

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

LAST YEAR AND THIS.

I. EXPLORATION.

THE principal EXPLORATION work of the year 1885 has been that executed for the Committee by Herr Gottlieb Schumacher. The memoir accompanying his map has been published under the title of "Across the Jordan," and a copy has been presented to every subscriber of the Fund who asked for it—the Committee considering that it was useless to send copies to those who had not sufficient interest in the subject to express their wish to possess a copy. The work is illustrated by 160 drawings, maps, and plans, executed in the same style as that of the "Memoirs," and is furnished with an index by Mr. Guy le Strange, who also superintended its production. It is the memoir of a part of the country covering 200 square miles, and that in the least visited and least known district on the east of the river. The whole of the first edition has been taken up, and a second edition will be ready immediately. Those who have not yet received copies will do so very shortly. Meantime the lists are still open for the reception of new names. The book is uniform with the cheap edition of Captain Conder's popular works "Heth and Moab" and "Tent Work in Palestine." The work is enriched by the publication with it of the valuable papers by Mr. Laurence Oliphant and Mr. Guy le Strange, which had already appeared in the *Quarterly Statement*. These papers, together with notes of discovery by Dr. Selah Merrill, Herr Hanauer, Canon Tristram, and Mr. H. Chichester Hart, complete the exploration work of the year so far as it has been received.

We have, however, the pleasure of announcing that Herr Schumacher has successfully carried out ANOTHER SURVEY for the Society, this time in northern Ajlûn. The portion surveyed is five hundred miles in that piece of country bordered on the north by the Shar'at el Menâdireh, on the west by the Ghôr or Jordan Valley, on the south by Tibni, and on the east by Irbid Beit Râs and the Wâdy Semâr, which joins the Shar'at el Menâdireh near Arâk el Heitaleieh. A greater number of ancient and modern sites was collected here than in the previous survey. Special plans have been

made of Mkeis (Gadara) and Beit Rás (believed by Herr Schumacher to be Capitoliás). Another great field of dolmens was found near Irbid.

Herr Schumacher also crossed the Jaulán and Hauran once more, and was able to add more names to the map. At Abdin he found a Greek inscription.

The map and memoirs of the survey will arrive, it is expected, in February. The Committee have not decided upon the form and method of publication.

The EXPLORATION work of 1886 will follow in the same lines, and, we hope, will show equally good results. Little by little we are rescuing the unknown parts of the country from obscurity, and bringing them, with their ruins, under the surveyor's hands, if not by the rapid methods by which the Survey of Western Palestine was accomplished, yet by safe and scientific methods, and at much less cost.

II. MAPS AND PUBLICATIONS.

The MAPS spoken of in the January circular as in course of preparation by Mr. Armstrong are now executed, but it is desirable to keep them back until Herr Schumacher's work can be laid down on them. Mr. Armstrong has also prepared an ALPHABETICAL LIST of Old and New Testament names, with their modern identifications according to the latest discoveries. This List is under revision by Sir C. Wilson.

An INDEX has been prepared for the whole of the work called the "Survey of Western Palestine." It is in three parts, and consists of—

- (1) An Index of Scriptural References, prepared by Mr. Armstrong.
- (2) An Index of Hebrew Names and Words, prepared by the Rev. Dr. Ginsburg.
- (3) A general Index to the seven volumes which form the work, and to Professor Hull's Memoirs, prepared by Mr. J. E. Stewardson.

The GEOLOGICAL MEMOIR by Professor EDWARD HULL, F.R.S., is now nearly ready. It is printed uniform with the "Survey of Western Palestine," to which it will form a complementary volume. Its price will be ONE GUINEA, but to subscribers TWELVE SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE. It is illustrated with maps and sections.

The NATURAL HISTORY MEMOIR by Mr. H. CHICHESTER HART will be sent to the Press as soon as Professor Hull's work is issued. The drawings for this work are already prepared. The price and particulars will be announced in April.

There remain to be published Captain CONDER's "MEMOIRS OF THE SURVEY OF EASTERN PALESTINE," so far as it has been accomplished. These are extremely copious and full of the most varied information. The whole part of the country covered is little more than a single sheet of the map in extent, and yet the Memoirs will fill a whole volume. There are over 400 drawings.

It has now been decided to issue these Memoirs as volume the 1st of the "SURVEY OF EASTERN PALESTINE," uniform with the "Survey of Western Palestine." A limited number of 500 only will be printed, and

the volume will be issued at the price of two guineas, provided a sufficient number of names are entered. A circular is in preparation, which will be issued as soon as possible. Meantime names of subscribers will be received by the Secretary.

As regards the DRAWINGS of M. LECOMTE which are still unpublished, it is not expected that we shall be able to publish them this year.

We have also the pleasure of announcing that Mr. GUY LE STRANGE has undertaken to prepare for the Committee a work much wanted, namely, the GEOGRAPHY of Palestine, according to the earliest Persian and Arabic geographers. He hopes to get the work completed in about twelve months.

Captain CONDER, who has now returned to England, has promised to continue working for the Society as occasion may offer.

The paper by Sir CHARLES WARREN on the Arab tribes of the Desert, promised in last January's *Quarterly Statement*, has been placed in our hands by him since his return from South Africa and will be published in April.

Other papers have been received or promised by the Rev. Professor SAYCE, the Rev. GREVILLE CHESTER, the Rev. W. F. BIRCH, Herr CONRAD SCHICK, Herr HANAUER, and Mr. LAURENCE OLIPHANT.

As regards the remaining copies of the "SURVEY OF WESTERN PALESTINE," they are in the hands of Mr. Alexander S. Watt, 34, Paternoster Row, who has been appointed the agent for their sale. *Subscribers and those who already possess the work are requested to note that no reduction will be made, either now or at any other time, in the price of this great work.* On the other hand, the Committee reserve to themselves the right of raising the price of the last copies.

III. THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY.

A COMMITTEE has been appointed for the purpose of making an Inquiry into the manners and customs of the various peoples and tribes in Syria and the East. We have now an opportunity of carrying this out by means of intelligent and educated agents over the whole of Syria, Asia Minor, Cyprus, Armenia, Egypt, and the country as far as the Euphrates. This most important investigation will be carried on during the whole year, and will perhaps last several years. The results as they come home, and can be classified, will be given to the world in the Society's Journal. The Committee now consists of Captain CONDER, Rev. Dr. GINSBURG, Mr. JAMES GLAISHER, Professor HAYTER LEWIS, Mr. JOHN MACGREGOR, Mr. SIMPSON, Sir CHARLES WARREN, Sir CHARLES WILSON, Dr. ALDIS WRIGHT, and the Rev. Dr. WILLIAM WRIGHT—all members of the General or Executive Committee. Mr. FRANCIS GALTON, the President of the Anthropological Institute, has also joined the Committee, and Mr. LAURENCE GOMME, Secretary of the Folk-Lore Society. The Institute of Architects has promised assistance, and may be considered represented by Professor HAYTER LEWIS, while the Bible Society is represented by Dr. WILLIAM WRIGHT. It has been decided to take the "Anthropological

Notes," drawn up for the British Association eleven years ago, as the best basis of the questions, which will be modified and extensively supplemented, in order to suit the requirements and peculiarities of the country and the people. This Committee will meet weekly. Meantime the friends of the Society are earnestly invited to assist in this enterprise, which promises to be the most important work, next to the Survey and the Jerusalem researches, yet undertaken by the Society.

IV. THE FINANCES OF THE SOCIETY.

It is necessary this year to find money (1) for EXPLORATION work proper, (2) for PUBLICATION of results, which are not generally, it must be remembered, of a kind or in a shape to court or win popularity, and (3) for the prosecution of the new INQUIRY.

As regards the first, the ordinary income of the Society has been smaller in 1885 than for many years past, owing, it is believed, to the general impression that because no party is in the field no money is wanted. This is erroneous, first because, as has been seen by the publication of "Across the Jordan," and the announcement of Herr Schumacher's new work, there is always exploration going on, and money is called for on this account; and secondly, because we *must give to the world the results which are sent home to us*. Thus we have in the Society's safe at this moment waiting for publication—(1) Captain Conder's Memoirs of Eastern Palestine; (2) M. Clermont-Ganneau's and M. Lecomte's exquisite drawings of monuments, nearly all absolutely new; (3) Mr. Chichester Hart's Natural History Memoir; and (4) we are daily expecting Herr Schumacher's new work.

As regards the work of the Committee of Inquiry it is impossible to say what this will cost. The printing and postage will be a very large item, and we shall have to pay some of the agents who will answer our queries and furnish us with the desired information. We ought to have at least an additional £1,500 subscribed for this special purpose.

In conclusion, the friends of the Society are earnestly requested to consider that the work is always actively going on; that funds are always needed; that the real and invaluable work which has been already done must be taken as an earnest of what will be done, and that their continued assistance is asked in support of an enterprise which gives results solid, unquestionable, of most vital importance to Biblical students, and for all time.

By order of the Committee,

WALTER BESANT,

Secretary.

January 1st, 1886.

NOTES.

HERR GOTTLIEB SCHUMACHER has executed another survey for the Society, of about five hundred miles in northern Ajlûn. The results of the survey are not as yet known except in general terms. He has sent word that he has collected a very large number of names, and that he has made a special plan of Mkeis, the ancient Gadara, and that of Beit Râs, which, he contends, is the site of Capitolia. Another great field of dolmens was found near Irbid. We expect to receive the map and the accompanying memoirs in February. Probably the Committee will have decided before April on the form of publication.

His first memoir, called "Across the Jordan," is now published, and has run through the first edition. Subscribers for 1886 are allowed to have a copy, post free, on sending their names to the Secretary. *This privilege remains in force, except for new subscribers, during the present quarter only.* The book is an octavo, uniform in price and appearance with "Heth and Moab" and "Tent Work." It contains a chapter on the general physical characteristics of the country, followed by what is practically a Gazetteer of the country examined, each place being treated by itself. There are 150 drawings, all new, and made by Herr Schumacher expressly for this work. Among them are a great number of dolmens, plans of tombs, architectural details, and remains from the very remarkable underground city of Ed Der'eah.

The Committee of Inquiry (see Circular "Last Year and This") is now fully constituted. Specimen questions will be forwarded to every subscriber who wishes for them. It is hoped that every student of the Bible will give his help for this great undertaking. The Committee ask for an additional sum of £1,500 this year in order to carry out their plan.

The "Catechism of the Druse Religion," published in this number of the *Quarterly Statement*, is very kindly presented to the Society by the Rev. William Allan, of St. James's, Bermondsey. It was given to him by the Rev. Chalil Jamal, C.M.S., Native Pastor at Es Salt, in the Belka, and was translated by him from the Arabic original found in one of their Khalwehs during the sacking and pillage of the year 1860.

It will be found from Dr. Selah Merrill's letter of September 18th that portions of what he believes to be the second wall have been found in Jerusalem. Two layers of stone, and at two or three points three layers of stone, have been found still in position. These were, he says, of the same size and character in every case as the largest of the stones in the so-called Tower of David opposite. About 30 yards of this wall were uncovered. The plate which accompanies Dr. Merrill's note will show the position of the wall.

In the death of the Dean of Chester, the Society has lost a friend who from the beginning has followed its work with unflagging interest. One of the last letters he wrote was to the Secretary, expressing his hope that in the projected Inquiry the Proverbs of the people would not be forgotten.

We are happy to announce that Mr. George St. Clair, F.G.S., who was for many years a Lecturer to this Society, has undertaken to lecture again this winter, and may be addressed at the offices of the Society in Adam Street, Adelphi.

Among the many hundreds of Palestine books which appear and are forgotten there is one which remains a continual favourite: Mr. John Macgregor's "Rob Roy in the Jordan" is now going into its seventh edition.

The income of the Society, from September 21st to December 17th inclusive, from all sources, was £1,210 4s. 1d. The expenditure during the same period was £1,153 11s. 7d. The balance in the Banks on December 17th was £230 16s. 11d.

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) Mr. George St. Clair, F.G.S., Member of the Society of Biblical Archæology, and of the Anthropological Institute (address, 127, Bristol Road, Birmingham).
- (4) The Rev. James Neil, formerly Incumbent of Christ Church, Jerusalem.