

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

It is suggested to subscribers that the safest and the most convenient manner of paying a subscription is by means of a bank. A form is enclosed which may be filled up and sent to the banker as an instruction. Subscribers adopting this method will not receive any official receipt, but will see their names regularly acknowledged in the *Quarterly Statement*. Among other advantages, this method removes the danger of loss or miscarriage, and saves the Society's office the labour and expense of acknowledgment by official receipt and letter.

We repeat what we said in the *notes of the Quarterly Statement* for January, 1878, that the payment of subscriptions *early in the year* greatly strenghtens the hands of the Committee.

The reduction of the large map is complete, and the small map, which will be engraved in six, not in three sheets, as originally proposed, is already in the hands of Mr. Stanford, who will lose no time in executing the work. The time required for engraving will be certainly not less than eighteen months.

The special work for the year 1879 will be the publication of the materials now in the hands of the Committee. Estimates have been prepared of the cost, and although it is as yet impossible to state the exact sum required, it is clear that an amount will be required at least equivalent to the expenses of a party in the field for a year and a-half or two years. Of course, publication of the results must be regarded as a necessary part of the work. The Survey of Western Palestine must not therefore be regarded as complete until it has entirely left the hands of printer and cartographer.

The Expedition to Galilee, proposed for this winter, has been postponed for the present. The amount specially subscribed is transferred to deposit account as a

separate fund, and will not be used for any other purpose without permission of the donors. Names and promises of support for this expedition are received at the office, but it must be understood that the regular subscriptions of the year will be devoted to publications.

A new edition of "Tent Work in Palestine" has been prepared, and is now ready. Those subscribers who wish for a copy at the reduced price are requested to send their names to the Secretary as early as possible.

A meeting was held at the Royal Institute of British Architects on December the 2nd, at which Lieutenant Conder read a paper on the architecture of the Haram area. A discussion followed. The paper has been published in the Transactions of the Institute and in the *Builder*.

The engagements of Mrs. Finn with the Committee have for the present ceased. Ladies' Associations will therefore be henceforth connected directly with the head offices of the Society.

Subscribers who do not receive the *Quarterly Statement* regularly are asked to send a note to the Secretary. Great care is taken to forward the periodical to all who are entitled to receive it, but changes of address and other causes give rise to occasional omissions.

The income of the Fund from all sources, from September 19th to December 31st, 1878, was £916 11s. 9d. The expenditure was as follows :—Paid on account of "Tent Work," £562 6s. 11d. ; office expenses, £163 18s. 7d. ; bills, £210 0s. 1d.

It has been asked whether, since the Survey is finished, the *Quarterly Statement* will be discontinued. The Survey, as stated above, will be actually completed when it is entirely published, and not before. But its completion does not mean the completion of the work of the Society, as reference to the original prospectus will show. And there is, more than ever, need of a periodical devoted to the special line of research which is the *raison d'être* of this *Quarterly Statement*. It will therefore be continued as long as the Society exists and there is work of the kind which it represents to be done and reported.

Several cases have been at various times discovered of postage stamps being lost on their way to the office. The only way to avoid such loss, unless subscriptions are paid through the bank, is to send money by P.O.O. or by cheque, *in every case payable to the order of Walter Besant, Esq., 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 ; and Mr. C. Stuart Lockhart (address at the office).

Norwich : Rev. W. F. Creeny.

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

Peterborough : Rev. A. J. Foster, Farndish 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, Durham, and the North : Rev. James King, 13, Paradise Terrace, Darlington. Mr. King has recently returned from the Holy Land ; communications for lectures, &c., can be sent to the Office at Charing Cross.

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

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

The Rev. Horrocks Cocks, The Parsonage, Egham Hill, Surrey, has also kindly offered his services among the Nonconformist churches.

While desiring to give every publicity to proposed identifications and other theories advanced by officers of the Fund and contributors to the pages of the *Quarterly Statement*, 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 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 letter 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 eightpence.

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.

THE PRESENT CONDITION OF PALESTINE.

[Reprinted from the *Jewish Chronicle*, by kind permission of the Editor.]

I.—THE PRESENT CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY.

SINCE the completion of the Survey of Palestine—which is on the same scale and which aims at giving the same amount of detail given for England by our Ordnance Survey—we may be said to possess more detailed and accurate information regarding the present condition of Palestine than exists in the case of any other Asiatic or African country. The waste lands, forests, and deserts are distinguished on the great map from the cultivated districts. The olives, figs, vines, and enclosed vegetable gardens are all shown, the springs and streams have all been surveyed, and the memoirs which accompany the map give detailed accounts of the water supply and cultivation. We have, therefore, at the present time reliable data ready for publication for a true estimate of the present condition of Palestine, and of its possible future value.

The desolate condition of the country has been over-estimated. It has been supposed that a great change in climate has occurred, and that there has been a great destruction of former forests. Both these statements are far beyond the true facts. The seasons of Palestine are identical with those described in the Mishna, and although we have no ancient observations to compare, and cannot therefore say with certainty that the rainfall is the same as in older times, still the springs and streams mentioned in the Bible are all yet flowing with water, and the annual rainfall of about twenty inches would be quite sufficient for the wants of the country if it were stored in the innumerable "broken cisterns," which only require a coat of cement to make them serviceable.

The climate is, no doubt, far more unhealthy than formerly, but this is due in great measure to the destruction of the splendid old system of drainage and irrigation, and to the loss of trees raised by cultivation. Good drainage and tree planting would do much to restore the land to its former condition as regards climate.

Palestine is by no means bare of trees, and its water supply is most abundant in the cultivated districts. A forest of oaks covers the hills