

THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

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NOTES AND NEWS.

WE are now enabled to publish the interesting and valuable Report of the Anniversary Meeting of the Society, which was held on the 22nd of June last year. The various speakers fully brought out the importance of the work already done, and the nature of the work which remains to be done. The summary of the whole of the speeches may be thus stated:—(1) We must publish what we have in our hands. (2) We must lose no opportunity of making fresh researches, and especially excavations. (3) We must follow up lines already opened up.

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We have received two packets from Herr Schumacher, the first of which, on various discoveries about Acre, we publish in this number. It will be at once remarked how extraordinarily full of antiquities must be this country when at every turn of the spade something is laid bare, either a tomb, or a mosaic pavement, or an aqueduct. Herr Schumacher has promised to keep us informed at regular intervals of everything which is found in the country. We hope to organise a similarly regular correspondence in Jerusalem itself.

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The other packet received from Herr Schumacher gives an account of a recent visit to the Plain of Esdraelon and the shores of the Sea of Tiberias. He confirms the discovery made eighteen years ago by Mr. John Macgregor of the existence of crocodiles in Palestine, having actually seen one. He thinks, however, that there are very few left. He gives a new instance of the daily destruction of the old monuments—very soon nothing will be left of all the old ruins except the plans and drawings in the "Survey of Western Palestine." He has found the Jewish cemetery of Tiberias, and has surveyed the extensive ruins of Kusr Bint el Melek, most of which were hidden when Colonel Kitchener visited the place in 1877.

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Another and a totally unexpected example of wanton destruction is reported by Mr. Greville John Chester. He writes from Ladikiyeh (Nov. 26, 1886):—

"The walls of Antioch were regarded as perhaps the very finest specimen extant of ancient crusading fortification. Ascending from the Orontes nearly

perpendicularly to the summit of the beetling heights of Mount Silpius, leaping from crag to crag, joining deep ravines, and enclosing a space of some seven miles, they might be deemed an eighth wonder of the world.

"Now all this is a thing of the past. Within the last few years the hand of the spoiler has been at work, and the whole of the walls and towers are in process of destruction. Every one who wants a hewn stone goes to the ancient walls for it, as the Turkish authorities make no sign of prohibiting the spoliation.

"Lord Stratford de Redcliffe saved the Byzantine walls of Constantinople, which a late Sultan had given to his mother to sell as building materials. Cannot Sir E. White be instructed to save what remains of the grander walls of Antioch, which are still more magnificent, and which have a more than artistic and antiquarian interest as relics of the City where 'the disciples were first called Christians'?"

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M. Clermont-Ganneau calls attention to another verification of a theory put forth by himself eleven years ago in a memoir published by the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres. He then pointed out that the Semitic name corresponding to Hippos (with reference to Hippos of the Decapolis) would be *Sousitha*, which in turn corresponded with the Arabic word *Sousya*, applied by them to a locality not far from the Sea of Tiberias, and he suggested that the word should be looked for, and the place when found examined.

This is exactly what has been done. Herr Schumacher has found in the Jaulân the very name, *Sousya* or *Susyeh*, with extensive ruins, in which he sees the ancient site of Hippos.

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The "Notes on Arabia Petraea, and the Country between Egypt and Palestine," were made by Sir Charles Warren during the journey in search of Professor Palmer's murderers.

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Professor Hayter Lewis points out a remarkable confirmation from the "Travels of Mukaddasi," recently published by the Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society, of the description given by Procopius of the great Church of St. Mary, built by command of Justinian.

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The programme for next year's work is contained in a circular, called "Last Year and This," which will be sent to every subscriber. Additional copies will be sent for distribution if required.

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The very remarkable capital of white marble found in the Temple Area has been drawn by Mr. W. S. Weatherley, and has been engraved for the present number of the *Quarterly Statement*. A drawing of it has already appeared in the *Illustrated London News*.

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The "Memoirs of Twenty-One Years' Work" is now in its third thousand. Subscribers are earnestly requested to use this book as a means of showing what the work has been, and what remains to be done. Copies are given to every

subscriber who wishes to have one, and additional copies can be procured at a great reduction in the price, *by subscribers only*, by writing to the central office.

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The Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society propose to issue in the course of next year—

1. The Bordeaux Pilgrim.
2. Arculfus de Locis Sanctis.
3. La Citez de Jherusalem.
4. The Travels of the Russian Abbot Daniel.

The works already issued are—

1. Antoninus Martyr.
2. Sancta Paula.
3. Procopius.
4. El Mukaddasi.

The subscription is one guinea. New members can have copies of works published in previous years at a reduced rate. Members are requested to forward their subscriptions to the Hon. Secretary at the beginning of the year.

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Will all the subscribers to the Palestine Fund remember—(1) that it helps the Committee very much if subscriptions are paid in January? (2) Next, that it saves a great deal of trouble if they are paid to Coutts & Co. direct by a Banker's order? and (3) That whenever they are due it saves a great deal of labour if they are paid without waiting for a reminder? The clerical staff of the Society is small, and it is greatly desired not to increase the management expenses, and not to overburden the work of the office.

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The following books are now published uniform in size and appearance:—Conder's "Tent Work"; Conder's "Heth and Moab"; Schumacher's "Across the Jordan"; "The Memoirs of Twenty-One Years' Work." Conder's "Syrian Stone Lore" will also be added to the list. Subscribers can have the whole set, together with Hull's "Mount Seir," for 25s. carriage free.

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The long-promised List of Old Testament Names has been at length finished, and is to be printed at once. Mr. Armstrong has also prepared a new list of photographs arranged alphabetically according to those Bible names which are illustrated by photographs. This list is also in the printer's hands, and will be ready before the end of January. Those who wish for a copy of either may send in their names.

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Mr. G. E. Stewardson, Assistant-Secretary of the British Association, has completed the great Index for the "Survey of Western Palestine." It is hoped to get this ready in the course of the next three months. A circular on the subject will be sent to every one who possesses the great work of the Society.

The income of the Society, from October 8th, 1886, to December 12th, 1886, inclusive, was—from subscriptions and donations, £120 18s. 6d.; from all sources, £365 12s. 11d. The expenditure during the same period was £450 19s. On December 21st the balance in the Banks was £345 18s. 9d.

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. His arrangements, however, will not probably permit him to give any lectures during the months of February and March.