

THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

HERR SCHICK'S paper on the Mount of Olives is published in the present number, with plan of the newly-discovered tombs, and sketches of Roman tiles, &c., found during recent excavations.

His account of the ancient Church recently discovered in the street of Sitti Maryam, at Jerusalem, with plan of the same, is also given, and a section of the large cistern near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which was described in the July number of the *Quarterly Statement*, will be found facing page 210 of the present number.

Further excavations north of Damascus Gate have resulted in the discovery of rock tombs with stone doors, and of inscriptions. An ancient rock-hewn Church has been discovered at Siloam.

Mr. F. F. Tuckett has forwarded a letter received by him from Père Leon Cré of the Algerian Mission at Jerusalem, containing an account of further discoveries at the Pool of Bethesda. Père Cré writes, "In clearing out the crypt of the church built at the south-east angle of the Pool, in the time of the Crusades, at the north-west corner, close to an opening which permits the water to be seen and drawn up, and surrounding a little door still obstructed, which doubtless affords a way of descent to the middle of the Pool, we found very interesting remains of a mural painting which marvellously confirms the already numerous proofs of the authenticity of the Pool Bethesda. Arab fanaticism has destroyed the heads and hands of the figures, but notwithstanding that, above the little door mentioned above there is visible the beautiful and well preserved *nimbus* of a winged figure, which causes the water by which it is surrounded in the picture to be moved and agitated. It is an exact interpretation of the first part of the 4th verse of the 5th chapter of St. John, "An angel went down at a certain season into the Pool and troubled the water $\chi\alpha\iota \epsilon\tau\acute{\alpha}\rho\alpha\sigma\sigma\alpha\nu \tau\acute{o} \upsilon \theta\omega\rho\acute{o}$." A report of this interesting discovery has also been sent by Herr Schick.

Dr. Torrance, of the Scottish Mission, has kindly undertaken to conduct a series of meteorological observations at Tiberias for the Fund. Should it be found practicable to carry out this difficult undertaking, the observations will, with those made at Saron, now being published by Mr. Glaisher, and those

made by Dr. Chaplin at Jerusalem, and reported in the *Quarterly Statement* for 1883, place the Society after a few years in the possession of materials for a fairly complete account of the meteorology of Palestine. It will be remembered that Tiberias is 682 feet below the level of the Mediterranean Sea. No regular series of meteorological observations has ever been made in such a depressed situation, and the results will therefore be exceptionally interesting. As the neighbourhood of Jericho is becoming, to some extent, a place of residence for Europeans, it is hoped that opportunity may before long present itself for making meteorological observations there also.

An interesting letter has been received from Mr. W. Lethaby, who has been residing two years in Kerak as a Missionary. He urges the Fund to commence explorations there, and reports the discovery of some stones with sculptured figures, which he thinks are "of the Assyrian type." It is hoped that further information may soon be received from Mr. Lethaby on the subject.

Mr. Henry A. Harper's work, on "The Bible and Modern Discoveries" is nearly ready. It is an endeavour to present in a simple but yet connected form the Biblical results of twenty-two years' work of the Palestine Exploration Fund. The writer has also availed himself of the discoveries made by the American Expeditions and the Egyptian Exploration Fund, as well as discoveries of interest made by independent travellers. The Bible story, from the call of Abraham to the Captivity, is taken, and details given of the light thrown by modern research on the sacred annals. Eastern customs and modes of thought are explained whenever the writer thought they illustrated the text. To the Clergy and Sunday School Teachers, as well as to all those who love the Bible, the writer hopes this work will prove useful. He is personally acquainted with the land, and nearly all the places spoken of he has visited, and most of them he has moreover sketched or painted. The work will be issued in one large, handsome volume of 600 pages. It will be illustrated with a map and many plates. Price to the public, 16s. ; to subscribers, 10s. 6d., carriage included.

Mr. Guy le Strange's important work, "Palestine under the Moslems," which is a description of Palestine according to the mediæval Arab geographers, is also in the press.

The first volume of the "Survey of Eastern Palestine," by Major Conder, has been issued to subscribers. It is accompanied by a map of the portion of country surveyed, special plans, and upwards of 350 drawings of ruins, tombs, dolmens, stone circles, inscriptions, &c. The edition is limited to 500. The first 250 subscribers pay seven guineas for the three volumes, with an index; subscribers to the "Survey of Western Palestine" are 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 Sole Agent. The attention of intending subscribers is directed to the announcement on the inside of the cover of this number.

Some progress has also been made with the second volume, which consists of M. Lecomte's beautiful drawings, illustrating the Mission of M. Clermont-Ganneau in 1874. The illustrations for the third volume, Mr. Chichester Hart's "Flora and Fauna" of the Wâdy Arabah, are nearly ready.

The Committee have added to their list of publications the new edition of the "History of Jerusalem," by Walter Besant and E. H. Palmer (Bentley & Son). It can be obtained by subscribers, carriage paid, for 5s. 6d., by application to the Head Office only. The "History of Jerusalem," which was originally published in 1871, and has long been completely out of print, covers a period and is compiled from materials not included in any other work, though some of the contents have been plundered by later works on the same subject. It begins with the siege by Titus and continues to the fourteenth century, including the Early Christian period, the Moslem invasion, the Mediæval pilgrims, the Mohammedan pilgrims, the Crusades, the Latin Kingdom, the victorious career of Saladin, the Crusade of Children, and many other little-known episodes in the history of the city and the country.

The books now contained in the Society's publications comprise an amount of information on Palestine, and on the researches conducted in the country, which can be found in no other publications. It must never be forgotten that no single traveller, however well equipped by previous knowledge, can compete with a scientific body of explorers, instructed in the periods required, and provided with all the instruments necessary for carrying out their work. The books are the following (*the whole set can be obtained by application to Mr. George Armstrong, for 37s. 6d., carriage paid*):—

By Major Conder, R.E.—

- (1) "Tent Work in Palestine."—A popular account of the survey of Western Palestine, freely illustrated by drawings made by the author himself. This is not a dry record of the sepulchres, or a descriptive catalogue of ruins, springs, and valleys, but a continuous narrative full of observations upon the manners and customs of the people, the Biblical associations of the sites, the Holy City and its memories, and is based upon a six years' experience in the country itself. No other modern traveller has enjoyed the same advantages as Major Conder, or has used his opportunities to better purpose.
- (2) "Heth and Moab."—Under this title Major Conder provides a narrative, as bright and as full of interest as "Tent Work," of the expedition for the *Survey of Eastern Palestine*. How the party began by a flying visit to North Syria, in order to discover the Holy City—Kadesh—of the children of Heth; how they fared across the Jordan, and what discoveries they made there, will be found in this volume.
- (3) Major Conder's "Syrian Stone Lore."—This volume, the least known of Major Conder's works, is, perhaps, the most valuable. It attempts a task never before approached—the reconstruction of Palestine from its monuments. It shows what we should know of Syria if there were no Bible, and it illustrates the Bible from the monuments.

- (4) Major Conder's "Altaic Inscriptions."—This book is an attempt to read the Hittite Inscriptions. The author has seen no reason to change his views since the publication of the work.
- (5) Professor Hull's "Mount Seir."—This is a popular account of the Geological Expedition conducted by Professor Hull for the Committee of the Palestine Fund. The part which deals with the Valley of Arabah will be found entirely new and interesting.
- (6) Herr Schumacher's "Across the Jordan."
- (7) Herr Schumacher's "Jaulân."—These two books must be taken in continuation of Major Conder's works issued as instalments of the unpublished "Survey of Eastern Palestine." They are full of drawings, sketches, and plans, and contain many valuable remarks upon manners and customs.
- (8) The Memoirs of Twenty-one Years' Work.—A copy of this book is presented to every subscriber to the Fund who applies for it. The work is a popular account of the researches conducted by the Society during the past twenty-one years of its existence. It will be found not only valuable in itself as an interesting work, but also as a book of reference, and especially useful in order to show what has been doing, and is still doing, by this Society.
- (9) Herr Schumacher's Kh. Fahil. The ancient Pella, the first retreat of the Christians; with map and illustrations.
- (10) Names and Places in the Old and New Testament and Apocrypha, with their modern identifications, with reference to Josephus, the Memoirs, and *Quarterly Statements*.
- (11) Besant and Palmer's "History of Jerusalem," already described.

For the convenience of subscribers in following out the position of recent discoveries in Jerusalem, a plan of the city, reduced from the Ordnance Survey plan by permission, was issued with the April number of the *Quarterly Statement*, on which the recent discoveries are noted in red.

We regret to record the death of the Rev. Henry Hall-Houghton, a member of our General Committee, and for many years a generous supporter of the Society. Mr. Hall-Houghton had long ceased to take any cure of souls, but greatly furthered the advancement of the study of the New Testament by donations and personal encouragement.

Branch Associations of the Bible Society, all Sunday Schools in union with the Sunday School Institute, the Sunday School Union, and the Wesleyan Sunday School Institute, will please observe that by a special Resolution of the Committee they will henceforth be treated as subscribers and be allowed to purchase the books and maps (by application only to the Secretary) at reduced price.

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.

The income of the Society, from June 18th to September 17th, inclusive, was—from subscriptions and donations, £110 8s. 2d.; from all sources, £426 9s. 5d. The expenditure during the same period was £349 18s. 5d. On September 20th the balance in the Bank was £439 2s. 11d.

Subscribers are begged to note that the following can be had by application to the office at 1s. each:—

1. Index to the *Quarterly Statement*, 1869–1880;
 2. Cases for Herr Schumacher's "Jaulân;"
 3. Cases for the *Quarterly Statement*, in green or chocolate.
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Early numbers of the *Quarterly Statement* are very rare. In order to make up complete sets the Committee will be very glad to receive any of the following numbers:—

No. II, 1869; No. VII, 1870; No. III (July) 1871; January and April, 1872; January, 1883, and January, 1886.

It having again been reported to the Committee that certain book hawkers are representing themselves as agents of the Society, the Committee have to caution subscribers and the public that they have no book hawkers in their employ, and that none of their works are sold by itinerant agents.

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.

As many inquiries have been made about transparent slides, a selection will be made from the photographs of the Society for this purpose. Subscribers wishing to have any are requested to communicate with the Assistant Secretary.

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.

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 Buried City of Jerusalem, and General Exploration of Palestine.*
- (2) *Discoveries in Assyria, Chaldea, and Palestine.*
- (3) *The Moabite Stone and the Pedigree of the English Alphabet.*
- (4) *Jerusalem of David, Nehemiah, and Christ.*
- (5) *Sight-seeing in Palestine: a Narrative of Personal Experiences.*
- (6) *Israel's Wars and Worship, illustrated by the new Survey.*
- (7) *The Gospel History in the light of Palestine Exploration.*

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, and all illustrated by original photographs shown as "dissolving views:"—

The Survey of Western Palestine, as illustrating Bible History.
Palestine East of the Jordan.
The Jerusalem Excavations.
A Restoration of Ancient Jerusalem.

- (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, F.R.G.S., Member of the Society of Biblical Archæology, 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.*
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