

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE following letter has been received from General Sir Henry F. Ponsonby, K.C.B. in answer to that from the Chairman of the Executive Committee accompanying a copy of the Great Map.

Sir,

Balmoral, *September 22nd*, 1880.

I am commanded by the Queen to request that you will convey to the Executive Council of the Palestine Exploration Fund Her Majesty's best thanks for their kindness in presenting to the Queen the beautifully executed maps which you have forwarded to Her Majesty.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES GLAISHER, ESQ., F.R.S.

HENRY F. PONSONBY.

The following correspondence has been received, at the moment of going to press, from the Foreign Office :—

Sir,

Foreign Office, *October 1st*, 1880.

With reference to my letter of the 14th July last, I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, for the information of the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, giving an account of the presentation to His Majesty the Sultan of the Map of Western Palestine, which, at your request, was forwarded through this department to Mr. Goschen for presentation to His Majesty.

I am, &c.,

TENTERDEN.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee,
Palestine Exploration Fund.

My Lord,

Therapia, *September 14th*, 1880.

In your Lordship's despatch, No. 238, of the 14th July last, your Lordship communicated to me the desire of the Committee of the Palestine Exploration

Fund to present His Imperial Majesty the Sultan with a Map of Western Palestine, and directed me to take an early opportunity of complying with their request.

In accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I had the honour yesterday to present His Imperial Majesty with the map in question, and to introduce Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson as having been engaged some years ago in exploring Palestine for the Committee of the Fund, and as having been subsequently an active member of the Executive Commission.

His Imperial Majesty was pleased to accept the map, and to express his appreciation of the interest of the work that had been undertaken by the Committee, and his high sense of the services that had been rendered by Colonel Wilson in connection with the exploration.

The Sultan subsequently expressed to me his wish to confer upon Colonel Wilson the Third Class of the Imperial Order of the Osmanié, but, as your Lordship is aware, Her Majesty's Regulations respecting foreign orders do not admit of Colonel Wilson accepting the decoration which His Majesty was pleased to offer.

I have, &c.,

The Earl Granville, K.G.

GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

The promised pamphlet on the "Biblical Gains due to the Survey of Western Palestine" is nearly ready. It states the amount of work executed by the Surveyors,—points to some of the geographical discoveries that have been made,—and refers to the varied information collected during the operations, which is now in course of publication in the "Memoirs." This is followed by remarks on the bearing of the Survey upon the Verification of Scriptural History; the Topographical Elucidation of the Talmud; Josephus; the Byzantine Pilgrims; the Early Christian Fathers; the Crusading and Arab Chroniclers; the Assyrian, Egyptian, and Samaritan Records; after which a description is given of the most interesting identifications proposed by Lieutenants Conder and Kitchener, and these are finally summed up in an Index with references.

In the preparation of the maps for the Old and New Testaments, which was announced in the last Quarterly Statement, Mr. Trelawney Saunders has written an elaborate account of the Natural Geography of Galilee, Samaria, and Judæa as it is now made known by the New Survey. His work is based on the river-basins of the country, each of which is taken up in detail; the principal valleys and watercourses being duly referred to their proper geographical situation in the basin to which they belong. The connection of each basin with the surrounding parts is also explained.

The Survey being thus elucidated, it is made a standard of comparison with the state of knowledge previously existing; and the geographical gains acquired by it are made clear and manifest. No one can have anticipated the great changes that have become necessary, or foreseen the light which the Survey now throws upon the ground. In the course of this work some interesting identifications have been made and suggested which had previously escaped notice. Doubtless much more remains to be done in this way, and the lucidity which

the Survey imparts to the very varied history of the regions embraced in it, cannot fail to encourage further historical investigation.

Mr. Saunders' work is entitled "An Introduction to the New Survey of Galilee, Samaria, and Judæa, with Notes on its Rectifications of Former Investigations." It is already in the press.

The Maps of the Old and New Testaments will also be accompanied by a small special Handbook, by the same author.

The second issue of the Great Map is at this moment in course of distribution by the Society's Agent, Mr. Stanford. Subscribers should send in their names as speedily as possible, in order to obtain copies of this edition, of which about 250 out of 300 are already taken up.

A third issue will be prepared as quickly as possible. The work of printing has been put into Mr. Stanford's hands, but the plates, which are in course of preparation at Southampton, are not yet ready, so that there will be probably some delay before the work is generally accessible to the public.

The first volume of Memoirs will be issued in December. The order of publication of the volumes will probably be as follows:—

1. First volume of Memoirs. Galilee; with Appendices by Lieut.-Colonel Wilson, and Lieutenant Conder. In December.
2. Arabic Name-lists of the whole Map. Now in the Press and nearly ready.
3. Second volume of Memoirs.
4. Volume of special papers, including those written for the *Quarterly Statement*, by the Officer of the Survey and others.
5. Third volume of Memoirs.
6. The Excavations at Jerusalem; by Lieut.-Colonel Warren.
7. Fourth volume of Memoirs.
8. Natural History, by Canon Tristram; Notes on Geology, &c., &c., &c.

Great efforts will be made to issue the whole work before the end of the year 1881.

The programme of Exploration for next year will be announced in the January *Quarterly Statement*. The Committee will be pleased to receive suggestions and advice from the Subscribers. The proposed Galilee Expedition, the Survey East of the Jordan, new excavations at special points, are at present under consideration.

A Phœnician inscription has been discovered by Herr Sehick in Jerusalem. The Committee have taken such steps as seemed best for the security of the stone, and for obtaining a more perfect squeeze than that sent to them. An account of the inscription will be found on p. 238. Another account has been published in the Transactions of the German Association for the Exploration of

Palestine. Phœnician letters can be clearly deciphered on the imperfect squeeze received, but no words have yet been made out.

The Committee are most anxious that the Map should have as wide a circulation as possible. The Subscribers to the Fund may greatly assist them by causing the Map to be ordered for public libraries, school and college libraries and institutions.

It is also greatly desired that *all* those whose contributions have enabled this great work to be completed, may have an opportunity of seeing it. Arrangements have been made with the Rev. James King, of Berwick, for explaining and lecturing on the Map and its uses, during the winter. The Rev. Henry Geary is also ready to give one evening in every week to the Society, provided he be not invited to go too far from London.

The Reduced Map is promised by the engravers for February; it will be rapidly followed by the two ancient maps, already announced, on the same scale. A book will be kept at the office of the Society for the entry of names. The price is not yet fixed, but it will be as low as possible for subscribers.

The Cheap Edition of "Tent Work in Palestine," will be published by Messrs. Bentley and Son among their October books. All the small illustrations which were in the Library Edition, and two of the full-page drawings, will be found in the new Edition, which has also been carefully revised by the author. An additional chapter has also been added on the "Future of Palestine." The work will be read with greater interest now that the progress of the Survey may be followed on the Map.

Colonel Warren's book called the "Temple or the Tomb," will appear at the same time. Its price will be Ten Shillings to the general public. The author, however, wishes the subscribers of the Fund to have the opportunity of getting the book at a reduced price, and arrangements have been made with the publishers by which the book can be sent from the office of the Fund to Subscribers at the price of 7s. 6d. Application must, however, be made to the Secretary.

Among other books shortly to be issued, are "The Land of Gilead," by Mr. Laurence Oliphant; an account is also promised by Mr. St. Chad Boscawen, of his explorations in North Syria.

The income of the Fund from all sources, from June 28th, 1880, to September 20th, 1880, was £373 7s. The amount in hand at the last Committee meeting was £1,478 5s. 2d.

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 method, which removes the danger of loss or miscarriage, and renders unnecessary the acknowledgment by official receipt and letter.

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

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 wish 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.

THE MASONRY OF THE HARAM WALL.

I HAVE recently received a copy of the July *Quarterly Statement*, with some remarks by Colonel Warren on my "Notes on the Masonry of the Haram Wall," published in January last. I have no copy of my notes, nor any papers connected with Jerusalem with me, so that I am unable to reply in detail to Colonel Warren's remarks, but I must ask space to say that he appears to have misunderstood much that I wrote; and, no doubt unintentionally, to have misrepresented my views with regard to the masonry of the Haram Wall, and the site of the Temple. My views, unfortunately perhaps, differ from those of Colonel Warren, but they are at least the result of honest conviction and some years of study; I do not think that, in the existing state of our knowledge, any new arguments can be brought forward which would induce me to alter those views, but I am quite ready to abide by the result of future excavation. No one has a greater admiration for Colonel Warren's work at Jerusalem than I have, but I think it only right to state that his excavations, interesting as they were, left the two great questions connected with the sites of the Temple and Holy Sepulchre as much matter of dispute as they were before. The spade alone can settle these questions, and I trust that some movement may be set on foot for recommencing the excavations at Jerusalem; it is