

THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

At the Annual Meeting of the General Committee, held at 24, Hanover Square, on July 19th, the following gentlemen were unanimously elected members of the General Committee, namely: Earl Cranbrook, Sir W. Q. Ewart, Bart., and John Pollard, Esq.

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The series of Lectures delivered in connection with the Fund in the spring of the year, at 20, Hanover Square, are now in the hands of the printer, and will be published shortly. Price of the volume, to Subscribers to the Fund, 2s. 6d., to others, 3s. 6d. The Lectures will also be published singly, price to Subscribers, 6d., to others, 1s.

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Owing to the severe attack of typhoid fever from which Mr. F. J. Bliss has been suffering, he has found it impossible to prepare his detailed report of last season's excavations in time for the present issue of the *Quarterly Statement*. After a stay of some weeks on the Lebanon, Mr. Bliss has recently returned to Jaffa, and a letter received from him, dated 17th September, reports that he hoped to recommence the work at Tell el Hesi on 26th September.

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Herr Schick still finds opportunities from time to time to continue his investigations in and around Jerusalem, and has sent an interesting report on "Aceldama" and other matters.

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The Rev. J. E. Hanauer reports that the first locomotive reached Jerusalem on August 21st. He adds that the station is at the large unfinished building south of the road leading westward from the Bethlehem road, past the south end of the Montefiore ground, and east of that leading southward towards the German colony.

Herr Schick reports:—"The railway is finished as far as Jerusalem, and on Sunday, August 21st, the first locomotive arrived with a small train. Some people took the opportunity to go by the train in the evening when returning to Jaffa, but in the neighbourhood of Bittir the fellahin had put something on the line, which caused the carriages to leave the rails and turn over. Nearly all the passengers were more or less injured, and although the train was put right and proceeded to Jaffa, the passengers were so frightened that they walked in the night back to Jerusalem.

The following is from the Report of the Oriental Congress which appeared in the "Times," of September 8th :—

" In the Assyrian Section, Professor A. H. Sayce delivered his presidential address upon the progress of the study of Assyriology in England. It was, indeed, he said, a matter of intense satisfaction to see what great progress Assyriology had made in the 18 years which had elapsed since the last Oriental Congress in London. The small band had increased to a goodly number; chairs of Assyriology are now established in all the principal Universities of Europe and America, and at last one has been established in Oxford. So important and so extensive was the work in this study that it was found necessary to assign to it a special section in the Congress of Orientalists. Assyrian was no longer a mere special study; its importance had been recognised in the fields of Biblical criticism and Oriental philology. By means of the labours of Assyriologists whole chapters of Oriental history have been reconstructed. Since the deciphering of the Deluge tablet by the late George Smith, no more startling and important discovery had been made than that of the Tell-el-Amarna tablets, which restore to us the earliest chapters of Canaanite history more than a century before the conquest of Canaan by Joshua. The discovery of these important documents has been followed immediately *by a find of still greater importance, that of the cuneiform inscriptions at Lachish*.<sup>1</sup> The importance of this tablet lies more in what it implies than in what it actually contains. It is a proof that Mr. Bliss has found his way to the entrance chamber of the archive chamber of the Amorite city of Lachish, and that before long the collection of tablets that were stored in it may be in our hands. The existence of these archive chambers in Canaan would explain strong Babylonian colouring, not only of the cosmogony and mythology of Phœnicia, but also of the earlier chapters of Genesis. It would be no longer necessary to suppose, as has been somewhat the fashion of late years, that the close similarity of the Biblical account of the Deluge was due to Jewish intercourse with Babylonia in the age of the Captivity. It would further explain the Palestinian character of the Elohistic version of the story, which shows that it had already been at home in Canaan long before it was embodied in the Old Testament. If Babylonian legends made their way to the archive chambers of the Egyptian Kings, it was because they had first made their way to the archive chambers of Palestine. The fact that the Babylonian language and the complicated syllabary of Babylonia were the common medium of intercourse in the civilised East in the century before the Exodus shows that Babylonian influence in Western Asia had been long and powerful."

With reference to the Tell-el-Amarna tablets, Professor Max Müller, in his opening address to the Congress, said :—

" In these despatches, dating from 1400 B.C., a number of towns are mentioned, many of which have the same names as those known to us from hieroglyphic inscriptions. Some of those names have survived to our own time, such as Misirûm for Egypt, Damascus, Megiddo, Tyre (Surrîi), Sidon (Sîdûna), Byblos (Guble), Beyrut (Birûta), Joppa (Yâpû), and others. Even the name of Jerusalem has been discovered by Sayce in these tablets, as *Uru'salim*,

<sup>1</sup> Casts of these inscriptions are in the Museum of the Fund, 24, Hanover Square, where they can be seen on application to the Assistant Secretary.

meaning in Assyrian the Town of Peace, a name which must have existed before the Jews took possession of Canaan. Some of these tablets (82) may be seen at the British Museum, others (160) at Berlin, most of the rest are at Gizeh. We are indebted to Mr. Budge for having secured these treasures for the British Museum, and to Dr. Bezold and Mr. Budge for having translated and published them."

We regret to hear of the death of Dr. Carl Sandreczky, at the age of 83. For many years he had been a member of the General Committee of the Fund, and rendered important service in carrying out the Ordnance Survey of Jerusalem, obtaining and transliterating the names of the streets and other places, which, in the published Survey, are given in his own handwriting, reproduced by the zinc-lithographic process. Dr. Sandreczky went out to Greece with King Otho in 1834, and held important appointments as Judge in that country. Subsequently he became a missionary of the Church Missionary Society. He was a man of much learning and culture, an excellent Arabic scholar, and was the author of a book of travels describing a journey made by him in Mesopotamia, Kurdistan, and Urumiah. In 1869 he contributed to the *Quarterly Statement* a valuable paper on the Rock Tombs of Medyeh, which he regarded as the site of Modin, and in 1872 a translation of names of places on the east of Jordan.

Mrs. E. A. Finn sends the following note respecting *The Jerusalem Literary and Scientific Society* :—

"Mr. Finn had proposed the formation of such a society in 1846, within a month of his arrival in Jerusalem. At that time the 'Biblical Researches' of Dr. Robinson, and Williams' 'Holy City' (first edition), were the only modern works of importance on the topography of the Holy Land, and Mr. Finn suggested that it would be well for residents in Palestine to combine for the purpose of noting and recording such facts as might come to knowledge respecting the archæology, botany, natural history, and meteorology of the country. Seven gentlemen and ladies (six of them English) took part in the first meeting of the Society in 1849, and were soon joined by other resident and corresponding members. The English bishop and the Earl of Aberdeen were vice-patrons, and Archbishop Howley, of Canterbury, was patron. The Prince Consort sent a donation of twenty-five guineas to the Library Fund. The King of Prussia directed that members of the Jerusalem Literary Society should have free use of the Royal Library which was being established. The fundamental rule of the Society was that 'The object of this Society is the investigation and elucidation of any subject of interest, literary or scientific, of any period whatever, within the Holy Land, *i.e.*, within the territorial limits of the Mediterranean to the Euphrates, and of the Nile to the Orontes.' Weekly meetings were held at the British Consulate. Papers were read, followed by discussions on the various subjects within the scope of the Society, and minutes of proceedings were kept. Antiquities and specimens in botany, natural history, &c., were collected for a museum, which was begun at once. The latter was enriched by valuable marbles sent from Nineveh by Layard, by ancient glass and pottery from Phœnicia and other places, and by Maccabean, Herodian, and other coins, &c. Ancient Samaritan MSS. were obtained for the library, as also copies, or transcripts of books on the history, topography,

&c., of the country. It was intended to form a special Biblical and Historical Museum, and, in short, the foundation was laid of an institution which should aid students in their researches in all important subjects of interest connected with Palestine, and should, at the same time, preserve *on the spot* the precious relics of antiquity being brought to light by intelligent observers and collectors.

"The annual addresses of Mr. Finn, as president, give interesting details as to progress made and plans for useful work laid out.

"One of the members, the Rev. H. C. Richardt, pursued the study of numismatics with rare success, and possessed perhaps the finest collection of Palestine coins in existence, including coinage of Jerusalem, Tiberias, Cæsarea, Nâblus, Sêpphoris, Ashkelon, &c.

"Mr. Finn had himself discovered and identified many important ancient sites. In 1851 he reminded the members that 'We have not yet even commenced *the exact geographical survey* of Palestine which we consider so desirable. We have as yet *cut into no tumuli* on the plain of the Jordan.' He unceasingly urged these measures, and also 'the forming at Jerusalem of a *dépôt* of plain but good geodetical and astronomical instruments (which he began), and also of meteorological instruments for taking simultaneous observations by the corresponding members at various points of this *exceedingly diversified country*,' and also that magnetic observations should be taken.

"These and other important matters were urged upon the resident members, and brought under the notice of influential travellers and visitors of many nationalities who attended the meetings. Among the latter were Dr. Robinson, who mentions in his last volume of 'Travel and Research in Palestine,' his pleasure at the good work being done by the Jerusalem Literary Society. Dr. Roth, of Munich, Dr. Petermann, Van de Velde, and numerous other distinguished foreigners took part in the proceedings, or became corresponding members. British travellers, among them Dean Stanley (in 1853 and 1862) Sir George Grove, and many others, were entreated to further the Society's objects of exploration and research before the changes then already begun—the influx of foreigners and the erection of modern buildings—should obliterate precious memorials and landmarks.

"The Jerusalem Literary Society's library and small museum still exist, and the surviving members of the Society would gladly see the Association of the Palestine Exploration Fund, recently established at Jerusalem, unite in keeping up and carrying on the work so simply and quietly begun in 1849."

The Rev. T. E. Dowling having left Jerusalem for six months on a visit to Australasia, Mr. G. Robinson Lees has kindly consented to act as Honorary Secretary for Jerusalem during his absence.

The following gentlemen have kindly consented to act as Honorary Local Secretaries: The Rev. H. B. Waterman, D.D., 3,436, Rhodes Avenue, Chicago, Illinois; the Rev. W. Bailey, Colney Heath Rectory, St. Albans.

The Rev. L. G. A. Roberts has been appointed Lecturer in Canada. His address is Hudson Parsonage, Province Quebec, Canada.

Owing to want of space, a paper by Mr. Glaisher on the strength of the wind at Sarona in the ten years 1880 to 1889, has had to be postponed until January.

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 considerable progress has already been made in the work.

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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.

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

"Har Moad, or Mountain of the Assembly." By Rev. O. D. Miller, D.D. S. M. Whipple, North Adams, Mass. From the Publisher.

"Voyage en Syrie et en Egypte," par M. C. F. Volney. 2 vols. From Dr. Chaplin.

"Plantæ Postiaræ," by Dr. G. Post. Fasciculi I-IV. From the Author.

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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.

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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.

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The second edition of "Heth and Moab" having been sold out, a third and revised edition is in the press, and will be ready for publication in November.

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A new edition of "Twenty-one Years' Work" is in course of preparation, and will be brought down to date. The new title will be "Twenty-Seven Years' Work."

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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 in the fore part 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 "Jaulán."—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. Fahil." 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)."

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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 6½ 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.

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*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.*

The first and second parts, Vol. I., of "Felix Fabri," were issued to subscribers to the Pilgrim's Text Society in May and July. Parts I and II, Vol. II, of the same work are in the press. The account of "Saewulf's Pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the Holy Land" (1102 A.D.) is nearly ready for publication.

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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.

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The income of the Society, from June 19th to September 19th, was—from annual subscriptions and donations, including Local Societies, £112 Os. 6d.; from all sources, £247 10s. 11d. The expenditure during the same period was £377 2s. 2d. On September 19th the balance in the Bank was £288 4s. 2d.

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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 "Jaulân."
  3. Cases for binding the *Quarterly Statement*, in green or chocolate.
  4. Cases for binding "Abila," "Pella," and "'Ajlân" 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.

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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.

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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.

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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.