

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE first years' campaign in Eastern Palestine is completed—Lieutenant Conder has returned to Jerusalem, bringing with him the survey of 500 miles, with plans, drawings, and photographs. This may be considered an excellent beginning. During the winter Mr. Armstrong will lay down the 500 square miles of survey on a sheet while Lieutenants Conder and Mantell draw the hill shading and the special plans and prepare the Reports for the future Memoirs. There has been difficulty about the validity of the old Firman with the Turkish authorities, but it is hoped that this will be speedily removed. The Reports which are published in this number prove sufficiently how rich a harvest remains to be reaped in this part of the country, even though our party followed in the steps of Canon Tristram and others who have recently visited Moab. The expedition has unfortunately lost the services of Mr. Black, who has been invalided home.

Lieutenant Conder, after twice passing four hours in the passage between the Virgin's Fount and the Pool of Siloam, succeeded in discovering the place where the workmen met. He found no other inscriptions. M. Clermont Ganneau has in preparation a treatise on the inscription, on which Dr. Ginsburg has also been working. Certain questions have been raised in the last number of the Transactions of the German Palestine Exploration Society, as to the correctness of Professor Sayce's statement of the expense borne by this Society in the preliminary lowering of the water and other things. It seems, therefore, desirable to state exactly what was the action of the Committee in the matter. It was on August the 3rd, 1880, that the Committee first heard of the inscription. They immediately resolved that the sum of 25*l.*, which was estimated to be sufficient for the purpose, should be voted for such expenses as might be incurred; and Dr. Chaplin, the Honorary Secretary for Jerusalem, was autho-

rised to draw upon the Treasurer for that amount if necessary. The sum actually drawn by Dr. Chaplin and given to Herr Schick for the purpose was five pounds.

The portion of the work already completed includes special surveys of Heshbon, Elealah, Madeba, Baal-Meon, Nebo, Pisgah, the hot springs of Calirrhoe, and Rabboth Ammon. Over 600 names have been found and 200 ruins examined: some 400 cromlechs have been discovered and sketched, with many menhirs and stone circles: search was made, but without result, for remains of the Cities of the Plain: 36 photographs have been taken: a building has been found at Ammon, which Lieutenant Conder thinks is of Sassanian origin: a number of Arab traditions have been collected: and identifications have been proposed for the *Field of Zophim*, the *Ascent of Luhith*, *Jazer*, *Sibmah*, and *Minneth*.

A second rock-hewn channel in connection with the Virgin's Fount has been discovered by Herr Schick, who has made a plan of it, but no copy has yet been received in England; it is reported to have carried water direct to the lower Pool of Siloam. A new Crusading Church has also been discovered near Jeremiah's Grotto; Lieutenant Conder has made a plan of it.

It is with the greatest pleasure that we publish three "Notes" from the pen of M. Clermont Ganneau, containing an account of the recent archaeological work. He hopes to be able to continue these notes from time to time. The first is called Note II, because there was an earlier note, which seems to have miscarried. The discovery of the capital with the inscription in Greek and Phœnician characters opens many new and interesting questions in the archaeological history of the country. M. Ganneau has now quite recovered from his late severe illness.

During the repairs in the Haram Area another gate has been discovered in the eastern wall. It does not appear, however, to be of great antiquity, and is reported to be built in the later masonry. It has been measured and sketched by Sir Charles Wilson, and by Lieutenant Conder.

Colonel Sir Charles Wilson, writing of his recent visit to Palestine, makes the following observations, which will be read with great interest:—

"In fifteen years there have necessarily been many changes, and some of the points which struck me most may interest you.

"The population of the Lebanon and the area under cultivation have greatly increased, and it was quite a novelty to see all the people going about unarmed. Beirut has grown almost out of my remembrance, and the number of large good houses built during the last few years is quite remarkable. Damascus has hardly changed at all.

"The Haiffa Temple Colony was quite a new feature, but the members of it are, in one sense, doing great harm, for they are rapidly disforesting Carmel. Our man uses the wood as fuel for his factory or mill, I forget which, and a great quantity goes in this way. Charcoal burners also are hard at work. The clearance of trees in some parts was most painfully visible.

"It is hard to trust the memory after fifteen years, but it certainly seemed to me that in the country between Jerin and Jerusalem there had been much planting of olive and fig trees since my day. I used to be struck with the bare aspect of the hills; I was now struck by the amount of cultivation; perhaps, however, this may have been due to my late sojourn on the treeless plateau of Anatolia. The smallness of the country, and its natural features, were more than ever striking, after living in a country where all the features are on a large scale, and a journey of nine or ten days is an ordinary incident of Anatolian life.

"At Samaria I found all my excavations filled in, and those made by Anderson on Mount Gerizim were partially filled. It was most extraordinary to notice the fresh appearance of the rubbish thrown out round Justinian's Church on Gerizim, and almost impossible to believe fifteen years had elapsed; the heaps of rubbish looked but a month old.

"I went from Jaffa to Jerusalem by the carriage road, which I had not seen. The people complain of its roughness, but it is the best road I have seen in Turkey, save the French Beirut-Damascus road, and is the only mountain road I know of made by the Turks except that from Trebizonde to Erzurum.

"The approach to Jerusalem was to me a painful one. When I left in 1866, the only buildings outside the town were the Russian convent, and two or three small houses; now new Jerusalem is almost as large as the old one. I had always liked to think of Jerusalem as the walled city, with its gates closed at nightfall, surrounded by olive gardens, which I had learned to know so well during the survey, and it was anything but pleasant to ride over a hard metalled road, through a long suburb, such as one sees round a third class Italian town. However, it seemed to remind one of the villas and gardens which spread outside the second wall at the time of the Crucifixion.

"Within the city there has been little change, except the erection or completion of some of the large religious establishments, and after the first half-hour I felt myself quite at home in the winding street and blind alleys. One great change is, however, in progress; all the rubbish is now being shot into the Pool of Bethesda, which is to be filled up and planted as a public garden; a large portion at the east end had already been levelled up.

"I paid a hurried visit to the site of the German excavations, and was astonished at the work they had managed to do for the small sum of £300, I think. I believe they have found much of interest, but as many of the pits were half filled in, I could not examine all the places, nor would any descrip-

tion be easily followed without reference to plans. The excavations seemed to me not to have been exhaustive in any one place, rather a series of small excavations, in hope of making a lucky find. One of the most interesting points is the discovery of a second rock-hewn channel, in connection with the Fountain of the Virgin, of which Mr. Schick showed me a plan, and of which I believe he was the discoverer; it apparently carried water direct to the lower pool of Siloam, and is perhaps older than the other, which starts off from a corner shown in Warren's plan of the conduit. It may throw some light on the cubit question in the inscription. I also saw the supposed city wall uncovered, near Siloam; it is in the position one might expect to find such a wall, but the masonry did not appear to me such as is usually found in city walls; it was more like a retaining wall. The publication of the results obtained by the Germans will be looked for with great interest.

"I was glad to find Mr. Schick had still in his possession the original plan of Jerusalem, which I gave him in 1866 to keep as a record of rock lurls. He has entered on this the exact points at which rock has been found since Colonel Warren left Jerusalem, and I have arranged with him to make a facsimile copy, which I hope may some day be published.

"There are many other minor points, but my letter is already too long; I must mention, however, that I examined and made a plan of the door in the East Haram wall, found by M. Ganneau; it is comparatively modern, but of interest from its position. You have no doubt received full information about this already."

The support given to the new enterprise during the last twelve months may be considered fairly encouraging. The amount received in all from subscriptions and donations reached, up to December 20th, the total of £2,432 1s. 9d. This is only a little more than enough to cover the cost of the party while in the field. The printing and distribution of the *Quarterly Statement*, and the management expenses, call for another 800l. The Committee, however, find on all sides a renewal of the old interest which had naturally diminished while the preparation of the memoirs and maps for publication was the only occupation of their officers, and expect a much larger support next year.

Will every subscriber remember that about one-third more than was subscribed this year is *absolutely necessary*? It is too much to ask every one to increase his subscription by one-third, but if every one would only persuade one other to subscribe with him, there would be no difficulty. The circular enclosed may be useful for this purpose. It may also be pointed out that the splendid maps already issued, and those which will be published in the spring, together with the Memoirs and the *Quarterly Statements*, have thrown such a flood of light on Biblical topography, as to render all previous publications on the subject comparatively valueless. What has been done for Western Palestine will now be done for the East, with results equally valuable. It is not a great

thing to ask our 4,000 subscribers, to whom the *Quarterly Statement* is sent, to make up between them the sum of £3,500. And the Committee's hands are greatly strengthened by payment being made early in the year.

During the last twelve months the Committee have issued three volumes of their Memoirs, besides their reduced map of Modern Palestine. The Water Basin Edition of the reduced map with Mr. Saunders's "Introduction" will be ready for the new year. The next volume of Memoirs will also be ready in January: the other volumes will follow as rapidly as possible; and the ancient maps will be completed, it is hoped, in the spring. In addition to these a General Index to the *Quarterly Statement*, 1869-1881, has been prepared and will be issued immediately; the pamphlet "Some of the Biblical Gains from the Survey" is under revision, and a new edition will be published as soon as possible; lastly an Index of Bible names with proposed identifications will be printed for and with the new maps already issued.

The Committee have resolved that Branch Associations of the Bible Society (up to March the 1st), all Sunday Schools in union with the Sunday School Institute, the Sunday School Union, and the Wesleyan Sunday School Institute, shall be treated as subscribers and be allowed to purchase the map (by application only to the Secretary) at reduced price.

The Committee have to regret the loss of one of their most valuable members during the last quarter. The Bishop of Jerusalem, Dr. Joseph Barclay, died in the Holy City on Saturday, October 22nd, after a very short illness, and was buried the same afternoon in the Protestant Cemetery on the southern slopes of Mount Zion. Dr. Barclay was a Missionary in Constantinople from 1858 to 1861, and was then for some years Incumbent of Christ Church, Jerusalem. He returned to England in 1873 and became Rector of Stapleford, Herts. He was appointed to the Bishopric of Jerusalem in the autumn of 1879. His diocese extended from the Euphrates to the Levant in Asia, and in Africa from the west to the south of Abyssinia and Galla Land. Dr. Barclay was an accomplished linguist as well as a profound Hebrew scholar: he was able to preach in German, Spanish, Turkish, and Arabic.

The income of the Society from all sources from September 22nd to December 16th, 1881, was £969 17s. 11d. The amount in the Banks on Tuesday, December 20th, was £270 12s. 9d.

It is suggested to subscribers that the safest and 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.
