

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

In the present number of the *Quarterly Statement* Herr Schumacher describes certain very curious discoveries made at Zummârîn, a place standing on a spur of Carmel, south of Haifa; among these were unroofed tombs in which were found lachrymatories, glass bracelets, mortars in basaltic stone, &c. At Tiberias some of the ancient baths have been discovered.

The account of the Saida discoveries (page 201) is translated from a paper called the "Bakeer," published in Beyrout, in Arabic and French. It is as yet the only account of the sarcophagi which has appeared of any importance. The Phœnician inscription has been translated by some one—it is not stated by whom—and the sarcophagi are all deposited in the Imperial Museum of Constantinople. We shall publish drawings of these monuments as soon as they are received.

The first instalment of the replies to our Questions is that which has been prepared by Captain Conder from answers received from his own correspondents. It seems that the Questions are beginning to yield results.

Herr Schick's "Notes in Jerusalem" give several valuable new facts about the second wall, the rock levels, &c. Among other points, he shows that Dr. Merrill was misled when he stated that a rock scarp existed there. There is no rock scarp, but the rock slopes gently away to the west, showing that the wall stands on the highest part. Herr Schick has not yet verified his theory of the further course of the wall.

The following particulars of the Memoirs by Herr Schumacher in his recent surveys in Jaulan and Ajlûn anticipate the publication of the work, which will be given to subscribers with the *Quarterly Statement* of 1888. It was intended to commence the Memoirs with this number, but it was thought best to begin a new volume with them.

The district of Jaulan, the Golan of Manasseh, which has been surveyed, is 39 miles in length at its longest points and 18 in breadth. It comprises an area of 560 square miles. On the best map of Palestine there are found about 150 names. On Schumacher's there are 600, being the names of ruined towns, springs, ancient highways, remnants of oak forests, perennial streams, great fields of dolmens, with some remarkable volcanic features. The volcanic mountain, Tell Abu en Nida, rises to the height of 4,123 feet, and that called Tell Abu Yusef to the height of 3,375 feet. Herr Schumacher has drawn upwards of 152 plans and sketches of the country. He has collected a great variety of information on the manners and customs of the people. He has made special plans of the hot springs, &c., of Amatha, the Zaphon of Joshua xiii, 27, and of Kulat el Husn-Gamala, Susitha and Fik.

The district of Northern Ajlûn, also surveyed, contains 220 square miles, a population of 10,460, and shows on the map 334 names of places. There are in the Memoir detailed plans of 100 places—churches, theatres, vaults, mausoleums, temples, walls, columns, capitols, street pavements, sarcophagi, caves, cisterns, birkets, aqueducts, and ornamental work; there are collections of mason's marks, Greek inscriptions, drawings of dolmens and stone walls; and there are detailed plans of Umm Keis (Gadara) and Beit Ras (Capitolias).

The district contains about a thousand dolmens scattered over extensive fields; the fertility of the soil is inferior to that of the Hanan; the water supply is chiefly derived from cisterns; there are everywhere patches of forest, now chiefly oak, though the remains of oil presses show that there were previously olives. Herr Schumacher gives also an account of the inhabitants, who are chiefly Moslems.

At the moment of going to press Herr Schumacher's account of his journey to Pella has been received.

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 will issue before the end of the year the following works—

1. Arculfus de Locis Sanctis (in the autumn).
2. La Citez de Jerusalem (in the autumn).
3. 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.

Mr. Armstrong has prepared a list of the photographs belonging to the Society arranged alphabetically according to those Bible names which are illustrated by views. This list is now ready. Those who wish for a copy may send in their names.

We are sorry to say that the long-promised List of Old Testament Names, with their identifications, is still delayed. It will, however, be positively ready in a month.

The great Index to the "Survey of Western Palestine" is in the press. It is hoped to have this ready by the end of the year.

A subscriber, who has all the *Quarterly Statements* complete from the beginning, except July, 1871, would be very much obliged if any one having that number would dispose of it to him.—Address: Rev. J. Mitchell, 57, Park-gate Road, Chester.

The income of the Society, from June 17th to September 13th, 1887, inclusive, was—from subscriptions and donations, £105 4s. 7d.; from all sources, £183 Os. 7d. The expenditure during the same period was £230 Os. 0d., viz.: on Exploration, £151 Os. 0d.; on Office, £79 Os. 0d. On September 14th the balance in the Banks was £219 1s. 6d.

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 all 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.