

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the General Committee of this Society took place at the Office, 1, Adam Street, on July 1st. Among those present were Viscount Sidmouth, James Glaisher, Esq., F.R.S., Walter Morrison, Esq., M.P., Walter Besant, Esq., M.A., T. Chaplin, Esq., M.D., Captain Mantell, R.E., W. Aldis Wright, Esq., Wm. Simpson, Esq., Rev. William Allan, Basil Woodd Smith, Esq., Rev. W. J. Stracey, Guy le Strange, Esq., Henry Mandslay, Esq., &c.

James Glaisher, Esq., F.R.S., in the Chair.

The Chairman, after mentioning that he held in his hand a packet of letters from various members regretting their inability to attend, and that the Report of the last Meeting would be taken as read, called upon the Hon. Secretary to read the Report of the Executive Committee for the past year.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Your Executive Committee, elected at the last General Meeting, on July 16th, 1889, have now, on resigning their office, to render an account of their administration during their term of office for the past year 1889-90.

It may be noted at the outset that the Society has now completed its twenty-fifth year of existence.

Your Committee have held twenty meetings since the last Report was issued.

In the last Report your Committee reported that they had hopes of a Firman being granted. Their hopes were realised in the month of February. On the 27th an official letter arrived stating that a permit for excavating in the vicinity of 'Ajlân (Egion) had been granted. Having secured the services of Mr. Flinders Petrie previously, immediate steps were taken to inform all subscribers and friends interested in the work, and a "special appeal" was made inviting subscriptions. The result up to date, your Committee are pleased to report, is the receipt of £1,110 6s. 6d., although the amount named by the Committee was only £1,000. Mr. Petrie, on closing his work in Egypt, lost no time in proceeding to Palestine, but owing to a clerical error in the Firman, a delay of three weeks was caused. The following is a summary of the excavations by Mr. Flinders Petrie himself. It will be found a very satisfactory record of work done and discoveries made:—

"After lengthy delays, officially, I was able to begin excavation for the Palestine Exploration Fund in the middle of April. Unfortunately, nothing was known of the history of pottery in Syria, and therefore nothing had been done in past surveys and explorations towards dating the various *tells* and *khurbeks*. It had been necessary, therefore, in applying for a site, to trust to the identification by names; and there seemed little risk in expecting that Umm Lakis and 'Ajlân would, one or other—if not both—prove to be Amorite towns, Lachish and Egion. Some other ruins were included in the legal limit of area for the permission. Among them, most happily, was Tell Hesay.

“So soon as I arrived and could examine our ground, I saw, from my Egyptian experience, that every site, except Tell Hesy, was of Roman age, and unimportant. At Umm Lâkis, three days' work amply proved its late date; and 'Ajlân was a still more trivial site. I therefore attacked Tell Hesy, a mound of house ruins 60 feet high and about 200 feet square. All of one side had been washed away by the stream, thus affording a clear section from top to base. The generally early age of it was evident, from nothing later than good Greek pottery being found on the top of it, and from Phœnician ware (which is known in Egypt to date from 1100 B.C.), occurring at half to three-quarters of the height up the mound. It could not be doubted, therefore, that we had an Amorite and Jewish town to work on. My general results are as follows :—

“Topographically, this place and Tell Nejîleh, six miles south, are the most valuable possessions in the low country, as they command the only springs and watercourse which exist in the whole district. From their positions, their early age, and their water supply, it seems almost certain that they are the two Amorite cities of the low country, Lachish and Eglon. The transference of the names in late times to settlements a few miles off, is probably due to the returning Jews not being strong enough to wrest these springs from the Bedawin sheep-masters.

“Historically, this town began as an immensely strong fort, with a wall 28 feet thick, on a knoll close to the spring. This is certainly pre-Jewish, by the relative position of Phœnician pottery; and approximately its age would be about 1500 B.C., agreeing well to the beginning of the Egyptian raids under Tahutmes I.¹ This fort, after repairs, which still exist as solid brickwork over 20 feet high, fell into complete ruin. No more bricks were made; rude houses of stones from the stream were all that were erected; and for long years the alkali burner used the deserted hill, attracted by the water supply to wash his ashes with. This corresponds to the barbaric Hebrew period under the Judges. Then, again, the town was walled, Phœnician pottery begins to appear, and some good masonry, evidently the age of the early Jewish kings. Successive fortifications were built as the ruins rose higher and the older walls were destroyed; Cypriote influence comes in, and later on Greek influence, from about 700 B.C. and onwards. The great ruin of the town was, about 600 B.C., that by Nebuchadnezzar; and some slight remains of Greek pottery, down to about 400 B.C., show the last stage of its history. Happily the indications can be interpreted by our literary records, otherwise we could have discovered little about a place in which not a single inscription or dated object has been found.

“Architecturally, though little has come to light, it is of the greatest importance. In a building, which is probably of Solomon's age, or certainly within a century later, were four slabs, each bearing half a pilaster in relief. These pilasters have a quarter-round base, a very sloping shaft, and a volute at the top, projecting, without any separate capital or line across the shaft. The

¹ I should explain that the various Sirius feasts recorded in Egypt leave no doubt that the XVIIIth dynasty was from about 1568 to 1333 B.C., and the XIXth from 1333 to 1160 or later. To date the exodus under either dynasty seems beset with equal difficulties. I incline to the later date.

volute seems derived from a ram's horn. We now see the early date and Asiatic nature of the Ionic style; and we have some definite ground for the temple architecture. A special key to the age of masonry is in the methods of stone-dressing. The use of the 'claw-tool,' more intelligibly called the 'comb-pick,' is distinctive of Greek work in Egypt, and it is known in early work in Greece. As now, on examining the stone-dressing of 1000 B.C., and a gateway and steps of about 750 B.C., there is not a trace of this tooling, it seems almost certain that it is as much of Greek age in Syria as in Egypt. Hence we must attribute the whole of the known walls of the Haram area to Herod and later builders. The use of drafted masonry, with an irregular bump on the face, is fixed to as early as 750 B.C. by the gateway just named; and the use of flaked-dressing (as I may call it), is fixed to 1000 B.C. by the pilaster slabs, agreeing with the work of the supposed Solomonic column by the Russian Church at Jerusalem.

"Pottery is now pretty completely known, and we shall be able in future to date the ages of towns at a glance, as I can in Egypt. Without entering on details, we may distinguish the Amorite by the very peculiar comb-streaking on the surface, wavy ledges for handles, and polished red-faced bowls, decorated by burnished cross-lines. These date from about 1500 to 1100 B.C., and deteriorate down to disappearance about 900. The Phœnician is thin hard black or brown ware; bottles with long necks, elegant bowls, and white juglets with pointed bottoms. Beginning about 1100, it flourishes till about 800, B.C. It develops into the Cypriote bowls, with V-handles, painted in bistre ladder patterns, which range from about 950 to 750 B.C. Due also to Phœnician influence, seem to be the lamps from about 900 to 750 B.C., formed by open bowls pinched in at the edge to form a wick-spout. These were succeeded in the time of Greek influence, from 750, by the same pinched type, but of Greek ware, and with a flat brim. The Greek influence is also seen in the massive bowls of drab pottery, like those of early Naukratis, and the huge loop handles, such as belong to both Naukratis and Defenneh before 600 B.C. All these approximate dates are solely derived from the levels of the walls and the thickness of the deposits; but they agree well with what is otherwise known.

"As unfortunately the Turkish Government claims everything, all the perfect pottery has been taken by the officials, and the stone-work is left to be destroyed by the Bedawin. Casts, photographs, and potsherds (such as any visitor can pick up here), are all that may be brought to England. These will be exhibited this summer in London, probably along with my Egyptian collections of this season.

"It is much to be hoped that some fresh explorer will come forward to take up this Syrian work, of which we have only been able to lay some of the foundations by the excavations of this spring. Much more has to be done before we can settle the historical problems which await solution in this land."

Herr Schick, our worthy agent in Jerusalem, though incapacitated from active work for some time through illness, did not fail to report all discoveries of interest in and outside of Jerusalem. A few may be mentioned, which have already been published in the *Quarterly Statement*, viz. :—

1. The excavations outside the Damascus gate in the ground of the Domini-

cans, a little to the east of the smaller church discovered in 1880, had exposed additional fragments of masonry, bases of columns, doorsteps, &c., thereby giving sufficient detail to show the foundations of another church, much larger than the former one, and measuring 130 feet by 73 feet. Mr. Schick suggests this to be the original church of St. Stephen's. In the same neighbourhood have been found some rock-hewn tombs, with rolling-stone doors, bearing Greek inscriptions and mason's marks.

2. On the eastern brow of Zion some rock-hewn chambers have been cleared out, which showed evidence of having been used in ancient times as dwellings. These are on the property of a French gentleman, who kindly allowed Mr. Schick to examine and plan.

3. In the village of Silwân three little rock-hewn chapels were found; they are most remarkable, cut out of the solid rock, and from an inscription in the apse of the centre one, appear to have been dedicated to the memory of the prophet Isaiah. Indications of another rock-hewn church, of which the apse remains, were found and noted by Herr Schumacher near 'Athlit.

4. At the Pool of Bethesda the discovery of a fresco on the wall over the Pool, representing an angel troubling the water, is of great value, proving that in crusading times the spot was regarded as the site of Bethesda.

5. Mr. Schick, during the paving of the streets in Jerusalem, obtained some more rock levels; from these, with former ones, he has given what he thinks is the top or form of the Acra terrace.

6. As the stones of one of the immense cairns or mounds in the Plain of Rephaim were being removed for road purposes, a peculiar upright stone was revealed having regular tooled grooves running obliquely towards the centre of the stone on the one side; there are also some curious holes in it.

7. An obelisk, broken, originally about 45 feet in height, was found in the Theatre at Cæsarea; this is believed to be the first obelisk found in Palestine.

We have received from Herr Schumacher (1) a photograph of a very richly ornamented tomb found near Shefa 'Amr, which was published in the October *Quarterly Statement* for 1889; (2) a photo of a Greek inscription found on a flat rock near the important ruins and spring of Khurbet Husheh. This inscription was pointed out to Herr Schumacher by the Rev. P. Van Kasteren, of the St. Joseph's University, Beyrout; (3) a few days ago ten photos and a description of the figures cut in the rock in Wâdy 'Akkâb, opposite Tyre.

To the Rev. J. E. Hanauer the Committee are indebted—

(1) For an account of the cave near Safs, with the curious figures carved on the walls.

(2) For a copy of a Greek inscription which he discovered at Beit el Khûlîl.

(3) For a collection of Judeo-Spanish proverbs.

(4) For several photos of interest, including the rock-cut altar near Zorah.

(5) And for various notes of interest obtained on the spot.

In the April *Quarterly Statement* was published a very interesting paper on the Sects and Nationalities of Syria and Palestine, by Rev. Geo. E. Post, M.D., who has articles in hand on Palmyra and the Bedawîn.

In the same number is an able and learned paper on Mâlûla and its Dialect, from F. J. Bliss, B.A., who promises an exhaustive account of the Druses, &c.

PUBLICATIONS.

"The Bible and Modern Discoveries," by Henry A. Harper, was published in December. 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, the writer hopes this work will prove especially 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 is in one large, handsome volume of 600 pages. It is illustrated with many plates, and a map showing the route of the Israelites and the sites of the principal places mentioned in the sacred narratives. The work has had a very gratifying reception. The whole of the First and Second Editions are gone, and a Third Revised Edition is nearly exhausted. It is proposed that Mr. Harper write a second volume to complete the old Testament and also take in the New Testament.

For a long time it has been desired by the Committee to present to the world some of the great hoards of information about Palestine which lie buried in the Arabic texts of the Moslem geographers and travellers of the Middle Ages. Some few of the works, or parts of the works, have been already translated into Latin, French, and German. Hardly anything has been done with them in English, and no attempt has ever been made to systematize, compare, and annotate them. This has now been done for the Society by Mr. Guy le Strange in the book "Palestine under the Moslems," just prepared and issued. The work is divided into chapters on Syria, Palestine, Jerusalem, and Damascus, the provincial capitals and chief towns, and the legends related by the writers consulted. These writers begin with the ninth century and continue until the fifteenth. Illustrations required for the elucidation of the text are presented with the volume.

The Committee are in great confidence that this work—so novel, so useful to students of mediæval history, and to all those interested in the continuous story of the Holy Land—will meet with the success which its learned author deserves.

Northern 'Ajlûn "Within the Decapolis," by Herr Schumacher, was published in April. It contains an account of his journey between the Jabbok and Yarmuk and is fully illustrated with a map, plans, and drawings of the ruins, tombs, dolmens, inscriptions, &c.

Of the Memoirs of the Western Survey there are only some 15 sets left of the 500 printed.

The Survey of Eastern Palestine as far as accomplished by Major Conder was published in 1889. This volume has been sent out to subscribers.

The Archæological Mission of M. Clermont Ganneau. The illustrations of this work are being reproduced from the beautiful drawings of M. Lecomte, and will be ready in a few days for the letterpress.

The Fauna and Flora of the Wady Arabah, by H. C. Hart, is in the press, the plates are almost ready, and will be issued before the end of the year.

The New Map of Palestine.—The Committee are pleased to say that the new map which has been so long in hand is now ready. The map takes in both sides of the Jordan and extends to Baalbeck and Damascus in the north, and to Kadesh Barnea in the south. It is compiled chiefly from the surveys of the officers of the Fund by George Armstrong, the Assistant Secretary, and revised by Colonel Sir Charles W. Wilson and Major C. R. Conder.

The scale is $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch to the mile. All modern names are in black, and over these are printed the Old Testament and Apocrypha names in red; New Testament, Josephus, and Talmudic names in blue; clearly showing at a glance all the identifications of the places that have been obtained. Those marked with a ? are doubtful.

The price to subscribers to the Fund will be 24s.; to the public £2.

Raised Contour Map of Palestine.—The Committee have pleasure in bringing before you for your inspection a raised contour map of Palestine, which is now nearing completion.

It has been for a considerable period in course of construction by Mr. Armstrong, the Assistant Secretary.

The contour lines on the west of the Jordan represent a rise of 100 feet; those on the north and east, a rise of 200 feet each.

It is on the same horizontal scale, and gives nearly the same extent of country as the new map hung alongside of it.

Museum and Office.—The Committee have to report that all the objects of antiquity belonging to the Fund were removed from the South Kensington Museum, and are now in Messrs. Taylor's Depository until suitable rooms are secured, which will serve for both the Office and Museum. The Committee have rooms in view which they hope to take early next year.

Since the last Annual Meeting the following reports and papers have been published in the *Quarterly Statements*:—

By Herr Schick—

“On the Discovery of an Old Church in Jerusalem;” “On Tombs, Inscriptions and Roman Tiles on the Mount of Olives;” “On Tombs with Rolling-Stone Doors, Inscriptions, Masons’ Marks, and Large Cisterns North of the Damascus Gate;” “On Caves on Eastern Brow of Zion;” “On Rock-cut Chapels at Silwân;” “On the Fresco of an Angel over the Pool of Bethesda;” “On Remains of the Old City Wall;” “On Supposed Druidical Stone on the Plain of Rephaim;” “On Subterranean Passages at Gibeon;” “On Tombs at Aceldama,” &c., &c.

By Rev. J. E. Hanauer—

“On the Discovery of a Cave with Curious Figures at Saris;” “An Inscription at Beit el Khülil;” and “A Note on the Dead Sea being Visible from Jerusalem.”

By Herr Schumacher—

“On Sarcophagi near Akka;” “On Tomb with Curious Figures near Shefa ’Amr;” “On a Rock-cut Semi-circular Apse near Tantura;” “On Inscriptions,” &c., &c.

By W. M. Flinders Petrie—

“Notes on Places visited near Jerusalem;” “Report of the Excavations at Tell Heay.”

By Rev. Dr. Camden Cobern—

“A Visit to the Scene of Excavations.”

By James Glaisher, F.R.S.—

“Monthly Tables of Meteorological Observations taken near Jaffa for the Years 1885, 1886, 1887, and 1888.”

By Rev. George E. Post, M.D.—

“Essay on the Sects and Nationalities of Syria and Palestine;” “The Roebuck in Palestine.”

By F. J. Bliss, B.A.—

“Ma’lula and its Dialect.”

By Dr. Selah Merrill—

“Birds and Animals New to Palestine.”

By T. Chaplin, M.D.—

“On Gihon.”

By Major C. R. Conder, R.E.—

“On Norman and Norman Fiefs in Palestine;” “On the Vannic Language;” “On the Hittite Prince’s Letter;” “Notes on the Holy Sepulchre;” “The Date of Eshmunazar’s Coffin;” “The Old Wall Outside Jerusalem;” “The Tainnor;” “Ku for King the Seal of Haggai;” “Bezetha;” “Esau’s Head;” “Native Name of Palmyra;” “Pelia;”

"New Hittite Bas-Reliefs;" "The Málula Dialect;" "The Greek Inscriptions North of Damascus Gate;" "Dr. Post's Paper;" "The Inscriptions of Edrei," &c., &c.

By Professor Sayce—

"On the Accadian Word for King;" and "The Inscription of Saris and Mount Olivet."

By William Simpson, F.R.G.S.—

"On Irrigation and Water Supply of Palestine."

By Col. Sir Charles W. Wilson, R.E.—

"On the Tell es Salahiye Monument."

By Henry A. Harper—

"On Jewish Lamps;" and "The Way of the Philistines."

By Rev. Canon Greenwell—

"Note on Ancient Axe-heads."

By Mrs. Finn—

"Notes on Mosaic and Embroidery in the Old Testament;" "On the Old Walls of Jerusalem;" "On Greek Inscriptions;" "On Sunbirds;" "On Nehemiah's Wall;" "On the Mounds on the Plain of Rephaim;" "On the Waters of Merom," and "On the Tsinnor."

By Rev. W. F. Birch—

"On Nehemiah's Wall;" "Nehemiah's Defence of the Gutter Tsinnor;" "The Pool that was Made;" and "The Siloam Inscription."

By Gray Hill—

"On Irrigation and Water Supply of Syria;" and "Mashita."

By Rev. Canon Gover—

"On the Waters of Merom."

By Dr. Murray—

"On the Greek Inscriptions found on some Tombs North of the Damascus Gate."

By Professor Hull—

"On the Site of Calvary."

By Rev. Henry Brass—

"On the Site of Capernaum;" "The Cave of Adullam;" and "The Place of Elijah's Sacrifice."

By George St. Clair—

"On Nehemiah's Wall;" and "Sutekh, the Chief God of the Hittites."

By Rev. James Neil—

"On the 'Slime Pits' in the Vale of Siddim."

The following is the Balance Sheet for the year 1889, which was published in the April *Quarterly Statement* :—

The number of subscribers is steadily, but not rapidly increasing; since the date of last meeting some 187 have joined the annual list.

The Committee desire again to record their special thanks to their Honorary Local Secretaries for their efforts so cheerfully and readily made on behalf of the Society's work.

The Committee have to announce with regret the death of six members of the General Committee since the last Annual Meeting, viz.—

Earl of Carnarvon.
 Col. Sir Henry Yule, C.B., R.E.
 Sir George Burns, Bart.
 General Sir Howard Elphinstone, K.C.B.
 George Jackson Eldridge, Esq., C.M.G., H.B.M., Consul-General,
 Beyrout.
 Rev. H. Hall-Houghton.

The Committee propose that the following gentlemen be invited to become members of the General Committee:—

The Duke of Norfolk.
 Major C. M. Watson, C.M.G., R.E., War Office, Horse Guards.
 Sir John Coode.
 der Stuart Murray, Esq.
 Reginald Stuart Poole, Esq., LL.D.
 H. Rylands, Esq., F.S.A.
 Bishop of Lincoln.
 Bishop Blyth, of Jerusalem.
 P. Le Page Renouf, Esq.
 James Melrose, Esq.
 Rev. James H. Rigg, D.D., Principal of the Westminster
 Training College.
 Dr. D'Erf-Wheeler, Jerusalem.
 J. R. Barlow, Esq.
 T. Rymer, Esq.
 Rev. W. H. Rogers, D.D.
 Herbert Birch, Esq.
 Rev. Thomas Harrison.
 H. C. Kay, Esq.

The CHAIRMAN.—We have the pleasure of having Mr. Petrie with us, and I should like to know whether he would like to add anything to what has been said in the Report.

Mr. FLINDERS PETRIE.—I do not wish to suggest any additions to that Report as a Report. I have stated in it as briefly as I can the principal heads of information, and I think that will be all that I should wish to state for the present in the Annual Report until you shall decide what form, the further and more detailed publication will take.

Mr. WALTER MORRISON.—Everything I can tell the Committee has been stated by Mr. Flinders Petrie. I should like to ask Mr. Petrie one question. In the Report it is mentioned that he identifies Lachish with Tell-el-Hesy. I don't know how far this is from Umm Lakis.

Mr. PETRIE.—They are about 3 miles apart. It has been supposed that Umm Lakis and 'Ajlân must naturally be Lachish and Eglon, which were near together. But neither of these sites can be ancient, as they only contain a small depth of Roman pottery. Tell Nejleh, which I suppose to be Eglon, is about 6 miles from 'Ajlân.

Mr. MORRISON.—We know that in Oriental countries an important town does shift about. We have the cases of Memphis and Cairo, of Delhi, and of Jericho.

Mr. PETRIE.—My reasons for identifying these sites are that we know Lachish and Eglon to have been the two principal towns of the Amorites in the low country, and Tell Hesy and Nejleh are the most valuable positions in that district as commanding constant springs, whereas every other place depends on wells. As moreover I find at these places the only two great Amorite cities that I have seen in all the district, it seems almost certain that these are Lachish and Eglon, which must have been in this part. My supposition is that after the Jews were removed the Bedawîn would push up into this country, and naturally seize on these springs for their flocks and herds. The Jews returned here in feeble force, and were not strong enough to eject the Bedawîn; they therefore occupied the nearest points they could within sight of the old places, on the opposite hills; the families from Lachish founding Umm Lakis (which implies in Arabic "a descendant of Lachish"), and the families from Eglon founding 'Ajlân.

Mr. MORRISON asked a question with reference to the masonry of the south-east corner of the Haram area, being Herodian.

Mr. PETRIE.—That is just a question how long those signs as masons' marks may have existed. One can hardly use it as a conclusive argument. The question of the stone-dressing seems to me very important. A certain peculiar form of tooling, "claw-tooling" or "comb-picking," is known in Greece before it is ever known in Egypt. Subsequently we find it used in Egypt in Greek times, and it is abundantly used in Palestine. That is entirely absent from the masonry we now know belonging to the period of the Jewish kings; there is no trace of that, and as it belongs entirely to the Greek period in Egypt, it is a very strong argument that where we find this tooling we must suppose it to belong to the Herodian period in Palestine.

Mr. MORRISON.—I follow that. What does Major Conder say about it?

Mr. PETRIE.—It was satisfactory to see that the method of dressing the stone at Tell Hesi, probably 900 or 1000 B.C., was exactly similar to that on the column at the Russian Church, viz., by flaking it away so that the surface appears to be hollowed out in a series of flakes, and that was further reduced by pick-working, which left the surface what I may call the pocke surface. I found only one such stone re-used in the Triple Gateway of Jerusalem.

Mr. MORRISON.—We use the claw-tool, or comb-picking, now. A sort of hammer with a number of sharp points.

Mr. PETRIE.—They use that also in the East. At present my belief is that it was a Greek invention, imported by the Greeks into both Egypt and Palestine.

Mr. MORRISON.—Major Conder is very strong about that.

Mr. PETRIE.—There is no question it is the essential means of judging of the period of the stone, and I think we have now much firmer grounds for our judgment in having got early masonry of which we can be certain of the date to within a century. There is a point I should be glad to hear the opinion of the Executive Committee on, which might almost be laid before the present Committee, as to whether the circumstances will justify us in adopting the name Lachish for this site provisionally, instead of referring to it as Tell Hesi, which does not convey a definite idea to most people. I don't know how far it might be suitable to assume that identification and proceed upon it, but it will simplify matters rather in writing on the subject if we can at once venture to adopt this identification of this place as Major Conder suggested.

Mr. GUY LE STRANGE.—Was the identification made before you went there?

Mr. PETRIE.—Yes. Major Conder suggested it some time before that. I now can prove it to be distinctly an Amorite fortress from the section shown, and a fortress of great strength and great importance, and that the Umm Lakis is certainly of the Roman period. We have destroyed the rival, and we have greatly strengthened the case for Tell Hesi by finding the early wall and proving the early date of it. The distance between is three miles.

Mr. GUY LE STRANGE.—Is there a place called 'Ajlân there now?

Mr. PETRIE.—Yes, between Tell Hesi and Umm Lakis; almost midway between the two.

Mr. GUY LE STRANGE.—Umm Lakis is not known in the old Arab chronicles. There is mention of 'Ajlân in that part of the world in the early chronicles, but only once, though. There is the well-known place, 'Ajlân, east of the Jordan, but there is an 'Ajlân in the chronicles mentioned in that part of the world too, once or twice only.

Mr. PETRIE.—I may say that Tell en Nejileh is within sight of the place now called 'Ajlân; they are only about 5 miles apart.

Mr. BASIL WOODD SMITH.—In the absence of Lord Sidmouth I beg to move the adoption of the Report. It does not require a speech from me, because Mr. Flinders Petrie has made a more effective speech. An

unlearned and untravelled Englishman could not deal with it so exhaustively. It must be very gratifying to us to find that the Fund is still so vigorous, and that it promises to go on doing even greater things in the future. I have been looking at the new raised contour map and it strikes me as being very effective indeed. It gives me a more vivid idea of the contour of Palestine than I have ever had before. It presents to the eye clearly and distinctly the qualities of the surface of the land. I have great pleasure in moving the adoption of the Report.

MR. HENRY MAUDSLAY.—May I add a word? In the case of blind people that map would give the finest explanation possible; they would pass their fingers over it and ascertain in a moment the main features of the country. To my mind it is one of the most beautiful and effective things I have seen.

CAPTAIN A. M. MANTELL, R.E.—We have to congratulate ourselves that so much has been done during the last 12 months. I remember in '80 or '81, when I had the pleasure of going out with Major Conder, there was a great talk of our getting a new Firman, and that talk has gone on until 10 years have elapsed, and it is a great satisfaction to think we have now succeeded in getting rid of the obstruction. I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the Report.

THE CHAIRMAN.—Having that Report of Mr. Petrie before us and Mr. Petrie himself here, I should like to move that our best thanks be given to Mr. Petrie for his exertions. When he was at Jerusalem it was very cold, and I know he has gone through very great extremes of heat and cold, as those who go to Palestine generally experience. I trust the experience he has had in that country, the good work that he has done, are indications of other good works that he will be induced to follow up next year, for I did hear when he was there—and I didn't wonder at it at all, frozen one day and melted the next—under those circumstances he would go there no more. I hope, however, and I know I am not alone in that, that he will see his way, "as it is only broken ground," to use his own words, to follow up the work next year; to start in the good time, and knowing as he does the country now, and knowing the people and others, that we may have to thank him another year for the services he will have rendered between now and our next Annual Meeting. I would ask the Treasurer if he would kindly second that vote of thanks.

MR. MORRISON.—I should be very happy indeed to second that vote of thanks. I am sure what has fallen from Mr. Petrie to-day is sufficient to whet our appetite for fresh discoveries. It seems as though there were a considerable field, and Mr. Petrie, with that instinct which comes I suppose from practice—like the blacksmith's arm—will be enabled to hit upon the right spot. No doubt in this particular case it was rather a hurried matter, and there was not sufficient time for Mr. Petrie to go out to make his way, and do full justice to the opportunities offered to him.

A MEMBER having asked if the Firman allowed of excavations in any part.

THE CHAIRMAN said:—I was going to speak of that. Our Firman was confined to ten square kilometres, but I am in hopes that directly we can find another site, after having broken ground, we shall have very little trouble in getting a new Firman. Ten years have passed of great anxiety, but I can assure you that we have never forgotten that dropping water will wear away a stone. Perseverance will gain our ends I have very little doubt. I can only say we are greatly indebted to the Marquis of Salisbury, and I think he never flagged for a single moment from the first attempt, and I have no doubt we shall have the same assistance when we apply again. Now, gentlemen, you have heard the motion.

The resolution was put to the Committee, and carried unanimously.

MR. PETRIE.—I thank you most sincerely for your very kind expression concerning my work. It has been a very great pleasure indeed to me to undertake what I have done, especially as I think that I have been able to lay a foundation for future work by getting the pottery and the masonry accurately dated, which will enable others, I hope, to be as successful in examining sites, and with more certainty than they could have done before. I am almost afraid that Egypt has greater attractions for me than Palestine, but in any case it will be my pleasure to give any assistance I can in helping others towards the work, or giving any information I can from the small experience I have had in the country. (Cheers.)

THE CHAIRMAN.—Gentlemen, there is another duty to perform. Mr. Schick has done his work well. I had doubts upon some things, but it took a load from my mind to hear from Professor Lewis, who has just returned from a visit to Jerusalem, that the measurements that had been sent to us were correct. He tells us every one—angles, direction, and length of line, was found to be accurate. It is a very important thing that we should know that anyone who is there sending us information is careful in his measurements, and doesn't jump at conclusions. For the good work he has done for us, and the constancy with which he has worked, I should like to ask the Committee to thank this coadjutor who has worked so exceedingly well.

MR. WILLIAM SIMPSON.—I have very much pleasure in seconding that. I think we could not do otherwise than pass a vote of thanks to him.

The resolution was put to the Committee and carried unanimously.

THE CHAIRMAN.—Well, gentlemen, who would have imagined that an over-wrought man, writing here, writing there, ever engaged in artistic work, would find any time to devote to us? Who would have thought that Mr. Walter Besant, who is so energetically at work, and so usefully in so many things, should find time to come here, so that what he had done for us entitled me to move our thanks be given to him. That which he has done has been effective, as is everything he does. It is an early love, as Mr. Petrie says his early love for Egypt will overcome his

love for Palestine. Mr. Besant is here. If he were not, I have a note from him which is of an earnest nature, and I do ask you to give a warm vote of thanks, and I feel sure, under the circumstances in which Mr. Walter Besant is placed, that you will thank him, and thank him very warmly for being with us. Everyone in the room, I know, would second that, but, Professor Lewis, you know his work best, and I will ask you to do so.

PROFESSOR HAYTER LEWIS.—I am extremely glad to second that. He collects valuable information and puts it in a way which everyone can understand and thoroughly enjoy, and he uses his interest in every way for the advancement of the Fund. I am quite sure I should do my duty very imperfectly if I didn't second, with my heartiest good will, the resolution you have moved. (Cheers.)

THE CHAIRMAN.—It is passed by acclamation. I need not put it to the meeting. Mr. Besant, the meeting has thanked you for those good services you have rendered.

MR. WALTER BESANT.—I really do not deserve your thanks. I have been here very little indeed, and all the real work of this Society has been entirely done by Mr. Armstrong. I have not been here for the last ten days more than once. I am always very anxious to carry on the work in which I have been engaged so long and so happily, and as long as I can continue the work you may depend on me.

THE CHAIRMAN.—I have yet one other motion. You see this contour map, that map has been done entirely by Mr. Armstrong, not in his office hours. There is a deal of work to be done here, no one knows it better than I do. It is a map that, I think, answers all the desires that I have heard expressed from time to time. Here we have something that speaks, and will speak, to the good work of the Survey. Just see. So far as the Survey extends we know everything. South and east of that much is uncertain or unknown. How is this map to be reproduced? It has been a subject for thought, how it can be readily reproduced and how it can be brought into schools and have a general application, even that application which my friend Mr. Maudslay referred to just now, that the blind would feel and know how deep a certain part was below the level of the Mediterranean, and so in every other part of it. It is one that I feel exceedingly proud of. Look how well these two maps—the raised contour and new map of Palestine—will work together. This has been part of the work in the past year, and therefore as Mr. Armstrong has performed his duties to my entire satisfaction, and in addition has prepared this map of which I am proud, I should like to move that our thanks be given to Mr. Armstrong. I will ask Dr. Chaplin, knowing the value of the work, to second this resolution.

DR. CHAPLIN.—It affords me very much pleasure, sir, to have the opportunity of seconding the vote of thanks to Mr. Armstrong for this very valuable work. I have had the pleasure of seeing it in the course of its progress from month to month, and I know how very much labour and thought Mr. Armstrong has bestowed upon it, and I also know what

has already been said, how very much occupied he is in this office, so that I think the time he has bestowed upon it, and the skill and judgment which he has displayed in connection with it are exceedingly creditable, and we owe him really a very warm vote of thanks.

MR. ARMSTRONG briefly returned thanks.

MR. GUY LE STRANGE moved and—

MR. HENRY MAUDSLAY seconded the re-election of the Executive Committee. This was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Rev. W. J. STRACEY.—Before we separate there is one more vote of thanks which is due, and that is to our Chairman. I should judge by his looks that he must be as old as I am, but he is a very much younger man than I am myself really. I will only say, as regards Palestine, that I look back to my short tour there ten years ago with the greatest pleasure I almost ever had in my life. I never went anywhere where I had so much satisfaction. I make a point of telling all my friends, particularly the younger clergy, that they cannot do better for themselves than to take a holiday of two months and go to Palestine. I beg to move that our very best thanks be given to you, Mr. Chairman, for your presidency on this occasion.

MR. HENRY MAUDSLAY.—I have had the honour of being requested to second this motion, and I shall do so in the very fewest words. The Chairman has my most entire and hearty consideration, and I am quite sure that his devotion to the work which he has done so efficiently warrants and ensures its continuance. Without his application and perseverance I think the thing would, perhaps, have died a natural death long ago. It is reported that Queen Mary said she should have the word "Calais" written on her heart. I am quite sure that our Chairman has the word "Jerusalem" written upon his heart, and "Palestine" written in his head and in his thoughts. I am quite sure he will carry out this work as long as God gives him strength, for the furtherance of the object that we have in view. I beg to second the resolution.

Put to the Committee and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—I thank you very much, because I understand that this vote is not individually addressed, but to the Executive Committee who aid me so well and so effectively, and work so well. This I can assure you, that all that is in my power I certainly shall do; and knowing this vote is to the Executive Committee, and knowing them so well, I am certain they will do so. I hope that this time next year, as I have already said, Mr. Petrie will be here to report again; but I first wish to express my individual thanks to him for the deep concern he has shown in the interests of the Fund. I can only say, in the name of the Executive Committee, I thank you very sincerely for the kind vote you have just given me. I hope we shall have a good Report next year.

The Committee then adjourned.