

THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

At a Meeting of the Committee held on December 30th, 1879, the following resolution was unanimously passed :—

“That a letter of condolence be written to Mrs. Hepworth Dixon, expressing the deep regret of the Committee at the distressingly sudden death of their late chairman, and their appreciation of the constant and persevering attention, the tact and ability which he devoted to the service of the Fund.”

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At the same meeting of the Committee a letter was read from Colonel Wilson stating that he found it impossible to carry on the editorship of the Memoirs at such a distance from England, and with the cares and duties of his office as Consul-General in Anatolia. The Committee accepted his resignation, and invited Mr. E. H. Palmer, Lord Almoner's Professor of Arabia and Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, the explorer of the Desert of the Exodus, to take his place. Professor Palmer has accepted the invitation, and the Memoirs will be now edited by him and Major Anderson, C.M.G., R.E.

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At a meeting of the Committee, held on Jan. 6, 1880, Mr. James Glaisher, F.R.S., was elected Chairman.

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The Great Map of Western Palestine, in twenty-six sheets, is now being coloured, nearly the whole having been delivered by the Director-General of the Ordnance Survey. The first issue to subscribers will probably be made about the middle of April.

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The first volume of the Memoirs may be looked for in June. The following

volumes will be issued at intervals of about three months. Among the Memoirs will be included a report written specially for this work by Colonel Warren, of his excavations in Jerusalem, with illustrations, to which will be added a paper by Lieut. Conder, on the discoveries made in the city since his shafts were sunk.

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Another edition, unnumbered, will be issued of the Memoirs on smaller paper. This will be published, with the map, when the special edition is in the hands of subscribers, at the price of twenty guineas.

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A list of subscribers to the Great Map (without the Memoirs) has been commenced. Names may be sent to the Secretary. The maps will be sent out in order of entry. The subscription price is two guineas, carriage free. The sheets will be issued in a strong portfolio.

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The prospectus of future work will be found in the report of the meeting of the General Committee. It is recommended that expeditions be sent out to excavate on the supposed sites of Capernaum, Chorazin, Bethsaida, &c.; and to examine the eastern shores of the Sea of Galilee; to make a geological report on the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley; to survey the whole of Eastern Palestine; to excavate in search of special points in Jerusalem, and at various places in Western Palestine; to explore the cities of the Negeb or southern country; to explore the Lebanon and North Syria as far as the "entrance of Hamath;" and to explore Midian.

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The Committee propose to carry out this programme by yearly expeditions which will cost from £1,000 to £1,500 each. The results will be published in their *Quarterly Statement*.

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In the July number of the *Quarterly Statement* we shall give Professor Palmer's transcriptions of all the Arabic inscriptions in the Cubbet es Sakhras, Masjed el Aksa, and Temple Area, with translations. These include the mosaics, inscriptions on the coloured glass windows, on the copper tablets over the doors, tablets, &c., recording the different restorations.

The collection contains also a number of *graffiti* in Hebrew and Kufic characters from "Solomon's Stables" and other places in the Haram Area.

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The papers on the "Colonisation of Palestine" in this number are published by kind permission of the proprietors of the *Jewish Chronicle*, in which they have appeared from time to time during the last quarter. The subject is one in which many subscribers to the Fund are deeply interested.

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A cheap edition of "Tent Work in Palestine" will be published in the

autumn. Its price will probably be seven shillings and sixpence. About fifty copies of the library edition still remain.

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Lieut. H. H. Kitchener, R.E., formerly one of the officers in charge of the Survey, Vice-Consul in Asia Minor under Colonel Wilson, has been appointed Surveyor-General of Cyprus.

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The income of the Fund from all sources, from December 22nd, 1879, to March 20th, 1880, was £648 4s. 11d. The general expenditure on rent, parcels, postage, printing, &c., during the same period has been £452 15s. 6d. The amount in hand at the Committee meeting of March 16th was £1,114 6s. 7d.

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It will be seen by the Report of the Executive Committee that a visit of exploration among the Biblical sites of the Delta was proposed in the autumn by the Rev. Greville Chester. A letter has been received from him dated Feb. 19th, in which he states that he was about to commence his journey.

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It is suggested to subscribers that the safest and the most convenient manner of paying subscriptions is through a bank. Many subscribers have adopted this suggestion. This method removes the danger of loss or miscarriage, and renders unnecessary the acknowledgment by official receipt and letter.

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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 occasionally to omissions.

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The publications of the Society now in print are :—

1. The Recovery of Jerusalem. Third Thousand. 16/- to Subscribers.
2. Our Work in Palestine. Ninth Thousand. 3/6.
3. Tent Work in Palestine. Second Thousand. 17/6 to Subscribers.
4. The *Quarterly Statement*.

The second of these contains a popular account of the excavations in Jerusalem, with the reasons and aims of the work.

A few copies still remain of Lieutenant Kitchener's Guinea book of Biblical Photographs. It contains twelve views, with a short account of each. The views are mounted on tinted boards, and handsomely bound.

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Cases for binding the *Quarterly Statement* can be obtained of the Society's publishers, Messrs. R. Bentley and Son, at eighteenpence each. They are in green or brown cloth with the stamp of the Society.

The following are at present Representatives and Lecturers of the Society, in addition to the local Honorary Secretaries :—

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. W. F. Creeny.

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

Peterborough : Rev. A. J. Foster, Farnlish 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, Pwllheli, North Wales.

Yorkshire, Durham, and the North : Rev. James King, St. Mary's Vicarage Berwick. Mr. King has recently returned from the Holy Land ; communications for lectures, &c., can be sent to the Office at Charing Cross.

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

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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 these rest solely upon the credit of the respective authors, and that by publishing them in the *Quarterly Statement* the Committee neither sanction nor adopt them.

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Annual subscribers are earnestly requested to forward their subscriptions for the current year when due, at their *earliest convenience*, and without waiting for application.

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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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