

THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

---

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE packet of papers and plans mentioned in the July *Quarterly Statement* as having been received from Herr Schumacher has been placed in the hands of the printers and engravers. The text has been carefully revised by Mr. Guy Le Strange, not in order to add anything to it or to subtract anything, but in order to anglicise a manuscript written in German-English. The volume is not yet quite ready, but may be expected in a few days. One copy will be forwarded to every subscriber who has already signified, or who will on the receipt of this *Quarterly Statement* signify his desire to possess it. It will be sent, post free, in order of application. A closer examination of Herr Schumacher's map and of his manuscript, together with an urgent request from the author, has made it necessary to change the title originally proposed. It will not be called "The Land of Jaulan," because that title, it is now perceived, would convey an incorrect impression of its contents, but "Across the Jordan," with a sub-title explaining that it is a record of exploration in parts of the Hauran and the Jaulan.

---

As regards the map, it should be mentioned that Herr Schumacher executed at the same time another survey of a district of equal extent to that done for us. This map, lying north of our portion, he has sent to the German Society for the Exploration of Palestine.

---

These explorations were made possible to Herr Schumacher by a permission to survey for a proposed railway, the observations, notes, drawings, and memoirs being executed during the course of his work. The triangulation has been found by Mr. Armstrong to fit very well with that of our own Surveys, and there has been no difficulty in laying down the map upon our sheets. A reduced map will be issued with the volume. The number of plans and drawings which illustrate the volume amount to nearly a hundred and fifty. With the volume will be reprinted Mr. Oliphant's and Mr. Guy Le Strange's papers on the country east of Jordan.

---

The Committee earnestly desire to draw attention to the very important Circular which has just been prepared and issued. It will be perceived that an opportunity is here presented for doing on a large and exhaustive scale what has hitherto hardly been attempted at all, namely, the collection of modern Syrian customs, usages, traditions, languages, legends, and manners. It is an inquiry

which will without doubt prove fruitful in Biblical illustration; the value of the results will depend entirely on the character of the question proposed; and it is *most earnestly hoped that every one interested in the subject*, and able to assist, will help the Committee to make this inquiry thoroughly comprehensive, and, with that view, will forward suggestions for questions. These should embrace everything, however apparently trivial, which concerns daily life, religion, tradition, arts, industries, and customs. A sub-committee will receive and arrange them under their various headings, and a beginning will be made as soon as possible. The results, if the Committee receive the support which they anticipate in this most important undertaking, should be to pour light upon many points which are at present obscure. The expense of the work will not, it is anticipated, be very great. On this branch of inquiry, as of the Survey, it may be most truly said that the old things are fast passing away, and that if they are not very soon collected and published they may be forgotten and hopelessly lost. The following is the Circular:—

“The Committee have long had under consideration the collection of all that has to do with the manners and customs of the present inhabitants of Palestine and other parts of Syria. Attempts have been made from time to time, by residents of the country, to do this, especially by M. Clermont-Ganneau, the Rev. A. Klein, the Rev. James Niel, Mrs. Finn, Miss Rogers, and the officers of the Survey. These attempts have been necessarily incomplete, and have done little more than indicate the extent and depth of the treasures which lie hidden among the peasantry of these lands.

“Before a serious attempt could be made to carry out this inquiry successfully, it was necessary first to find an organised machinery of agents, who should be directed by some competent persons in the country, under the Committee at home. It was next necessary that these agents should speak the language of the natives perfectly, so as to note differences and peculiarities of idiom; that they should be able to command their confidence, so that the women would converse with them and answer their questions; and that they should be persons of trained intelligence, who would know the questions that should be asked and the reasons for asking them.

“This machinery, with a large body of agents highly educated and intelligent, has now been placed at the disposition of the Committee.

“It remains, therefore, to draw up questions which these agents will be invited to ask.

“It will be possible to extend the inquiry simultaneously over the whole of the land covered by the Bible. That is to say, we may carry on our inquiry at the same time over Syria, Egypt, Cyprus, Asia Minor, the Hauran, the Valley of the Euphrates, and Armenia. It is, therefore, desirable to draw up the questions with as much fulness and covering as wide an area as possible.

“The subject divides itself into the following branches:—

1. Religion and Morals.
2. Land Tenure, the Village Commune, &c.
3. Archæology.
4. Ethnology.
5. Health and Disease.
6. Superstitions.

7. Legends and Traditions.
8. Language.
9. Agriculture, including Botany, &c.
10. The Daily Life.
11. Industries.
12. Arts and Architecture.
13. Amusements and Sports.
14. Birth and Marriage, Death and Burial Laws and Customs.
15. Usages still surviving, which illustrate the Bible.
16. Traces of the successive occupants of the Holy Land.
17. Modern and ancient Literature.
18. Proverbs.
19. Science.
20. Music.
21. Natural History.
22. Peculiar manners and customs not included under any of the above headings.

“The Committee, in the work of drawing up these questions, have resolved upon asking the assistance of the following scholars and Societies:—

1. The Companies of Revision of the Old and New Testament.
2. The contributors to Smith's and Kitto's Bible Dictionaries.
3. The British and Foreign Bible Society.
4. The Scottish National Bible Society.
5. The American Bible Society.
6. The Trinitarian Bible Society.
7. The Missionary Societies.
8. Zion College.
9. The Society of Biblical Archæology.
10. The Royal Geographical Society.
11. The Society of Antiquaries.
12. The Archæological Institute and the Archæological Association.
13. The President of the late American Society for the Exploration of Palestine.
14. The Universities of Great Britain and Ireland and the Colonies.
15. The Heads of Departments in the British Museum.
16. The Department of Science and Art, South Kensington.
17. The Royal Institute of Architects.
18. The Anthropological Institute.
19. The College of Physicians and the College of Surgeons.
20. The Folk Lore Society.
21. The Cambridge Philological Society.
22. The Royal Agricultural Society.
23. The Royal Horticultural Society.

“To these will be added the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England, those of the Episcopal Church in Scotland and Ireland, the Colonies and the United States, the Presidents of the Established Church of Scotland the Free Church, and the United Presbyterians, the Presidents of the Wesleyan, Congregational, Baptist, and other Nonconformist bodies in Great Britain, Ireland, the Colonies, and the United States, and the Chief Rabbi of Great

Britain, and, lastly, all scholars, archæologists, and Biblical students who may be willing and able to render assistance and advice, with other societies, colleges, and institutions not included in the above which may also be usefully approached.

“ We have, therefore, in communicating to you this preliminary announcement, to ask for your assistance and co-operation. We have also to call your attention to the magnitude of the enterprise, and to its great importance, whether considered from a Biblical or from any other point of view.

“ We enclose a specimen page of questions. A form will be immediately prepared, and will be forwarded to you on application, and a sub-committee will be appointed for receiving, arranging, and finally preparing the questions.

W. EBOR, *President*.

JAMES GLAISHER, F.R.S., *Chairman of the Executive Committee*.

WALTER MORRISON, *Treasurer*.

WALTER BESANT, *Secretary*.”

---

Dr. Selah Merrill writes, on September 2nd :—

“ The open space in front of the Mediterranean Hotel and the Barracks, or Castle, has been dug over during the past summer for the purpose of repaving the street, and some very interesting remains have been brought to light. The most interesting of all, however, is what I consider to be the actual remains of the second wall found between Duisburg's Store (formerly Spittler's) and the Jaffa Gate, at a depth of 15 feet below the surface of the ground; the stones are similar to the large bevelled stones in the Castle opposite. I will send you a plan of these ruins in a few days, perhaps by the next mail.”

---

New editions of “Tent work in Palestine” and “Heth and Moab,” Captain Conder's popular works, have been issued at 6s. each. Professor Hull's “Mount Seir” is also now ready at the same price.

---

Professor Hull's scientific Memoir on the Geology of Palestine is now in the press, and will be shortly issued. It will be uniform with the “Survey of Western Palestine.”

---

Mr. H. Chichester Hart's Memoir on the Flora and Fauna of the Wâdy Arabah will also be issued as soon as possible in the same form and size.

---

A paper by the Rev. W. F. Birch on Acra has been unavoidably kept back until January.

---

As regards the copies which remain of the “Survey of Western Palestine,” the friends of the Society are urged to get them placed in public libraries. The work will not be reprinted, and will never be sold by the Committee at a lower price; and as it becomes known, for the *only* scientific account of Western Palestine, it will certainly acquire a yearly increasing value. Five hundred were printed, and the type is now distributed.

The Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society has now in hand—(1) A translation of Procopius, that is to say, such parts as concern the buildings of Justinian. This has been annotated by Professor Hayter Lewis. It will also be illustrated by numerous drawings. (2) The Bordeaux Pilgrim, which is receiving notes from Sir Charles Wilson. (3) The Pilgrimage of the Abbot Daniel, which is translated and ready for the press. (4) The Travels of an early Persian Pilgrim, translated by Mr. Guy Le Strange.

---

The income of the Society, from June 17th to September 21st inclusive, was—from subscriptions and donations £168 12s., from all sources £247 5s. 5d., The expenditure during the same period was £498 12s. 10d. On October 1st the balance in the Banks was £167 16s. 7d.

---

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.

---

The only authorised lecturers for the Society are—

- (1) The Rev. Henry Geary, Vicar of St. Thomas's, Portman Square. His lectures are on the following subjects :—
    - The Survey of Western Palestine, as illustrating Bible History.
    - Palestine East of the Jordan.
    - The Jerusalem Excavations.
    - A Restoration of Ancient Jerusalem. Illustrated by original photographs shown as "dissolving views."
  - (2) The Rev. James King, Vicar of St. Mary's, Berwick. His subjects are as follows :—
    - The Survey of Western Palestine.
    - Jerusalem.
    - The Hittites.
    - The Moabite Stone and other monuments.
  - (3) The Rev. James Neil, formerly Incumbent of Christ Church, Jerusalem.
  - (4) The Rev. George St. Clair, formerly Lecturer to the Society, is about to organise, by arrangement with the Committee, a course of lectures this winter on the work of the Society.
-