

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE new expedition has been commenced by several discoveries of very great interest. The first is that of Kadesh, the sacred city of the Hittites, a nation which at present occupies a good deal of attention among those engaged in the antiquities of the Holy Land. It was found by Lieutenant Conder, who had formed a theory as to its locality from previous study in England, and was rewarded by recovering the site not far from where he had placed it. The identification seems, up to the present, to be generally accepted.

After his journey to the Orontes, and on the arrival of his surveyors, Messrs. Black and Armstrong, Lieutenant Conder began his preparations for Eastern Palestine. Unfortunately he found that the disturbed state of the country would prevent the carrying out of his original design, which was to begin the Survey in the North. He therefore changed his plans, and now proposes to begin it in the South. He has accordingly ridden through Western Palestine from Beyrouth to Jerusalem, where he was at the date of the last letter received.

On his way he paid a visit to Tyre. Here he found a curious tomb, apparently of great antiquity, close to the modern cemetery of the town. In accordance with the Oriental conservatism, this may, he says, be also the site of the ancient cemetery of Tyre. He also examined the question of the Egyptian harbour, and other doubtful points in Tyrian Topography. At Khurbet Umm el Amud he was able to trace the plan of the ruined temple. At Jerusalem he has lighted on a discovery which may prove of overwhelming interest. Those who have read his "Tent Work" will remember his theory that the crucifixion may have taken place, not on the traditional site, but on the north of the city at the place still called "the Place of Stoning," namely, a small hill above "Jeremiah Grotto." The neighbourhood in the time of Mejr ed Deen was called el Sahâra, and was then an ill-omened place associated in the Moslem mind with death and judgment.

The hill itself, seen from one point of view, is singularly *like a skull*. It is also a spot which, from its commanding position, would seem well fitted for a place of punishment, because it commands the city, and anything done upon it can be seen from the city walls. Immediately west of the knoll, Lieutenant Conder has found a most remarkable Jewish tomb, which he describes at length. It belongs to the later Jewish period ; it is not apparently a Christian tomb ; no other Jewish sepulchre has ever been found so near the ramparts, and the discoverer asks the question—*Can this be in truth the Tomb in the Garden?*

We are indebted to the Rev. C. W. Bardsley for an account of his discovery at Jacob's Well. If the chapel which formerly stood over the well was of early Christian period, the stone mouth described and figured by him is probably no other than that of St. John iv, 6.

The commentary on the inscription at the Pool of Siloam, now reprinted at p. 141, was issued as a separate pamphlet on June 10th. We have to thank Professor Sayce for presenting it to the readers of the *Quarterly Statement*. The Rev. Isaac Taylor has sent us some notes upon Professor Sayce's reading.

There is also a paper on the same subject in the *Zeitschrift* of the German Society, but unfortunately of little value, because the writer had only the imperfect transcript published by us last April.

The paper on Ain Qadis, by the Rev. H. Clay Trumbull, of Philadelphia, seems to clear up a great mystery. It is now forty years since Dr. Rowlands described in most glowing terms a fountain called Ain Qadis, which he identified with Kadesh. No one has hitherto succeeded in reconciling his description with any fountain near the place pointed out by him. Mr. Trumbull has, however, re-discovered the place, which, whether it is on the actual site of Kadesh or not, is certainly a spot where Israel could have rested "many days."

The Germans are conducting excavations on Mount Ophel, under the direction of Herr Guthe. Lieutenant Conder, under the understanding that he was not to anticipate Herr Guthe's announcements, was taken over the works.

M. Clermont Ganneau is recovering from his long attack of fever, and has resumed his archaeological researches, which are at present confined to the neighbourhood of Jaffa. He hopes to send an account of certain discoveries recently made for the next *Quarterly Statement*.

The first volume of the "Memoirs" has now been issued. The volumes of "Special Papers" and "Name Lists" will be sent out some time this month. The second and third volumes of "Memoirs" are in the press, and will be issued as soon

as possible. The volume of "Jerusalem Work," which will be illustrated by a large portfolio full of plans, will be sent out about the beginning of next year.

A new edition of the Great Map has been prepared by Mr. Stanford, and is now ready. The supporters of the Society will confer a great benefit on the cause of Palestine research by getting this map taken by libraries, schools, colleges, and public institutions.

The reduced map (modern) will be ready for printing in August, and will be issued as soon as possible. Mr. Saunders's *Introduction to the Survey* will also be issued in the course of the quarter. The two ancient maps should be ready in the autumn.

The General Committee has been strengthened by the names of the Bishop of Liverpool, Mr. W. Adams, Mr. W. Dickson, Mr. Douglas Freshfield, Mr. Oliver Heywood, Rev. Prof. Sayce, Rev. William Wright, and Colonel Yule.

We are informed by Mr. Kershaw, the Librarian of Lambeth Palace, that the Archbishop of Canterbury is anxious to let it be known among the Members of this Society that he desires to increase the usefulness of the library by rendering it more accessible for purposes of study and the *loan* of books. A collection of modern works on the history and antiquities of Palestine has been formed in the library; many Greek versions of the Scriptures, commentaries and other Biblical MSS. are here treasured, and here will be found the collection of the late Professor Carlyle, consisting of MSS. brought from the East, of great value to Oriental and critical scholars.

Arrangements can now be made for lectures on the Survey and its Biblical Gains. The Rev. Henry Gray and the Rev. James King will continue to give their services to the Society during the next winter.

The income of [the Fund from all sources from March 16th, 1881, to June 21st, was £1,073 11s. 4d. The amount in the Bank at the meeting of General Committee of June 21st, was £1,068 9s. The sum required before the end of the year is about £2,000.

A 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 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.

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.
