

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

WE have great pleasure in announcing that all the instruments having arrived and been examined, and all preparations having been made, Lieutenants Conder and Mantell have crossed the Jordan and taken up their quarters for the present at Ain Hesban, where they have been joined by the Surveyors, Messrs. Black and Armstrong.

The Survey of Eastern Palestine has therefore been commenced in the south instead of the north, as was originally proposed. The change has been necessitated by recent disturbances in the Hauran. The second theodolite did not arrive in Jerusalem until June, and the Arabs were then fighting, so that it was then impossible to cross the river. Now, however, peace is re-established. This delay at starting shows that the difficulties of the Eastern Survey may prove to be greater than those of the west. Fortunately, the officer in command is experienced, and may be trusted to exercise prudence and tact.

A base-line has been successfully measured, and eight trigonometrical stations have been set up. The work has been conducted under great difficulties arising from the heat, the thermometer in the Jordan valley standing at 118° F. in the shade. Lieutenant Conder's first report from the eastern side, and his notes on the commencement of the work, with his proposed identification of Balak's Altar, will be found in their place, in Report VIII.

Among the topics touched upon in the other Reports will be found a very remarkable attempt at identifying Kirjath Jearim with a place called Khurbet Erma. The suggestion had already been made by Lieutenant Conder, and is now followed up by a more careful examination of this ground. The name will be found on the great Map on Sheet XVII. Its reference in the Name Lists is (Kt); but it seems as if it should rather be (Jt). The ruin does not appear to have

been visited by anybody before the Survey—it is not, for instance, on Guérin's map or on Vandeveldé's, or Murray's. The arguments advanced by Lieutenant Conder will be read with the greatest interest. Perhaps we have here a solution of one of the greatest topographical difficulties connected with the sacred narrative. His observations on Ai, Hebron, Gibeon, etc., may be advantageously followed by the light of the new map.

Lieutenant Conder has made a copy of the inscription of the Pool of Siloam, on which Professor Sayce sends a paper, which will be found in its place (p. 282). The copy was taken after Herr Guthe had cleared the letters by means of nitric acid. A cast has also been taken by Herr Paules, and is on its way to England. As regards the last, Lieutenant Conder writes, "I have been over it with my copy, which *agrees very well indeed* with it. I see one more letter, but do not see anything to change my copy." M. Clermont Ganneau is reported to be working at the inscription. Another aqueduct has been discovered, running west from the Pool of Siloam, on the same level as the one previously known. This new aqueduct, when traced, may lead to important discoveries. It was found by some fellahin.

Since the publication of the last *Quarterly Statement*, the General Committee has been strengthened by the addition of two new members, namely, Sir Albert Sassoon, C.S.I., and Mr. Edward Thomas, F.R.S. They have also to lament the loss of four of their oldest and most valuable members, a notice of whom will be found on pp. 243-246.

The Reduced Map of Modern Palestine is now completed, having received the final corrections. The first edition will be issued on October 17th, after which date subscribers may expect to have their copies in order of application. They are reminded that the price to them is 6s. 6d. a copy, carriage free. To the general public it will be 12s., through all booksellers, or the agent, Mr. Stanford, 55, Charing Cross. It will be issued in six sheets, including the title page in a paper cover. There is in preparation a list of Biblical names and their identifications, a copy of which, when ready, will be given with the map. But the first subscribers will probably have to wait a little for this list. It will also be given to every subscriber of the large map who wishes for it.

As regards the two ancient maps, Mr. Saunders reports that the outline is engraved, and that they are proceeding with the names. We hope to have them ready very shortly.

For convenience of travellers and for library purposes, an arrangement has been made with the agent, Mr. Edward Stanford, for mounting the map. He undertakes to mount the map on strong cloth, and to place it in a case for the bookshelf or for travelling. The map in this form will be charged 11s. 6d. a copy, carriage paid, to subscribers, and 18s. 6d. to non-subscribers. For hanging purposes, he will supply the map on mahogany rollers at 16s. 6d. for subscribers, and 24s. for the general public. And he will make special arrangements if desired for a more expensive mode of mounting.

Two more volumes of the Memoirs, viz., the "Name Lists" and the "Special Papers," have been issued. The next is far advanced and will be ready in November. The remaining two will, it is hoped, be issued in January.

Enquiries have been made as to the price of the memoirs in separate parts. It must be remembered that only a small number of copies remain; arrangements have been made for offering these copies to libraries in Great Britain, America, Germany, etc. Should any remain when these have been supplied, they may be had in separate parts, as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
The Great Map	3	3	0
The Memoir in 3 vols.	9	9	0
The Name Lists	3	3	0
The Special Papers	2	2	0
The Jerusalem work, with a portfolio of drawings	5	5	0

Mr. Saunders has completed his delineation of the water basins on the map of Western Palestine, and has given it to Mr. Stanford, the engraver and agent of the maps, to be laid down on the reduced map, which can then be used to illustrate and explain his "Introduction."

It can also be laid down on the great map, but as the work will have to be done by hand, the cost of doing so will be no less than £5. On the reduced map it can be done by a double printing at a very small cost. In fact a shilling will cover it. It is hoped that any one who wants Mr. Saunders' "Introduction" (now in the binder's hands) will have the water basin edition of the reduced map.

A general Index to the *Quarterly Statement* from its commencement to the issue of this number inclusive, has been prepared, and is now in the printer's hands. It will be ready some time in November.

The Committee will be greatly obliged if subscribers will forward their subscriptions for the current year as early as possible. Arrangements for lectures on the Biblical Results of the Survey by the Rev. Henry Geary and the Rev. James King should be made as early as possible.

The income of the Society from all sources from June 21st, 1881, to September 22nd, was 1,253*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* The amount in the Banks on Tuesday, September 13th, was 451*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* About 1,000*l.* will be required before the end of the year.

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 by publishing them in the *Quarterly Statement* they neither sanction nor adopt them.
