

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

WE are happy to announce that Herr Schumacher has been instructed to proceed to Sidon there to confer with Hamdi Bey, Director of the Imperial Museum of Constantinople, for the safe removal of the sarcophagi recently found near Sidon, of which a preliminary account was given in the April *Quarterly Statement*. It is hoped that this Society will receive copies of his measurements, drawings, and photographs, with a full description of the tombs and sarcophagi in time for the October *Quarterly Statement*.

The Annual Meeting of the General Committee was held on Tuesday, June 14th. The full Report of the meeting will be published in the October *Quarterly Statement*. The Executive Committee duly resigned their office and were re-elected. Their Report for the year was received and adopted. A few additions were made to the General Committee. The first work of the Executive for the year 1887-88 will be to make certain changes in the management of the office.

It is not desirable, however, to withhold one recommendation made at this meeting by the Executive Committee. It is to the effect that the *Quarterly Statement*, which is the most important means of keeping up the interest in our work, shall be made, if possible, more interesting, and shall contain as much as can be afforded of the results of the Society. With this view, it has been ordered that Herr Schumacher's "Jaulan," translated from the *Zeitschrift* of the German Society, and his Ajlûn Memoirs, shall both be published in the *Quarterly Statement*, and in type and size of page which shall enable the subscribers to detach and bind them up in separate volumes. These Memoirs are illustrated by hundreds of drawings and plans. The publication will begin in October.

Captain Conder's promised work on the reading of the Hittite inscriptions has now appeared. There has ensued a great deal of controversy, as might have been expected. Captain Conder defends his position in the new edition, and has a note upon his aggressors in this number of the *Quarterly Statement*. Of course, it is well understood that, while the Committee are naturally anxious that their officer and chief surveyor for so many years, to whom the Society owes so much, should have every opportunity of gaining publicity for his

views, they express no opinion by opening their pages to his advocacy any more than they accept the views of any other writer in their pages.

Many readers of the *Quarterly Statement* have asked why the long series of translations from the Hebrew are continued in the Journal. Dr. Chaplin has kindly furnished a reply to this question, which will show the great value of these papers, and their bearing upon the problems which concern the supporters of this Society.

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.

The Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society are issuing for the current year the following works—

1. The Bordeaux Pilgrim (ready).
2. Arculfus de Locis Sanctis (in the autumn).
3. La Citez de Jerusalem (in the autumn).
4. The Travels of the Russian Abbot Daniel (ready in July).

The works already issued are—

1. Antoninus Martyr.
2. Sancta Paula.
3. Procopius.
4. El Mukaddasi.
5. The Bordeaux Pilgrim.

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 without being reminded.

Will all the subscribers to the Palestine Fund remember—(1) that it helps the Committee very much if subscriptions are paid early in the year? (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.

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." Subscribers can have the whole set, together with Hull's "Mount Seir," for 25s. carriage free.

The long-promised List of Old Testament Names is nearly ready. 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 now ready. Those who wish for a copy of either may send in their names.

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 very shortly. 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 March 30th to June 14th, 1887, inclusive, was—from subscriptions and donations, £150 18s. 11d.; from all sources, £620 15s. 7d. The expenditure during the same period was £731 5s. 11d., viz.: on Exploration, £100 0s. 0d.; on Publications, £464 2s. 1d.; on Office, £117 3s. 0d.; and on Reduction of Debt, £50. On June 14th the balance in the Banks was £227 18s. 7d.

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) Mr. George St. Clair, F.G.S., has returned from his Eastern tour, and is prepared to give Lectures for the Society in a parts of Great Britain. His subjects for the autumn will be—

(1) *The Buried City of Jerusalem*, and General Exploration of the Holy Land. Numerous diagrams.

(2) *Buried Cities of the East*. Numerous diagrams.

(3) *Sight-seeing in Palestine*. Lantern views, where local help can be obtained.

Address: G. St. Clair, Bristol Road, Birmingham; or at the Office of the Fund.