

I am prepared to supply important test cases by the score, of great topographical interest, in and around the Haram, in illustration of the true length of the cubit, which I estimate at $\sqrt{3 \cdot 14159} \times 10 = 17 \cdot 724$ inches. And it seems to me very likely that this narrow bore, forming the southern or Siloam branch of the aqueduct of 1,000 cubits = 1,477 feet, is a confirmation of that estimate.

*Strathroy, Ontario,
Canada.*

S. BESWICK.

I AM sorry to have misunderstood Mr. Beswick's view as to the tunnel. He, however, appears to suppose our survey of the tunnel to be much rougher than is really the case. Every offset has been carefully measured within an inch or so, and the whole of the passage has been carefully planned from a chain and compass traverse, which can be consulted for any measurements required. The bore of the tunnel, from end to end, is nearly uniform, but the height varies constantly in different parts; as a matter of fact, the southern part of the tunnel is much the highest (12 to 16 feet). The cross passage to the Virgin's Pool is low (about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet). The section (*Quarterly Statement*, April, 1882, p. 123) gives a general idea of the heights along the canal.

The statement I have made as to the "three cubits" was not either general or random, but founded on the traverse, which can be published if necessary. There is no distinct alteration of the tunnel at 231 feet from the north end, either in gauge or in height. The exact distances were taken carefully without regard to theory, as we have no theory to support in the matter. Mr. Beswick's "Test Cases" appear to me very inconclusive, and not to be compared with the deductions from widths of passages, intervals of buttresses, and dimensions of stones, which I enumerated some time since in the *Quarterly Statement* as indicating the length of the cubit.

C. R. C.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

THE Annual Meeting of the General Committee was held at the Offices of the Society, on Tuesday, 17th June. The chair was taken by Mr. JAMES GLAISHER.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary then proceeded to read the Report of the Executive Committee on the work of the past year.

“ MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“ Your Committee, elected at the last General Meeting, held on June 21st, 1881, have, on resigning their trust, to render you an account of their administration during the past year.

“ 1. The Committee have held twenty meetings since their last election.

“ 2. The subjects which have occupied their attention have been the following :—

I.—THE SURVEY OF EASTERN PALESTINE.

“ We had the pleasure of announcing, at the annual meeting of last year, that the services of Captain Conder and Lieutenant Mantell had been fortunately secured, together with those of Messrs. Black and Armstrong, formerly of the Royal Engineers, and were with Captain Stuart in the commencement of the Survey of 1872.

“ The expedition started in the spring of last year, and after some good preliminary work, pending the arrival of the instruments, Captain Conder led his party across the Jordan, and commenced the Survey of Eastern Palestine.

“ It was found, however, that difficulties were raised by the Turkish authorities of a kind which had never previously been encountered. The firman under which Captain Conder worked was one signed by the Sultan's predecessor, and peremptory orders arrived from Constantinople that, until a new firman had been signed, the work was to stop.

“ Under these circumstances Captain Conder, after surveying 500 square miles, and executing a large number of plans, and examining a country which yielded many most interesting and valuable discoveries, was compelled to bring his party back to Jerusalem. Here he occupied them with laying down the field work, completing the observations, etc., etc., while negotiations were going on at Constantinople with the view of obtaining the firman desired.

“ The Committee feel that they cannot sufficiently express their gratitude to Lord Dufferin, for the great trouble he has taken in this matter. His Majesty the Sultan has, we are happy to learn, promised to sign the firman granting permission to explore, within certain limits, east of the Jordan.

“ We have now only to wait until this firman is signed.

“ The present threatening outlook in Egypt and the East causes the withdrawal of the party to be a matter of some satisfaction to the Committee, as it relieves them of anxiety as to the safety of their officers.

“ The Committee desire strongly to express their opinion that, under the circumstances, Captain Conder had no choice whatever but to yield to

the imperative orders from the Sultan, and to stop the Survey. They desire further to ask the General Committee for a vote of thanks, not only to this tried and able officer, but also to Lieutenant Mantell, whose energy and zeal have made him so valuable a second. Mr. Black had, unfortunately, to come home in the autumn, being disabled by an attack of dysentery, and Mr. Armstrong, the servant of the Fund for ten years, has acted with the energy and intelligence which have always largely contributed to the success of our Survey work. The following is the report sent to us by Captain Conder:—

“21st June, 1882.

“The party, including Lieutenant Mantell, R.E., and Messrs. Black and Armstrong, left England on 16th March, 1881, and reached Beyrout early in April. While awaiting our stores Lieutenant Mantell and I made a tour through Northern Syria, resulting in the discovery of the site of Kadesh on Orontes. The outbreak of a revolt of the Druzes rendered the Survey of the Hauran impossible, and the Governor of Syria refused us permission to survey under our former firman. I therefore transferred our base of operations to Jerusalem, and, while awaiting the arrival of the theodolites, we were employed in revisiting various points of interest concerning which additional information had been demanded in England. Meantime, an opportunity for commencing our operations in Moab presented itself, and on receipt of the instruments the party proceeded to Heshbon, and the Survey was carried on for nearly two months without the knowledge of the Turkish authorities. When, however, our presence became known, peremptory orders were sent to us to suspend our operations. I delayed as long as possible the stoppage of our work, but after five weeks of negotiation I found it necessary to submit to the pressure of the Turkish authorities.

“The party went into winter quarters in December, during which time the field work of the 500 square miles' survey was worked out by Lieutenant Mantell and Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Black being invalided home in October. Meantime, I proceeded, by order of the Committee, to Constantinople, where, after three weeks of negotiation, I obtained, through the help of the British Ambassador, the promise of a new firman.

“Shortly after my return to Jerusalem, their Royal Highnesses Princes Edward and George of Wales reached Palestine, and I was commanded to attend them during their tour, which lasted six weeks. The Royal party visited the Haram at Hebron, and I was entrusted with a report on this subject to be submitted to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. The Princes also remained a week beyond Jordan, and additional information was obtained concerning the district of Mount Gilead north of that surveyed. By order of the Committee we left Palestine on 22nd May, 1882, but before leaving I received notice from H. E. the British Ambassador to say that the firman had been finally approved by the Minister of Public Instruction, and submitted by him to the Porte for confirmation. There

appears, therefore, reason to hope that the suspension of the Survey may be only temporary.

“The results, as submitted to the Executive Committee, include the complete examination of 500 square miles, with a volume of notes and a large number of special plans and surveys, also Lieutenant Mantell's photographs east of Jordan. The reports on Kadesb, Tyre, Jerusalem (the Siloam inscription and the new Jewish tomb, etc.), Hebron, etc., are additional results of our expedition.

“The country, when we left Palestine, was in a somewhat excited state, due to recent political events, but no outbreak of fanaticism was likely to occur.

“I must, in conclusion, report that the conduct of the party gave me the greatest satisfaction; Lieutenant Mantell distinguished himself by the rapidity with which he attained a colloquial and grammatical knowledge of Arabic, and by his general zeal and ability he must be considered a valuable addition to the officers of the Society. Messrs. Black and Armstrong showed much discretion in their treatment of natives at a critical period, and the trustworthiness of their recent work quite equals that of their former performances. The native staff also gave satisfaction, and no member was dismissed during the fourteen months in which they were employed. The instruments provided by the Committee all gave satisfaction, especially the 8-inch theodolite, by Troughton & Simms. They are on their way home, and have been insured for £250.

“The property of the Society left in Jerusalem is estimated at £170; it is all of imperishable character, properly stored, and carefully inventoried.

“In conclusion, I consider that the credit of the Society stands better Palestine at the present moment than it has perhaps ever done before, while the genuine interest shown in our proceedings by their Royal Highnesses during their tour cannot fail to be of great advantage to the Society in the future.

“‘CLAUDE R. CONDER, *Captain, R.E.*’

“II. The Committee have also been engaged upon the continuing of the publication of materials on their hands. Three additional volumes of the “Survey of Western Palestine” have been issued during the year, viz., the second volume of “Memoirs,” the “Name Lists,” and the volume of “Special Papers.”

“The third volume of “Memoirs” has been printed, and the proofs are in Captain Conder's hands: this may be expected in September. It will contain, in addition to the memoirs as originally written, a great quantity of additions made by that officer during his recent stay in Western Palestine. Canon Tristram's volume on the natural history of the country will be ready before the end of the year, and it is hoped that Colonel Warren's volume on Jerusalem researches, and his portfolios of plans, will appear early next year.

“As regards the maps, the reduced map was published last September. It has been followed by another issue of the same map, with the water basins and sections of the country laid upon it, by Mr. Trelawney Saunders. This eminent geographer has also prepared, to accompany the new map, an “Introduction to the Survey of Western Palestine;” proofs of the Old Testament map, also prepared by Mr. Saunders, lie on the table for your inspection; the New Testament map is in the hands of the engraver.

“The Committee have to regret the loss by death during the last twelve months of many of their most valuable and useful members. The first of these is Dean Stanley, one of the founders of this Society. The first assistance which he rendered was in May 12th, 1865, when he lent the Jerusalem Chamber for the meeting in which the “Palestine Exploration Fund” was founded. The last occasion on which he showed his sympathy and gave his assistance was when he lent us the same chamber, in which the Survey of Eastern Palestine was resolved upon.

“We have next to lament the death of the Rev. F. W. Holland, Vicar of Evesham, and one of our honorary secretaries, also for many years associated with Mr. Grove as honorary secretary for this Society. He is known as having raised the “Sinai Survey Fund,” and assisted in the accomplishment of that Survey.

“The death of Major Anderson, C.M.G., R.E., is another irreparable loss to the cause of Palestine research. He was always ready to give, not only advice, but time and active work, to the furtherance of our enterprise, and at the time of his death was the editor of the maps of Western Palestine, which ever after formed the basis of all writings and discussions on biblical geography and topography. His latest work for us was the outfit and despatch of the new expedition.

“We have also to regret the death of Mr. Samuel Gurney, for many years a member of the Executive Committee; of the Rev. Samuel Manning, member of the General Committee; and of the Rev. Dr. Barclay, Bishop of Jerusalem, member of the General Committee, both firm friends and upholders of the Society.

“The Committee regret to announce that Mr. Clermont Ganneau, recently appointed to the post of French Consul in Jaffa, has been recalled and appointed interpreter at the Foreign Office of Paris. By this change the cause of Archæology throughout the Holy Land suffers an irreparable loss.

“The following is the Balance Sheet for the year 1881 :—

RECEIPTS.

1881.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Jan. 1.	Balance from 1880..	1,365	4	1			
	Less unpaid account ..	260	15	3			
					1,104	8	10
	Subscriptions and Lectures	2,430	5	10			
	Publications	144	6	3			
	Photographs	18	10	11			
	Map and Memoirs	2,123	15	6			
	To unpaid accounts	778	5	11			
					<u>6,599</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>3</u>

EXPENDITURE.

		£	s.	d.
	Expenditure on the Survey	2,628	12	7
	Map and Memoirs	2,647	6	6
	Rent	128	11	0
	Printing	398	5	1
	Advertising	40	14	10
	Salaries and wages	436	2	8
	Stationery, Office expenses, and Sundries ..	70	18	0
	Postage	136	11	0
	Balance	112	11	7
		<u>6,599</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>3</u>

WALTER MORRISON,

Hon. Treasurer.

“It will be seen that the Committee spent 6,487*l.*, of which 2,628*l.* was spent in the Survey of Eastern Palestine, while 2,647*l.* was spent in producing the maps and “Memoirs.” About 450*l.* was returned to subscribers in the shape of the Society’s *Journal*. Rent, salaries, advertising, and management generally, about 750*l.*, that is about 11 per cent.

“The Committee have to ask that a vote of thanks be passed to Professor Sayce, Mr. Isaac Taylor, Mr. St. Chad Boscawen, the Rev. W. F. Birch, the Rev. Henry G. Tomkins, and M. Clermont Ganneau, for contributions to the *Journal* of the Society, to all the Honorary Secretaries of this Society; to all the annual subscribers; and to the following donors during the past year :—G. M. E., Miss Wakeham, Mr. H. Charlewood, Mr. Oliver Heywood, Mr. Fritz Reiss, Mr. Wolff, Mr. George Burns, Mr. Mackinnon, Mr. H. Vaughan, Sir John Cowell, Mr. G. S. Gibson, Professor Watson, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. H. M. Ormerod, Mr. G. Bickerton Evans, Mr. A. W. Jones, Mr. C. F. Fellows, Rev. H. Hall Houghton, Rev. W. H. Walford, Rev. F. E. Wigram, Rev. M. T. Farrar, Mr. A. H. Heywood, Miss Edwards, Mr. James Stevenson, Rev. A. M. Morrison, Mr. R. Crewdson, Mrs. Dykes, Mr. G. W. Norman, Rev. J. Braithwaite, Mr. G. Gotto, Mr. E. Whympfer, and Mr. Dalzell.

“The Executive Committee have invited the following gentlemen to join the General Committee during the last year :—

Lord Eustace Cecil.
 Sir John Cowell.
 Major Grover.
 Rev. Professor Lumby.
 Mr. W. Aldis Wright.

“They have also invited the Rev. Dr. Ginsburg, Major Grover, and Mr. Aldis Wright to take the places vacated by the deaths of Mr. Holland, Major Anderson, and Mr. Gurney.

“In conclusion, the Committee have only to recommend that as the firman may be signed any day, in which case the field will be again open to them, strenuous efforts be continued to keep alive the interest now existing in the work, and to raise funds.

“Captain Conder is at present engaged in arranging his materials for publication.”

On the conclusion of the Report, the CHAIRMAN laid upon the table all Captain Conder's work, including the finished map of the 500 square miles, his portfolio of special plans, his field books and observations, his photographs, tracings, and his note-book, filled with sketches, freehand drawings, plans and notes taken in the field. Mr. GLAISHER, in calling the attention of the Committee to this result of the year's campaign, spoke in the highest terms of Captain Conder's energy, and the great zeal with which the whole party had worked.

It was proposed by Lord TALBOT DE MALAHIDE, seconded by Mr. HENRY MAUDSLAY, and carried unanimously, that the Report be received and adopted.

The CHAIRMAN then laid upon the table the uncorrected proof of the Map of the Old Testament, and the drawing of that for the New Testament, explaining that the work had been placed in the hands of Mr. Trelawney Saunders, who had been actively engaged upon it for the last eighteen months, the result being that the map before them was far superior to any previously existing maps to illustrate the Old and New Testaments, as the Society's map of Western Palestine was superior to any previously existing maps of the country. He explained also that Mr. Saunders was alone responsible for his identifications, and that, though students of the Bible would not probably agree with Mr. Saunders, and with each other, in all the identifications adopted or made by him, there would be but one opinion on the experience, labour, and thought brought to bear on the production of these two beautiful works.

The CHAIRMAN next proceeded to say that he would take advantage of Dr. Chaplin's presence among them that day to express personally the very deep gratitude of the Committee for the many acts of kindness and sympathy which he has shown to the Society's officers and party in Jerusalem. He tendered him personally the best thanks of the Committee.

In reply, Dr. CHAPLIN briefly drew a contrast between the knowledge of the country possessed by educated people before the foundation of the Society, and that which now exists, thanks to its labours. He also gave his own testimony to the admirable conduct of the officers under the many difficulties which surround the scientific explorers in the East.

The Rev. WILLIAM WRIGHT proposed the re-election of the Executive Committee. This was seconded by Captain CONDER, and unanimously carried.

Mr. MACGREGOR proposed, and Professor HAYTER LEWIS seconded, the election of the following new members of the General Committee :—

Bishop of Truro.
Bishop of Melbourne.
Colonel Locock, R.E.
Rev. Dr. Löwy.
Rev. H. L. Stracey.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting was adjourned.