

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Report of the Meeting of General Committee held on November 30th, will be found on page 5. The single Resolution, for the discussion of which the meeting was summoned, was carried unanimously. It now remains to give it effect by organising and despatching an expedition to survey Eastern Palestine.

In order to show exactly what is proposed to be done and why, it has been ordered by the Committee that the papers laid before that meeting should be all sent to every subscriber to the Fund, past and present. They are thereupon enclosed with the present number of the *Quarterly Statement*. The comparative map needs no comment: it shows the difference between a piece of country before and after it has been surveyed. The Prospectus of the new Survey will be found to carry on the work of the Society on the lines laid down in the Original Prospectus. The reasons for undertaking the Survey, the things which have to be done, the things which have to be sought, and the things which may be hoped for, will be found enumerated in the speeches made at the meeting of the Jerusalem Chamber.

The Committee earnestly hope that, while the programme of their new expedition will show their present subscribers that their work of Biblical Illustration is not yet done, former donors and old subscribers will renew their support and carry this Survey also to a successful conclusion. The magnificent map of Western Palestine now before the world is a sufficient pledge and guarantee of what will be done in the East.

The *Quarterly Statement* will, as before, contain reports and letters of the officer in command of the expedition.

The Committee have the pleasure of announcing that they have invited M. Clermont Ganneau, who will shortly become a resident in Palestine, to furnish them regularly with an account of everything that is discovered, attempted, or undertaken in archaeological research in the Holy Land. M. Ganneau has accepted this invitation. His first letters will probably appear in the April number of this Journal.

Nothing more has yet been received from Jerusalem with regard to the Phœnician inscription found in the Pool of Siloam. M. Ganneau has made out that it consists of at least eight lines. He has also traced about thirty characters, all in the Phœnician character of the Moabite stone.

The drawings and plans for the first volume of the memoirs are now completed. It may be looked for about the end of January. There will be, it is hoped, no such delays in bringing out the other volumes. That of the name lists will be published at the same time, or very shortly, after the first volume of the memoirs. It will be followed most probably, by Colonel Warren's volume on Jerusalem research.

We have received a very interesting and valuable number of the *Zeitschrift* of the German Palestine Exploration Society. A summary of this number will be published in April.

The appearance of Mr. Oliphant's book on the "Land of Gilead" is happily timed for those whose attention will now be turned to the land east of the Jordan. If anything were needed to show, more clearly than the Prospectus and the Report of the Meeting have shown, the necessity for our Survey, a perusal of this volume would furnish the last argument. Everywhere we read of bad maps, unknown districts, places where no European has ever been, ruins which have never been examined, strange people, and wild traditions. The "Land of Gilead," illustrates the remark made by the Dean of Westminster at the late meeting, that East of the Jordan lies a land of mystery.

Another event of the quarter is the appearance of Colonel Warren's new book on "Jerusalem Topography." It is already well known that the author holds views on the subject diametrically opposed to those advocated by Mr. James Fergusson in his "Temples of the Jews," and other books on the same subject. The new work is essentially controversial, and as such, will be found a valuable addition to the literature on the sacred sites.

The Rev. H. D. Rawnsley writes as follows:—"May I call your attention, and the attention of all interested in your work to the very great need that still

remains unsatisfied, so far as I know, of some authorised list of (1) objects to be sought for; (2) places to be identified; (3) observations to be made; (4) questions to be asked; (5) names to be inquired into, which could be obtainable either at your office, or at the consulates of Cairo, Beirout, and Jerusalem by any or all travellers in the Holy Land. Such a list would of course be varied from year to year, and if with it, these instructions could be given for the taking of temperatures, altitudes, levels, preparation of squeezes, rubbings, plants, and geological specimens for examination at home, the chart or list would be of the greatest service to the amateur but willing agents for such work that each year send out to the East."

The above valuable suggestion will be acted upon as speedily as possible. Such a list with such instructions will be prepared as soon as possible, perhaps in readiness for the spring travellers in Palestine, who are hereby invited to apply for it at the office of the Fund. Col. Warren will superintend it.

The second issue of the Great Map is exhausted. The third is being prepared as rapidly as possible.

The promised pamphlet "On Some of the Biblical Gains from the Survey" is published with this number of the *Quarterly Statement*.

Mr. Saunders' "Introduction to the New Survey" will be ready in a few weeks.

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 advising 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 of Modern Western Palestine 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 has been opened 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," has been published by Messrs. Bentley and Son. 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.

The income of the Fund from all sources, from Sept. 20th, 1880, to Dec. 13th, 1880, was £798 9s. 9d. The amount in hand at the last Committee Meeting was £1,212 3s. 3d..

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.
