

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. GEORGE GROVE.

ON Monday, July 19th, a meeting was held at St. James's Hall in order to present to Mr. George Grove a testimonial of respect and appreciation for the many and valuable services he has rendered to Biblical History and Geography, especially in the Foundation of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and to Music and Musical Literature. The following was the address accompanying the purse and chronometer which formed the testimonial.

“TO GEORGE GROVE, ESQ.

“We the undersigned ask you to accept the accompanying purse of one thousand guineas and gold chronometer, which we offer you as a token of our appreciation of the great services which you have rendered, in the first place, to Biblical History and Geography, by your valuable contributions to the Dictionary of the Bible, and by your labours in connection with the foundation of the Palestine Exploration Fund; in the second place, to Music and Musical Literature during your long association with the Crystal Palace Saturday Concerts, and more recently by the production of the Dictionary of Music and Musicians.

“In these and many other fields of research in art and literature you have earned the gratitude of your countrymen at large, and the high esteem and friendship of all those associated with you in your labours, and we welcome this opportunity of testifying in a manner however inadequate our gratitude, friendship, and esteem.”

The Archbishop of Canterbury took the Chair, and the Dean of Westminster bore eloquent testimony to the valuable contributions of Mr. Grove to Biblical Literature in his own work, *Sinai and Palestine*, and in the Bible Dictionary, and to his labours in the foundation of the Palestine Exploration Fund. We extract from the report of Mr. Grove's reply to the address of the Dean, the following passage of special interest to the subscribers of the Society which he started fifteen years ago. “What was it that started me with the study of the Bible? I had been brought up to know the Bible well, and a great deal of it I knew by heart, but the study of it was quite distasteful to me. What was it that altered my feeling? Why the bitter complaint of my dear old friend, James Fergusson (then a new friend) that there was no index of the proper names of the Bible. He was engaged then, as he has been ever since, in an internecine warfare with everybody who doubted his splendid theory that the round church in Jerusalem—the mosque of Omar—was the church which Constantine built over the tomb of our Lord, or rather,

what Constantine believed to be the tomb of our Lord. Fergusson and I used to meet at the Assyrian Court of the Crystal Palace and talk about many things, and this among them ; and it was in one of these talks that he lamented that he could find no list of the proper names in the Bible. Well, I set to work at once, my wife and I, and we made a complete index of every occurrence of every proper name in the Old Testament, New Testament, and Apocrypha. There it was ; what was to be the next step ? Soon after this came a great event in my life. I saw the Dean of Westminster for the first time. He was then Canon of Canterbury, and it was there I saw him in 1853 or 1854. I had heard of him often from Bradley and other Rugby men, but had never met him. It was in his house at Canterbury ; he was finishing *Sinai and Palestine*, and I recollect as well as yesterday, the way he came forward to me, with his hands out, as if he were welcoming an old friend, and then he showed me what he was engaged on. He showed me that in Hebrew there were distinct words for all the different kinds of natural objects ; for mountains and hills, and rocks and plains, and rivers and torrents, and that while in Hebrew these terms were never interchanged, in the English Bible they were used indiscriminately, and that a great deal of light might be thrown on the narratives if these were set right in our Bibles, and other things of the same sort rectified. He set me alight in a moment, and I fairly blazed up. I rubbed up my Hebrew, of which I had learnt the alphabet at Elwell's school, I got up German enough to plough through Ewald and Ritter, and plunged with delight into a sea of Biblical research. Now the Dean would have you believe that it was I who invented the Appendix to his book, in which the Hebrew typographical terms are described and catalogued. But that is only his way of putting it. It was *he* who invented it, and I just carried out what he devised, and did the mechanical part of the work for him. Next came the *Dictionary of the Bible* ; and my connection with that I owe entirely to the Dean. Dr. Smith had proposed the dictionary and was looking about for help, and Stanley told him of me, and of my list of proper names ; and there we were."

A STATION OF THE AGE OF STONE NEAR TYRE.

By Dr. LORTET.

IN his remarkable researches in the geology of the Lebanon, Botta discovered that several caverns in Syria contain bone breccia more or less broken, and fragments of pottery. Later, in 1864, during his journey taken with the Duc de Luynes, M. Louis Lortet discovered in the grottoes near the mouth of the Nahr-el-Kelb (the ancient Lycus), at a short distance from Beyrout, numerous flints, worked into scrapers and knives. These instruments, undeniable testimony of a very primitive industry, are