

THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

We hear from Herr Schick that a cave has been found in Jerusalem itself at a depth of no less than 77 feet 6 inches below the surface. The discovery was made in certain excavations conducted by the Russians south-east of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. When the cave is cleared out he will report further upon it. Additional vaults of masonry have also been found in the Muristan.

Some years ago the Russian mission acquired a piece of land near the ancient site of Jericho. In digging for a foundation, capitals, pillars, lintels, iron weapons and instruments, pottery lamps and jars, brass or bronze trays, candlesticks, rings, &c., have been found—in fact, all the indications of important buildings. The Russian Exploration Society are erecting new buildings for hospices, &c., to the north of the Russian buildings.

Herr Schumacher reports the discovery of a cave near Nazareth, which he thinks will prove of great interest in connection with Mediæval traditions.

We have also received from Herr Schumacher his detailed Report of an examination of Abil—the Abila of the Decapolis—situated in the south bank of the Yarmûk. The Report contains a plan with numerous illustrations. It will be published next year.

The University of the South has conferred upon Major Conder, R.E., the degree of D.C.L., *Honoris Causâ*; the other honorary degrees for the year conferred on Englishmen being Prebendary Rowe, D.D., and Rev. J. A. Hewitt, D.D.

The Lists of Old and New Testament names and identifications, with the references to Josephus, are now ready. Subscribers can have copies of the latter, separate, at 1s., and of the two together, in paper cover, for 3s., and bound for 3s. 6d., by application to the office only. To the general public the price of the book is 6s.

As already announced, with the view of clearing off the MSS. which await publication, the Committee have resolved on issuing an edition, in form similar to, and uniform with, the "Survey of Western Palestine," of the following works:—

1. Conder's "Survey of Eastern Palestine," so far as completed. The MS. is very voluminous, containing as much as will make a volume equal in size to those of the "Memoirs" in the "Survey of Western Palestine." None of it has been published; the drawings are very numerous, and of the deepest interest to the student of prehistoric monuments, as well as for the illustration of the Bible.
2. The Archaeological Mission of M. Clermont-Ganneau, with the drawings of M. le Comte.
These drawings are many hundreds in number, and executed in the finest style. They figure a vast number of monuments and ruins not in the "Memoirs."
3. The Flora and Fauna of the Wâdy Arabah, by J. Chichester Hart, Esq., accompanied by many drawings of plants, &c., in the best style.

The editions will be limited to 500. The first 250 subscribers will pay seven guineas for the three volumes, with an index; subscribers to the "Survey of Western Palestine" will be privileged to have the volumes for this sum. The price will be raised, after 250 names are received, to twelve guineas. The Committee are pledged never to let any copies be subscribed under the sum of seven guineas. Mr. A. P. Watt, 2, Paternoster Square, is the agent.

Mr. A. P. Watt has now received a sufficient number of names to warrant the commencement of the publication of the Eastern Survey, the results of M. Clermont-Ganneau's Mission and Mr. Chichester Hart's Mission. Intending subscribers to these most important and valuable works are requested to send their names to Mr. Watt (2, Paternoster Square) without delay.

The Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society has now issued the following works:—

1. "The Holy Places visited by Antoninus Martyr."
2. "The Pilgrimage of the Holy Paula."
3. The Buildings of Justinian. By "Procopius."
4. The Description of Syria. By "Mukaddasi."
5. "The Bordeaux Pilgrim."
6. "The Abbot Daniel."
7. "The Crusader's Letter from Acre to England."
8. "The Norman-French Description of the City and the Country."
Translated and annotated by Captain Conder, R.E.
9. "The Travels of Nasir-i-Khusrau." Translated by Guy Le Strange.

In the press, and will be issued before the end of the year:—

"Arculfus de Locis Sanctis." Translated by Rev. R. Macpherson, and annotated by Sir Charles Wilson.

The friends of the Society are earnestly requested to use the "Memoirs of Twenty-one Years' Work" as a means of showing what the work has been, and what remains to be done.

Subscribers are very earnestly asked :—(1) To pay their subscriptions early in the year—say in January. (2) To pay them direct to Coutts and Co. by a banker's order. (3) If they would rather choose their own time, to send up their subscriptions without being reminded. The Clerical Staff of the Society is small ; it is most desirable not to increase it ; and if these simple requests are attended to a great saving of clerical labour, postage, and stationery is effected. For instance, there are, say, 3,000 subscribers. If every one of these waits to be reminded, and has to have a receipt sent to him, the Society has to spend £25 a year additional in postage, and to write 6,000 letters, merely to ask for and to acknowledge the receipt of the subscriptions.

It has come to the knowledge of the Committee that certain book hawkers are representing themselves as agents of the Society. The Committee have to caution subscribers that they have no book hawkers in their employ, and that none of their works are sold by any itinerant agents.

The Rev. James Neil, author of "Palestine Explored," has issued a pamphlet called "Strange Scenes," in which, for one penny, he gives a series of illustrations of the Bible taken from the country itself—with forty illustrations by Mr. H. A. Harper. The publishers are Messrs. Woodford, Fawcett, & Co., Salisbury Square, E.C.

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 ;" Conder's "Altaic Inscriptions ;" and Schumacher's "Jaulan." Subscribers can have the whole set, together with Hull's "Mount Seir," and Names and Places, for 32s., 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.

The income of the Society, from June 22nd to September 17th, 1888, inclusive, was—from subscriptions and donations, £122 0s. 0d.; from all sources, £296 7s. 3d. The expenditure during the same period was £269 18s. 10d. On June 21st the balance in the Banks was £235 18s. 3d.

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.

It does not seem generally known that cases for binding the *Quarterly Statement* can be had by subscribers, on application to the office, at 1s. each.

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) Mr. George St. Clair, F.G.S., Member of the Anthropological Institute and of the Society of Biblical Archæology.

His subjects are :—

- (1) *The General Exploration of Palestine.*
- (2) *Jerusalem Buried and Recovered.*
- (3) *Buried Cities, Egypt and Palestine.*
- (4) *Buried Cities of Mesopotamia*, with some account of the Hittites.
- (5) *The Moabite Stone and the Pedigree of the English Alphabet.*

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

- (2) 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."

- (3) 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.

- (4) The Rev. Thomas Harrison, 38, Melrose Gardens, West Kensington Park, W. His subjects are as follows :—

(1) *Research and Discovery in the Holy Land.*

(2) *In the Track of the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan.*

(3) *Bible Scenes in the Light of Modern Science.*