

The Committee are always glad to receive old numbers of the *Quarterly Statement*, especially those which have been advertised as out of print.

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Attention is called to the statement already advertised, that subscribers to the Fund are privileged by the publishers to receive the "Recovery of Jerusalem," "Tent Work in Palestine," the "Literary Remains of the late Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake," and the "Underground Jerusalem" of Captain Warren, at reduced rates. But letters asking for them must be sent to the office at 11 and 12, Charing Cross only.

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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.

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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.

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### MEETING IN SYDNEY.

THE following is a report taken from the *Sydney Morning Herald* of a meeting held on April 1st in that city. The immediate result was the accession of some thirty or forty new subscribers to the Society:—

"A meeting of those interested in the exploration of Palestine, and its results, was held April 1st in the drawing-room of the Young Men's Christian Institution, Pitt Street. About forty ladies and gentlemen attended, and the Bishop of Sydney occupied the chair. The proceedings were commenced by prayer, offered by the Rev. Mr. Burdett.

"The Bishop said that when he was asked by Dr. Steel to preside at the meeting his recollections of the visit he had recently paid to Syria and Palestine made him very desirous to assist in any way the Palestine Exploration Fund, and he at once consented. Of the work for which the Fund was instituted he only knew that portion carried on at Jerusalem, where deeply interesting results had already been obtained. The excavations there were confined principally to the neighbourhood of the Haram Area. When approaching Jerusalem from the north, which is the best mode of coming in view of the Holy City, travellers are struck with the vast number of buildings on the site of the temple destroyed by Titus. Again, on another space, surrounded by a lofty wall, stands the palace of the Patriarch of the Greek Church, and indeed the whole area

once occupied by the army of Titus is now the property of the Czar. The Russians have the fee-simple of the north-east side, commanding the City of Jerusalem, and their property resembles nothing so much as an extensive barrack, with a strong fort at either end. This may be one probable destiny of the structure. Formerly none but Turkish subjects could obtain the fee-simple of land in or around the Holy City, but since the Russians have succeeded in doing so, bodies of Germans have settled themselves in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem, erecting for themselves, in many instances, handsome dwellings. A Jewish population is also to be found in the same locality, for Sir Moses Montefiore induced his countrymen to establish a series of building societies, and now 500 dwellings outside the walls are occupied by Jews who formerly were shut up in the city. Looking, too, from the north, as you approach Jerusalem, the eye is delighted by the sight of the beautiful Mosque of Omar, whose exquisite dome far surpasses all others, except that of St. Sophia, at Constantinople. The wall surrounding the territory of the mosque forms on one side the wall of the city, and in the centre of the area (which is about nine acres), covered by a magnificent building, is the rock—twenty feet across and five feet above the floor of the building—the rock which forms the apex of Mount Moriah. Spectators feel, in looking at it, certain that they are at the place where Abraham would have offered up his son, where Araunah the Jebusite was threshing when David saw the angel standing near, and would have purchased from Araunah his oxen and implements, to sacrifice to the Lord, Araunah gave them to him as one king would give to another. There, too, Solomon built a temple, and there the altar of burnt sacrifice was erected. All the excavations made by Captain Warren went to prove that this was the identical spot where these transactions occurred, and afforded additional and remarkable evidence of the truth of Holy Writ. The very stones of Jerusalem cry out the truth of the sacred writings. From the south-east side of this enclosure one looks into a valley of enormous depth, a depth declared by Josephus to render one dizzy to contemplate. The fourteen sieges sustained by Jerusalem did much to fill up that valley, but still there is a declivity of 140 feet. Captain Warren sunk shafts along the line of the wall, and at a further depth of 97 feet found the original level of the valley. Excavating along the line of wall, he saw how the lower courses of stone were sunk into the bed rock, and there, too, he discovered water flowing in a well-defined stream. The Jews who heard of and saw this were glad, for they cherish the tradition that when water is for the third time found flowing at the foundations of the Holy City (as had been the case twice before Captain Warren's discovery) the Messiah is at hand. Proof was afforded them that the stones used for the foundations of the Temple were those which Hiram the Phœnician sent ready dressed to Solomon, by the facts that no chips or *débris* were found near the wall, and that Mr. Emmanuel Deutsch, of the British Museum, had at once declared certain signs on them to be Phœnician characters. The speaker, conducted over

the works by Mr. Bernstein, formed at once the conviction that he was traversing the site of the Temple. Of this portion of Palestine Exploration he could speak personally, and knowing how urgently necessary private subscriptions for carrying on the work were, he could recommend them to support the Fund. Other objects of the exploration expedition were the restoration of the names of many ancient places, and the identification of the tribal boundaries, &c., described in the Book of Joshua.

“The Rev. Dr. Steel said that he had promised Mr. Fry to do what he could to advance the interests of the Fund, and in support of that promise the meeting had been called. In this course he was encouraged by the return from Palestine of their chairman. As long ago as 1865 the work had been commenced, and now it was time for the people of Sydney, at the ends of the earth, so to speak, to assist in it. The survey of the whole of Western Palestine, over 6,000 square miles, had been completed on the scale of an inch to the mile by officers and skilled men of the Royal Engineers. The whole of this survey had been performed with remarkable accuracy, and with such economy that it cost only a penny an acre. The map resulting from this labour is probably published, and will be found the most correct one extant of the Holy Land. It seemed remarkable that Christians should so long have neglected to bring science to their aid in exploring Palestine, for scientific exploration had so far gone to prove the historic, geologic, and topographic accuracy of the Holy Scriptures. The expedition had been carried out with great labour by a succession of brave officers, such as Captains Wilson, Anderson, and Warren, Lieutenants Conder and Kitchener, and men such as the late Mr. Tyrwhitt-Drake. They had suffered and toiled to secure accuracy, and had gained their end. The Rev. Mr. Holland and Professor Palmer, the latter of whom spoke fluently the colloquial Arabic, worked to the south of the Dead Sea, and surveyed the Sinaitic peninsula; while the Rev. Dr. Tristram explored the land of Moab. Thus the survey of Western Palestine had been accomplished, and that of Eastern Palestine was entrusted to a party of Americans. The littoral districts of the Sea of Galilee afforded a rich field for geologic inquiry, and altogether, in a short time, a book might be brought out, giving them a full account of the country. Valuable assistance in the compilation of this was given by the papyri and monuments of Egypt, examined by permission of Mariette Bey and others under the Khedive, which gave evidence of the existence of many places in Palestine, in accordance with the descriptions given by the book of Joshua. For instance, a papyrus gives an account of the travel of an Egyptian officer through Palestine, in the reign of that Jabin, King of Canaan, who oppressed the children of Israel. His chariot-pole broke, and he had to get it repaired by Philistine smiths, as the Israelites were unable to do the work. Again Mariette Bey discovered in the temple of Carmac a drawing of a line of captives, bearing on their breasts the names of the towns whence they were taken. There were 119 names, and

in 'Tent Work in Palestine' Lieutenant Conder states his own recovery of twenty-nine of these places, or rather their sites, and Mariette Bey's identification of forty-two. More than 9,000 names had been fixed, and would appear in the English map, a map which should be aided by Australian gold. The *Quarterly Statement* of the work of the Fund would be supplied to all contributors of £1 1s., and it was to be hoped that such contributors would be numerous.

"The Rev. G. Woolnough also addressed the meeting, pointing out how admirable a commentary upon the Scriptures, and how complete a directory to Palestine the map would form. The literature of Egypt and Assyria, at least such remains of it as could now be procured, was deeply interesting, and throws light on a great many points at present obscure.

"The Chairman then invited those present to become subscribers to the work, and set the example himself of doing so. He announced that further subscriptions would be received by Dr. Steel, or by the secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association.

"This closed the business of the meeting, and the Bishop having pronounced the benediction, the meeting terminated."

## THE ROCK OF THE POMEGRANATE.

JERUSALEM, *Monday, April 28th.*

"I HAVE the pleasure to report to the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund that I have been able to examine carefully a curious spring of water called Ain Suweinit and a large cave of refuge known to the shepherds as Mugharet el Jai, possibly Grass Cave (Jawa), in Wady Suweinit, both on the *south*, or Benjamin side of the ravine, the former 450 feet below the Ras el Krein (Migron?), or eastern end of the Plain of Jeba, and about fifteen minutes' descent from the said spot; the latter 200 feet lower down the cliff, and twenty minutes or half an hour's clamber from the spring.

Dr. Chaplin is in reality the author of the search, and was only prevented by illness from accompanying me last week in quest of this spring, and to him any thanks are due for this communication. I have visited the spring and cavern twice; on the former occasion I was unable, owing to accident, to do more than find them, but on my return to Jerusalem Dr. Chaplin begged me to communicate with you, and feeling that without measurement such communication might be of less use to you, and that much more might be gathered from the inhabitants of Jeba about this cave, I spent a second day in measurement, &c. On this second occasion Mr. Salami, the Consul's secretary, accompanied me, and gave most valuable assistance in interrogating the natives of Jeba and in taking down the names of the hills, ravines, caves, &c., in Arabic from their lips. Since then he has most kindly inquired into the roots of some of these, and has furnished me with the