

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Society completes in May the TWENTY-FIRST YEAR of its existence. It has been resolved by the Committee to celebrate this event—(1) By issuing a short history of its proceedings and achievements from its first foundation; and (2) by holding a public meeting, at which it is hoped that those of its founders who survive and those Engineer officers and others who have worked for the Society will be present and will speak. Full notice will be given of this meeting, its place and date. All the subscribers to the Fund are invited to be present, and admission will be by ticket, which may be obtained of the Secretary by sending a letter or post-card.

We are enabled to publish this quarter a paper from Mr. Laurence Oliphant, in which he gives an account of some discoveries made by him during a recent journey to the north-east shores of the Lake of Galilee. Among other things, he has found the remains of two synagogues, one of them so far entire that its walls are standing to the height of nine feet. It does not appear from his brief account that the internal arrangements of this building have been ascertained. These it will be most desirable to examine at the earliest opportunity. A synagogue so perfect does not, needless to say, exist on the western side, though Sir Charles Wilson was able, in 1866, to make a plan of the White Synagogue at Tel Hum.

The results of Herr Schumacher's recent work have not yet reached us: we are, however, happy to state that the German Society has consented to exchange the piece of map work executed for them by Herr Schumacher for that done by the same surveyor for ourselves. This will be added to our maps. The applications for his book "Across the Jordan" have been very numerous. In answer to a great many inquiries, it is well to state that the drawings are all original, and were all made by Herr Schumacher himself for the work, and have never been before published. The plan and description of the subterranean city of Derâ will be entirely new to most readers. Sir Charles Wilson, however, sent to the *Athenæum* three years ago an account of some subterranean cities met with

by him in Anatolia on a much larger scale. The plan of Ed D'rah is as yet incomplete, and there may be important additions to make, while with the aid of a magnesium lamp and other instruments it may be possible to obtain some formation upon the date of its construction and its history.

Professor Hayter Lewis started for a second journey to Palestine on Thursday, the 25th ult., intending to make a further examination into the Dome of the Rock. Professor Dr. Post, of Beyrout, is about to pay a botanic and archæological visit to Damascus and the Hauran, and has promised a paper on the results of his journey and any general information which he can gather, to the Society. Dr. Chaplin has resigned his office at Jerusalem, and will not go out again. The Society lose in him a steady friend and representative, but they hope that his vast knowledge of modern Palestine may be in some way utilised at home. Sir Charles Warren returns to London to take up a most serious and responsible office. Mr. Laurence Oliphant returns next month to England.

Professor Hull's Geological Memoir is now ready. It is issued as a supplementary volume to the "Survey of Western Palestine," uniform in size, though not so thick a volume; its price, to subscribers only, is 12s. 6d. It is fully illustrated by geological maps and sections.

Captain Conder is writing another book for the Committee, on the condition of Palestine and its inhabitants in various ages, from the earliest times to the end of the Crusading period, founded mainly on the monumental evidence. He intends to show in that work what we should have known if the country and the people of the Hebrew literature had entirely perished. It will be published in the autumn.

Captain Conder has also written a reply to a recent article by Professor Socin in which a few remarks were made in this Journal of October last. The article investigates certain strictures which the Professor thought proper to pass upon the Survey of Western Palestine, and will be found fully to corroborate the short reply made to Professor Socin in the *Quarterly Statement* of October last. It is promised for the *Expositor* of May.

Mr. Guy le Strange is compiling for the Committee a Gazetteer of Palestine from the early Arabic geographers. He expects to have this ready by the end of the year.

The Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society has issued its "Procopius," long promised. It is not published for the general public, but sent out to subscribers only. The Council's Report for the year 1885 can be had on application.

The following is the Balance Sheet, with the Treasurer's Statement, for the year 1885:—

BALANCE SHEET, 1885.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
January 1, 1885—			December 31, 1885—		
Balance	249	3 2	By Exploration Maps		
December 31, 1885—			and Memoirs ..	1,560	15 11
By Subscriptions and			Books	288	6 4
Donations ..	1,389	17 6	Printers	400	0 0
Maps and Memoirs	464	6 1	Salaries, Rent, Office		
Books	135	11 4	and Stationery ..	486	7 4
Legacy	900	0 0	Advertising	12	15 0
Photographs ..	14	5 7	Lecture expenses ..	17	4 6
			Postage and Parcels	56	13 6
			Balance	331	1 1
	<u>£3,153</u>	<u>3 8</u>		<u>£3,153</u>	<u>3 8</u>

Examined and found correct.

WALTER MORRISON,

Hon. Treasurer.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

The proportion of expenditure is as follows, the items of "Exploration" and "Maps and Memoirs" being thrown together as necessarily connected:—

Exploration, Maps and Memoirs	61
Printers	16
Office and management	23

At the beginning of the year the liabilities were—

(1) On Maps and Memoirs.. .. .	£1,572
(2) Printers	£400

The liabilities are now (March 26th) on the former account £1,112, of which the sum of £850 is a loan, the repayment of which is not immediately pressing, though it would be desirable. On the second account the present liability is £300.

The assets of the Society consist of—(1) Its large and important collections at South Kensington and its office in Adam Street. It is, of course, impossible to value this unique museum. (2) Its books, consisting of the unsubscribed copies of the "Survey of Western Palestine," with the new Geological Memoirs, which are alone sufficient to cover all the liabilities; almost complete new editions of "Tent Work" and "Heth and Moab;" "Across the Jordan;" and "Mount Seir." (3) The collection of survey instruments, valued at several hundreds of pounds. (4) The valuable maps, five in number. (5) The Library, rapidly growing, the furniture, &c. (6) The unpublished MSS., namely, Conder's Eastern Survey, Ganneau's drawings, Hart's Naturalist's Memoirs, and Schumacher's new Survey not yet received. Subscribers will please to remember that exploration does not stop short at the collection of facts, but includes their publication. If, therefore, money is required for publication of results, thus also is Exploration.

The Committee conducting the Inquiry have sent to press a large number of Questions, and hope to have begun their labours before the next number of this

Journal appears. Meantime, any suggestions that may be made will be gratefully accepted.

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 income of the Society, from December 12th, 1885, to March 17th, 1886, inclusive, was—from subscriptions and donations, £816 2s. 11d.; from all sources, £994 8s. 5d. The expenditure during the same period was £930. On March 18th the balance in the Banks was £303.

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, Bristol Road, Birmingham, has resumed his Lectures for the Society.