

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

GREAT interest was manifested in the series of lectures in connection with the Fund which was announced in the *Quarterly Statement* for April. The lectures, which were delivered in the months of May and June, were well attended, and in some instances room could not be found for all who desired admission. The following is a list of the subjects and lecturers:—

May 3rd.—Chairman: His Grace the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.
Lecturer: Col. Sir CHARLES W. WILSON, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., F.R.S.,
D.C.L., LL.D., R.E. Subject: "Jerusalem."

May 10th.—Chairman: F. D. MOCATTA, Esq. Lecturer: Major CONDER
D.C.L., LL.D., R.E. Subject: "The Future of Palestine."

May 17th.—Chairman: Sir EDMUND A. H. LECHMERE, Bart., M.P.
Lecturer: Rev. Canon TRISTRAM, LL.D., F.R.S. Subject: "Natural
History of Palestine."

May 31st.—Chairman: JAMES GLAISHER, Esq., F.R.S. Lecturer:
WALTER BESANT, Esq., M.A. Subject: "The General Work of
the Society."

June 7th.—Chairman: Major-General Sir F. J. GOLDSMID, C.B., K.C.S.I.
Lecturer: Rev. W. WRIGHT, D.D. Subject: "The Hittites up to
Date."

June 21st.—Chairman: WALTER MORRISON, Esq., M.P. Lecturer: W.
M. FLINDERS PETRIE, Esq. Subject: "The Story of a 'Tell.'"

June 28th.—Chairman: JAMES GLAISHER, Esq., F.R.S. Lecturer: Rev.
Canon DALTON, C.M.G. Subject: "The Modern Traveller in
Palestine."

The Committee have resolved to publish these very interesting and important lectures both separately, and the whole series together in a small volume. They will probably be ready in October. The price of a single lecture will be, to subscribers to the Fund, 6*d.*, and that of the volume, 2*s.* 6*d.* To the public the prices will be 1*s.* and 3*s.* 6*d.*

From Mr. F. J. Bliss the important intelligence has been received that at Tell el Hesry there has been found "a small fine stone about two inches square

closely covered on both sides with a fine cuneiform inscription." Casts, impressions in wax, and squeezes of this inscription have reached the office, and been placed in the hands of Professor Sayce, who, it will be remembered, predicted that in all probability cuneiform writings would be discovered on this site.

The following letter on this subject appeared in *The Times* of July 1st :—

"Sir,—I ask permission to place on record, in the columns of *The Times*, a note on a discovery recently made in the course of excavations conducted at a mound in Palestine named Tell el Hesi. The excavations were commenced two years ago by Dr. Flinders Petrie, and have been continued during the last six months by Mr. F. J. Bliss, of Beirât. The Tell has been identified by Major Conder and Dr. Flinders Petrie with the ancient city of Lachish, an identification which is now amply confirmed.

"Mr. Bliss has found among the *débris* a cuneiform tablet, together with certain Babylonian cylinders and imitations or forgeries of those manufactured in Egypt. A translation of the tablet has been made by the Rev. Professor Sayce; it is as follows :—

"[To] the Governor. [I] O, my father, prostrate myself at thy feet. Verily thou knowest that Baya (?) and Zimrida have received thy orders (?) and Dan-Hadad says to Zimrida, 'O, my father, the city of Yarami sends to me, it has given me 3 *masar* and 3 . . . and 3 falchions.' Let the country of the King know that I stay; and it has acted against me, but till my death I remain. As for thy commands (?) which I have received, I cease hostilities, and have despatched Bel (?)-banilu, and Rabi-ilu-yi has sent his brother to this country to [strengthen me (?)]."

"The letter was written about the year 1400 B.C. It is in the same handwriting as those in the Tell el Amarna collection, which were sent to Egypt from the south of Palestine about the same time. It will be remembered that of this remarkable collection about 80 tablets were acquired by the British Museum, and double that number by the Berlin Museum. The forms of the characters are the same and the peculiarities of the grammar.

Now, here is a very remarkable coincidence. In the Tell el Amarna collection we learn that one Zimrida was governor of Lachish, where he was murdered by some of his own people, and the very first cuneiform tablet discovered at Tell el Hesi is a letter written to this very Zimrida.

"The city Yarami may be the Jarmuth of the Old Testament.

"'Even more interesting,' writes Professor Sayce, 'are the Babylonian cylinders and their imitations. They testify to the long and deep influence and authority of Babylon in Western Asia, and throw light on the prehistoric art of Phœnicia and Cyprus. The cylinders of native Babylonian manufacture belong to the period B.C. 2000-1500; the rest are copies made in the west. One of these is of Egyptian porcelain, and must have been manufactured in Egypt, in spite of its close imitation of a Babylonian original. Others are identical with the cylinders found in the prehistoric tombs of Cyprus and Syria, and so fix the date of the latter. On one of them are two centaurs arranged heraldically, the human faces being shaped like those of birds. European archæologists will be interested in learning that among the minor objects are two amber beads.'

"It must be remembered that the Babylonian language and the Babylonian characters were the common medium of communication between the natives of the East at this time. A cuneiform scribe was kept at Tell el Amarna, and

probably there was one at every important place in Palestine. The find is one which throws light upon many points of interest, as, for instance, the influence of Babylon, the authority of Egypt, and, as Professor Sayce points out, the prehistoric art of Phœnicia. I should like to add that it is now 15 years and more since Professor Sayce called our attention to the probability of finding the libraries and archives of the ancient cities in the Tells which he has unceasingly urged us to excavate.

"I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

"JAMES GLAISHER,

"Chairman of the Executive Committee."

The work at Tell el Hesi has been closed for the season, and will, it is hoped, be resumed in October. A letter from Mr. Bliss will be found in the present number. His detailed report will follow. *Funds for the continuance of the work are greatly needed.*

Herr Schick reports that extraordinary interest is being shown by English tourists in the tomb at the foot of the "Skull Hill," which is supposed by some to be the tomb of our Lord. An English lady is said to have washed out the tomb, and spent the night in it, and Mr. Moody, the American revivalist, held a service on the top of the hill.

At page 205 will be found a note from Major Conder respecting the above tomb. He points out that it is no new discovery, but was described in the "Memoirs of the Survey of Western Palestine," which were published in 1884.

Our readers will be interested to learn that considerable progress is being made with the Akka-Damascus Railway, the route of which, after various expensive surveys, has now been definitely decided upon. The line chosen is practically that first suggested by Major Conder, R.E., several years ago. Beginning at the great fortress of Acre, the railway will run down the plain of Acre parallel with the sea, throwing out a branch to Haifa, at the northern foot of Mount Carmel, and thence to and across the plain of Esdraelon, passing near Nazareth to Shunem and Jezreel, and through the valley of Jezreel, skirting the slope of the hills, to the River Jordan, which will be crossed within sight of Bethshean. The Jordan here offers exceptional facilities for the erection of the railway bridge, consisting of two spans. Not only are the two opposite banks of the river formed of solid rock, but the centre of the river contains a large block of similar rock, from which each span of the bridge will be thrown to the east and west bank respectively. From the Jordan the railway will ascend the slope of the Jaulan Plateau, along the crests that close the eastern shores of the Sea of Galilee, this ascent constituting the only difficult portion of the line, but which the surveys made now show to be much easier of accomplishment than was originally anticipated. Reaching the plateau near El 'Al, an easy gradient will carry the line by Seil Nawa and Kesweh to Damascus. Passing through the finest plains of Western and Eastern Palestine the importance of the railway cannot be over-estimated. Its construction can

hardly fail to lead to important archaeological discoveries, and the Committee hope to make arrangements for obtaining full information respecting these.

The Rev. Theodore E. Dowling, Honorary Secretary of the Fund at Jerusalem, reports the names of the Lecturers and their subjects in connection with "The Jerusalem Association of the Palestine Exploration Fund."

On March 8th the first of a course of five Lectures, in the Christ Church Lecture Room, was read by the Rev. A. H. Kelk, on behalf of Herr Baurath C. Schick, who was temporarily unwell. This Lecture proved to be an instalment of a series, entitled "The Story of the Buildings of Jerusalem." On March 15th, Mr. Frederick Jones Bliss spoke for an hour on "Present Explorations at Tell el Hesay." Mr. G. Robinson Lees, on March 22nd, selected as his subject, "The Temple Area" (with his own magic lantern illustrations). On March 29th, the Rev. James Edward Hanauer read a paper on "The 'Site of Calvary' Controversy," the closing Lecture being given by the American Consul, Dr. Selah Merrill, April 5th, on "Bashan, and its Giant Cities."

The collections at the close of the Lectures, on behalf of local expenses, realised in full £8 3s. 3d.

Mr. Dowling also writes :—

"In order to complete a set of *Quarterly Statements* from 1869-91 for the benefit of "The Jerusalem Association of the Palestine Exploration Fund," nine numbers are required. It is the intention of the Local Committee to bind the volumes and keep them in the Association Room for reference only. Will any member of the Palestine Exploration Fund, who can spare them, kindly present either one or all of the following numbers: Volume 1869, Nos. 2 and 3; Volume 1870, Nos. 6, 7, and 8; Volume 1871, April and July; Volume 1872, January and April. Rev. T. E. Dowling, Jerusalem, Syria, Hon. Sec."

Mr. Charles F. Kent, of Berlin University, thus writes of a visit to the excavations at Tell el Hesay :—

"During our spring vacation here at Berlin University it was the privilege of six of us (all American students at Berlin) to make an extended trip through the Holy Land. Unlike most Palestinian travellers we were free to go where we pleased, and among other interesting places our itinerary brought us to Tell el Hesay, the scene of the Fund's excavations.

"The reports of the work there are so full and clear that I cannot hope to add anything to your knowledge, but being deeply interested in Palestinian discovery, I take occasion to convey to you my impression of the valuable character of the work which the Fund is doing at Tell el Hesay.

"Our night's stay at the Tell gave us a taste of the utter loneliness of the life of an explorer on the dividing line between fertility and desert. There is, however, a fascination about the work which is indescribable, the possibility of a valuable find every moment, and the continual variety of little finds which are turning up. Then, too, if the excavations had added nothing more to our knowledge of ancient Hebrew and Amorite archaeology than a clear conception

of the arrangement and appearance of a city of the plain, the outlay, in my opinion, would be amply repaid. At the same time I am convinced that there are treasures in Tell el Hesi still to be turned up. The undertaking to cut down such a large section of the Tell naturally calls for a large expenditure of time and money, perhaps, more than all, of patience on the part of the officers of the Fund, but I trust that none of the essentials will fail.

"I cannot but feel that more interest in the work of the Fund ought to be stirred up in America. I see some work is being done at Cambridge, Mass., but not so much in the West. I expect this coming year to begin work at Chicago University, under my old Yale Professor, Dr. W. R. Harper, and, as opportunity offers, I shall take great pleasure in interesting my friends there."

We regret to announce the death of a valued friend and supporter of the Society, the Rev. Greville J. Chester. In the "Guardian" of June 8th, Mr. Walter Besant thus writes of him:—"It is now nearly twenty-five years since I first made Greville Chester's acquaintance. He introduced himself to me as a friend and supporter of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and offered his assistance in the examination and classification of the lamps and pottery just then sent home by Warren from his excavations at Jerusalem. Since that time he has constituted himself, in an informal way, a kind of curator of our collections, always spending some time over their arrangement every summer. He wrote a paper on the subject, which appeared in the "Recovery of Jerusalem" (1870), and has since contributed many notes to the journal of the Society on the coins, gems, glass, pottery, marbles, &c., found in Palestine by our expeditions. In fact, the very last service he rendered the Society was the arrangement of the museum in our new rooms at 24, Hanover-square, on our removal about a year ago. He was also an explorer of no mean order. On two different occasions he conducted expeditions for the Committee. One of these was a visit to the little-known Isle Ruad, the Phœnician Aradus. This was in 1875. I think that he was then the only living European who had landed on its shores. The examination which he made of this very ancient and interesting place was necessarily hurried and incomplete, but (*more suo*) he came away with a pocket full of coins. Perhaps a more valuable contribution to geographical and archaeological science was his journey of 1880, when he visited and described the Biblical sites of Lower Egypt, and travelled from Sâh to El Arish, and cleared up the difficulties about Lake Sirbonis. These journeys were also noteworthy in the fact that they cost the Society next to nothing. We gave Chester beforehand what he roughly estimated—it was very little, and he always returned some of the money. The Palestine Exploration Fund can ill afford to lose a friend so tried and true. Of his great personal qualities, his deep religion, his simplicity of life, his perfect honour it is needless to speak after the words of Dr. Gatty in the 'Guardian' of June 1st. I would, however, indicate one additional point. Chester, of gentle extraction, and one of a long line of gentlemen, readily accepted responsibility in the spirit of one born to leadership. He was in some ways what is called a gentleman of the old school. Not only leadership was his right by birth, but courage, truth, and honour were elementary necessities for such as possessed that right. There are not too many men like Greville Chester in this respect, either in the Church or out of it."

Mr. John Shelley, Hon. Sec. of the Fund, Plymouth, sends us a notice of a bronze bracelet, with a Greek inscription, which was found near Jerusalem, and is described in the "Revue Critique," of 6th June, 1892.

We are happy to state that M. Clermont-Ganneau is actively engaged on the letterpress which is to accompany the drawings of M. Lecomte, illustrating M. Ganneau's Archæological Mission, and that it is confidently hoped the volume will be published by the end of the present year.

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.

The Committee have to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the library of the Fund :—

"Abraham, Joseph, and Moses in Egypt." By Rev. A. H. Kellogg, D.D.
From the Author.

"Heerelycke ende geluckige Reyse na det Heyligh Lant en de Stadt van Jerusalem." By Jan Van der Linden. Antwerp, 1716. From Rev. G. H. Culshan.

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

The Rev. R. M. Willcox, Burley in Wharfedale, near Leeds.

The Rev. Robert E. Daubeny, Sneyd Clergy House, Burslem.

The Rev. C. Harris, M.A., Milton-next-Sittingbourne, Kent.

The Rev. W. Spear, M.A., M.D., 22, Ashford Road, Maidstone.

The price of the remaining copies of "Palestine under the Moslems" has been raised to 10s. each to subscribers to the fund, and 16s. to non-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 Wâdy 'Arabah" has been completed and sent out to subscribers.

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 1s. 6d., 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.

By Walter Besant, M.A.—

- (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. Fahlil." The ancient Pella, the first retreat of the Christians; with map and illustrations.

By George Armstrong—

- (10) Names and Places in the Old and New Testament and Apocrypha. This is an index to all the names and places mentioned in the Bible and New Testament, with full references and their modern identifications, as shown on the new map of Palestine.
- (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 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 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)."

The new Map of Palestine 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 is extra (*see* Maps).

In addition to the 21-sheet map, the Committee have issued as a separate Map the 12 sheets (*viz.*, Nos. 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 20-22), which include the whole

of Palestine as far north as Mount Hermon, and the districts beyond Jordan as far as they are surveyed. See key-map to the sheets.

The price of this map, in 12 sheets, in paper cover, to subscribers to the Fund, 12s. 6d.; to the public, £1 1s.

The size of the map, mounted on cloth and roller for hanging, is 4½ feet by 6¾ feet.

Any single sheet of the map can be had separately, price, to subscribers of the Fund, 1s. 6d. Mounted on cloth to fold in the pocket suitable for travelling, 2s. To the public 2s. and 2s. 6d.

A copy of names and places in the Old and New Testament, with their modern identifications and full references, can be had by subscribers with either of these maps at the reduced price of 2s. 6d.

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 March 19th to June 18th, was—from annual subscriptions and donations, including Local Societies, £333 5s. 3d.; from all sources, £488 4s. 5d. The expenditure during the same period was £755 17s. 3d. On June 18th the balance in the Bank was £413 13s. 10d.

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 binding Herr Schumacher's "Jaulán."
 3. Cases for binding the *Quarterly Statement*, in green or chocolate.
 4. Cases for binding "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 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.