

venture to put it forward as pointing, perhaps, to the right direction for further research, and exploration on land.

Political events of great importance attract much attention to these regions, but this paper is meant rather for thoughtful students than for the casual glance of those who are merely interested in the events of the day. It is sent as a contribution to the *Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement*, as it attempts to clear the way for other and perhaps more interesting discoveries that may throw light upon events in Bible History, and serve to prove the accuracy of the narrative, especially at the very points where, from want of knowledge or from want of faith, some have been led to doubt.

Holy Trinity Vicarage,
Milton-next-Gravesend,
September, 1882.

JOHN SCARTH.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

GEOGRAPHY.

Mr. GLAISHER presented the report of the Committee, consisting of himself, the Rev. Canon Tristram, and the Rev. F. Lawrence, appointed for the purpose of promoting the Survey of Eastern Palestine. It was as follows :—

We have to report, as regards the Survey of Eastern Palestine, that the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund were able, in the spring of last year, to organize and equip an expedition for the execution of this important work. They were able to secure the services of Captain Conder, R.E., formerly in charge of the Survey of Western Palestine, and they were granted by the War Office the services of Lieutenant Mantell, R.E., a young officer who had recently left Chatham. They were also able to re-engage Messrs. Black and Armstrong, now pensioners of the Royal Engineers. The party left England on March 16th, 1881, arriving at Beyrout early in April. Their instructions were, on receiving the instruments, which were not quite ready when they left England, to begin the Survey in the north, and to make as much use of the friendly Druzes as possible. Unfortunately, a revolt of these people made work in the Hauran impossible, and it was finally decided by Captain Conder to commence in the south, where it appeared probable that operations could be conducted with safety. Accordingly, he led his party across the Jordan, and commenced and carried on the Survey for some months. Unfortunately, it had been discovered by the Turkish authorities that the Firman with which our party worked was one issued by a former Sultan, and that it did not convey the

power of working east of the Jordan. Peremptory orders were received from Constantinople that the work was to be stopped immediately. But by this time 500 square miles of the Survey had been accomplished. Efforts were made by the Foreign Office, by Lord Dufferin, and by Captain Conder himself, to obtain a new Firman. The matter is so far advanced that a Firman has been promised ; but it is not yet signed. Captain Conder kept his party in winter quarters at Jerusalem, where they were employed in laying down the works and calculating the observations and making fair drawings of the plans. In the April of the year Their Royal Highnesses Princes Edward and George of Wales reached Palestine, and Captain Conder was commanded to attend them on their tour, which lasted six weeks. In the course of the journey the Mosque of Hebron was visited, and an accurate plan taken by Captain Conder. The party also spent a week on the eastern side of the Jordan. Captain Conder retired from the country on May 22nd of this year. Before leaving Palestine he received notice from his Excellency the British Ambassador that the new Firman had been finally approved by the Minister of Public Instruction, and submitted by him to the Porte for confirmation. He has brought home with him the finished map, on the scale of one inch to the mile, of 500 square miles, together with many new photographs taken by Lieutenant Mantell, and volumes of notes, special plans, drawings, etc. He is now occupied in working up for publication the notes and information collected by him. This will occupy him about five months. The results of this campaign have been, among other things, the discovery of a vast number of cromlechs and rude stone monuments. Many of them had been discovered previously by Canon Tristram, but Captain Conder has established the fact that this part of Moab was a great centre of the form of religious worship of which these monuments are the remains. He suggests that among them are the altars of Balak. He has proposed identifications for Baal Peor, the field of Zophim, the Ascent of Luhith, Jazer, Sibmah, and Minnith—six biblical places previously unknown ; he has collected a great quantity of Arab folk-lore, with tribe marks and traditions ; he has found a most remarkable building of Persian character at Ammán ; and he has made a collection of sketches and plans of the greatest value. In fact, the work done on the east of the Jordan will be found to be in every way equal to that done in the west and already published ; he has also made numerous geological observations. But besides the Survey, Captain Conder found time to do a great deal of work on this side of the river. He discovered Kadesh, the ancient capital of the Hittites ; he has measured and planned the Siloam Tunnel, and make a copy of the inscription ; and he has discovered and planned what he suggests may be nothing less than the real Holy Sepulchre. It is hoped that the party may again, before long, take the field, without fear of obstruction or opposition, in a work which has no political significance, but is of extraordinary interest to all who are interested in the lands and people of the Bible.

Mr. CYRIL GRAHAM said : I am glad of this occasion, when a great number of those engaged in the pursuit of knowledge in its widest sense,

are come together, to urge, as I have repeatedly urged at various other times, not only upon those whom I see around me, but upon the outside world—by which expression I wish to designate the great mass of our clergy of all denominations, scattered throughout Great Britain, and a vast number of the laity, who, though not able to attend our meetings, take a lively interest in our proceedings, and would take a still livelier interest were they subscribers to it—the great claims of our Fund upon all those who thirst for a more and more minute knowledge of the countries, places, and scenes referred to in the Scriptures.

For the moderate sum of one pound per annum, the contributor obtains four numbers, published quarterly, embodying an official account of the most recent explorations made in the Holy Land, and affording food for all kinds of minds. A glance at one of our little volumes will show that while one who is versed in the science of oriental literature, languages, and research, may well have his attention taxed, the next page may contain the description of a site or of a building, comprehensible and deeply interesting to the millions who, with a less technical training, read the Old and New Testaments.

Now in spite of all that has been done, from the commencement of our operations in 1865 until the present date—and I wish to call your attention to the fact, that within this comparatively short period of time we have not only verified many sites and excavated them, made several series of photographs, and in the face of great difficulties completed a Survey of Palestine to the west of Jordan, the results of which appear in the maps which are now at your disposal, the whole of this great work, be it remembered, having been carried out by the Royal Engineers, and at our expense—we have a still harder task before us.

In the beginning we had a slight financial assistance from the Government ; but, as far as I am aware, this has long since ceased, except perhaps in the form of the loan of a man-of-war who might be cruising off the coast of Syria, and be willing under orders to carry home certain objects of inestimable archæological value, which, from time to time, have been presented to the British Museum. A list of the officers and men who have worked for us deserves special recognition. All of them, without exception, regardless of climate, and the many dangers to which explorers are otherwise subjected in the East, exposed themselves until either sickness compelled them to leave Syria, or the command of duty to leave us for other work. Our honoured President (Mr. Glaisher) has told you of the difficulties we have recently encountered with regard to the Imperial Ottoman Firman, the purport of which was to give us leave to do what we liked in the matter of excavations to the east of Jordan. I will not enter into this subject just now, as we are at the present moment bankrupt, if I may use the expression, in officers. The other day we had four ready, with their men, to take our field at an hour's notice ; yet so valuable were they, so distinguished were they in their own service, that at a minute's notice they were taken from us and impounded by Sir Garnet Wolseley. All these delays and unavoidable accidents—for I neither grudge my friend Sir

Garnet Wolseley the assistance of such men, nor the gallant officers their great opportunity of winning new honours in their noble profession; besides which I have complete confidence that the Egyptian affair will not occupy many weeks, and that they may then be restored to us—have paralyzed our resources, and I can only entreat those who are hearty in our work to come to the front and support us. We want to do for the eastern side of Jordan what we have done for the western. As it is, we have “probed” the eastern side, but we have a farlarger area of research before us there, and the exploration of those regions will be attended with very much greater expense, danger, difficulties, and probable hindrances than any of the like kind which we have hitherto encountered.

Mr. T. SAUNDERS, of the India Office, enlarged upon the additions which had been made by these explorations to biblical and other knowledge, and mentioned many interesting points which might still be cleared up if the means were supplied.

Mr. R. C. JOHNSON gave an instance to show the importance of an early completion of the Survey on the eastern side of the Jordan. In 1872 he had visited, in the company of Canon Tristram, the well-preserved ruin of the façade of a palace built by the Sassanian monarch, Chosroes the Second, at Mashita, 30 miles north-east of the Dead Sea, but regretted to inform the meeting that at a visit paid to these parts by Canon Tristram last winter, he had found that during this interval the façade had been very materially injured by the Arabs.

Sir E. OMMANNEY moved the reappointment of the committee, which was agreed to, and some of the members handed donations to Mr. Glaisher for the prosecution of the work.

ADDRESS BY CAPTAIN CONDER.¹

THE Western Survey required a very large amount of work in England, and I was engaged by the Society for several years in preparing it for publication. When its preparation was considerably advanced, it was proposed that a survey of the country on the east side of the Jordan, including Moab and Gilead, and the country up to as far as Damascus, should be undertaken on the same scale, with the same accuracy, and with the same objects as those for which the Western Survey was undertaken. Those objects are not merely the production of a

¹ This address was given at a meeting held at the town residence of Mrs. Greer, Regent's Park.