

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

At the annual meeting of the General Committee held at the Office of the Fund on July 21st, the following gentlemen were unanimously elected members of the General Committee, namely, Lieut.-Col. Goldsmid, Joseph Sebag-Montefiore, Esq., Isidore Spielman, Esq., C.E., John Dickson, Esq., Rev. R. Appleton, W. M. Flinders Petrie, Esq., G. F. Watts, Esq., F. D. Mocatta, Esq.

More than one speaker at the meeting referred to the importance of the work of the Fund being made more widely known in public schools and other educational establishments, and to the desirability of arranging for periodical lectures, in order to draw attention to the valuable results which have been obtained. The latter suggestion is engaging the attention of the Executive Committee, and it is greatly to be hoped that friends throughout the country who may be connected in any way with schools and colleges will endeavour to introduce regular instruction with respect to the work of the Fund and its results.

Herr Schick has sent an interesting report of his observations during the quarter, including an account of the many changes which have taken place in modern Jerusalem during the past few years. His further report on excavations at the pool north of the Damascus gate, near the tombs of the kings, will be published in January.

Mr. Bliss's report of his excavations at Tell-el-Hesy will be found in the present number. The work will be renewed there in the course of the present month. *Contributions are urgently needed towards the expense.* Mr. Bliss also furnishes an interesting letter on "Excavating from its picturesque side."

The museum of the Fund, at 24, Hanover Square, is now open to subscribers between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., except on Saturdays, when it closes at 2 p.m.

Mr. G. R. Lees writes that the tombs mentioned at page 89 of the *Quarterly Statement* for April last as being "350 yards north of Damascus Gate," are situated "850 yards north of the so-called tombs of the kings." Mr. Schick has noted in his report that the tombs are numbered 29 on the plan in the Jerusalem volume of the *Memoirs*, page 343. The squeezes from ossuaries reported on at page 241 of the July number were those sent home by Mr. Lees.

The Committee will be glad to receive donations of Books to the Library of the Fund, which already contains many works of great value relating to Palestine and the Holy Land.

It may be well to mention that plans and photographs alluded to in the reports from Jerusalem and elsewhere cannot all be published, but all are preserved in the offices of the Fund, where they may be seen by subscribers.

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; 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 for 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 after Maps and before Contents of this number.

Mr. H. Chichester Hart's "Fauna and Flora of Sinai, Petra, and the Wady 'Arabah" has been completed and sent out to subscribers.

The Rev. Prof. Theodore F. Wright, Ph.D., of Cambridge, Mass., U.S., has been appointed by the Executive Committee, Lecturer and Honorary General Secretary for the Fund in the United States.

The following gentlemen have kindly consented to act as Honorary Local Secretaries :

Rev. F. C. Norton, Ditchling Vicarage, Sussex.

Rev. Camden M. Cobern, Ph.D., 309, S. Warren Avenue, Sagnion Michigan, U.S.A.

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 (1 to 13) can be obtained by subscribers to the Fund by application to the Head Office only (24, Hanover Square, W.), for £3 0s. 0d., carriage paid to any part in the United Kingdom only*) :—

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 "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."—This 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. Fâhil." 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."—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.
- (12) Northern 'Ajlûn "Within the Decapolis," by Herr Schumacher.

By Henry A. Harper—

- (13) "The Bible and Modern Discoveries."—This work, written by a Member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund, is an endeavour to present in a simple and popular, but yet a connected form, the Biblical results of 22 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 that they illustrated the text. This plain and simple method has never before been adopted in dealing with modern discovery.

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; nearly all the places spoken of he has visited, and most of them he has moreover sketched or painted. It should be noted that the book is admirably adapted for the School or Village Library.

By Guy le Strange—

- (14) "Palestine under the Moslems."—For a long time it had 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 systematise, compare, and annotate them.

This has now been done for the Society by Mr. Guy le Strange. 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. The volume contains maps and illustrations required for the elucidation of the text.

The Committee have 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.

By W. M. Flinders Petrie—

- (15) "Lachish" (one of the five strongholds of the Amorites).—An account of the excavations conducted by Mr. Petrie in the spring of 1890, with view of Tell, plans and sections, and upwards of 270 drawings of the objects found.

By Trelawney Saunders—

- (16) "An Introduction to the Survey of Western Palestine, describing its Waterways, Plains, and Highlands, with special reference to the Water Basin—(Map. No. 10)."
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The new map of Palestine, so long in hand, is now ready. It embraces both sides of the Jordan, and extends from Baalbek in the north to Kadesh Barnea in the south. All the modern names are in black; over these are printed in red the Old Testament and Apocrypha names. The New Testament, Josephus, and Talmudic names are in blue, and the tribal possessions are tinted in colours, giving clearly all the identifications up to date. It is the most comprehensive map that has been published, and will be invaluable to universities, colleges, schools, &c.

It is published in 21 sheets, with paper cover; price to subscribers to the Fund, 24s., to the public, £2. It can be had mounted on cloth, rollers, and varnished for hanging. The size is 8 feet by 6 feet. The cost of mounting will be extra (*see* Maps).

Branch Associations of the Bible Society, all Sunday School Unions within 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 income of the Society, from June 18th to September 18th was—from annual subscriptions and donations, including Local Societies, £158 5s. 5d.; from all sources, £563 1s 5d. The expenditure during the same period was £737 3s. 2d. On September 22nd the balance in the Bank was £345 13s. 4d.

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 "Jaulån."
 3. Cases for the *Quarterly Statement*, in green or chocolate.
 4. Cases for "Abila," "Pella," and "'Ajlûn" in one volume.
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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, 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.

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) The Rev. Thomas Harrison, F.R.G.S., Member of the Society of Biblical Archæology. Address: Rev. Thomas Harrison, Hillside, Benenden, Staplehurst, Kent. 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.*
- (4) *Eastern Palestine.*
- (5) *The Dead Sea and the Cities of the Plain.*

- (2) The Rev. Charles Chidlow, M.A., Caio Vicarage, Llandilo:—

Recent Discoveries in Bible Lands.

- (3) Professor Theodore F. Wright, Ph.D., Cambridge, Mass., Honorary General Secretary of the Palestine Exploration Fund for the United States. His subjects are as follows:—

- (1) *The Building of Jerusalem.*
- (2) *The Overthrow of Jerusalem.*
- (3) *The Progress of the Palestine Exploration.*

Application for Lectures may be either addressed to the Secretary, 24, Hanover Square, W., or sent to the address of the Lecturers.

It has been asked why Mr. St. Clair's name has been omitted from the list of lecturers. The reason is that during the last season Mr. St. Clair has been lecturing on his own responsibility. His relations with the Committee are, and always have been, of a cordial character, and the Committee desire to express their sympathy with him in his efforts to awaken and sustain interest in "Eastern Exploration."
