Brophy, who have served the Committee longer than any other non-commissioned officers.

Sergeant Malings and Corporal Sutherland are also deserving of great credit for the way they performed their work under me.

I shall at all times be ready to serve the Committee to the best of my ability, and beg again to thank them for their many kindnesses.

H. H. KITCHENER, Lieut. R.E.