

THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE excavations at Tell el Hesay are being vigorously carried on by Mr. Bliss, who has recovered from his serious illness. His report of the work of the spring season is printed in the present number.

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In the present number will be found an account of the railway between Jaffa and Jerusalem, contributed by Herr Baurath Schick. The course of the line will be laid down on the large and small maps of the Fund, and the sheets showing it will be ready shortly. As we are going to press, intelligence has reached us that the line has been injured by the heavy rains, and is not now in working order. Five inches of rain are said to have fallen in twenty-four hours.

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We publish a short note by Herr Schick on Mr. Hanauer's paper on "The Site of Calvary" which appeared in the *Quarterly Statement* for October, 1892. An elaborate paper on the same subject by Herr Schick will appear in our next issue.

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The controversy respecting the site of the Holy Sepulchre has been rekindled by a proposal to purchase the spot known as "Gordon's Tomb" (see *Quarterly Statement*, 1892, page 120), which, it is supposed by some, may have been the Tomb of Our Lord. Considerable correspondence on the subject has taken place, and some of the principal letters, together with a "Times" leader referring to it, will be found reprinted at page 90.

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After two years' study of the published texts of the tablets found at Tell Amarna, Major Conder has completed a translation of them which the Committee of the Fund have undertaken to publish. In this, as in all their publications, the Committee beg it to be understood that the author alone is responsible for the opinions put forward.

Referring to a squeeze and a photograph of a "Phœnician" inscription on a plate of metal recently sent home from Palestine, Professor Sayce writes:—"The inscription is a forgery. Sidonian forms of letters of the 5th century B.C., like  $\text{𐤏}$ , are mixed with Moabite forms of the 9th century B.C. A letter  $\text{𐤏}$  which does not exist in the Phœnician alphabet occurs several times. There are also letters which have been copied from semi-obliterated texts (like  $\text{𐤁}$  and  $\text{𐤃}$ ), as well as forms which belong to late Aramæan texts ( $\text{𐤇}$  and  $\text{𐤈}$ ). Together with Hebrew expressions like  $\text{זֶה הַהַגֵּר}$  and  $\text{מִן אֲדָנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ}$ , are words which do not, and could not, exist in Hebrew. In fact the inscription is untranslatable. In the centre the letters composing the name of King Mesha ( $\text{מִשְׁעָ}$ ) have been copied from the Moabite stone, but arranged in a way which shows that the copyist did not understand what they meant. Finally, almost the only intelligible part of the inscription are the words 'This is the stone,' which are, of course, inapplicable to a metal plate."

Some stone figures said to have been found at Tireh are also pronounced to be forgeries by the Rev. Dr. Ginsburg.

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Mrs. C. Worsley writes, from Beyrout, that the Druses consider themselves descendants of the two-and-a-half tribes of Israel who settled beyond Jordan. They say they "come from Gad," which our correspondent considers to mean the Baal Gad alluded to by Major Conder in the July number of the *Quarterly Statement* for 1891.

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The ceremony of turning the first sod of the Syria Ottoman Railway, connecting the port of Haifa with Damascus, took place on December 13th at the foot of Mount Carmel. Mrs. Pilling, wife of the President of the Company, performed the function, in presence of the principal Mohammedan notabilities of the district, and some 15,000 of the inhabitants. The proceedings, which passed off most successfully, and amid great enthusiasm, were followed by a grand banquet at which the principal local officials and representatives of the Ottoman Government were present.

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The Rev. T. E. Dowling, of Jerusalem, writes:—"One drawback when travelling through Palestine and Syria is the imperfect and unreliable information which is obtained through the ordinary Dragoman. He is helpful in many respects, but whether he has seen a copy of the 21 sheets of the Old and New Testament map of the Palestine Exploration Fund or ever read a number of the *Quarterly Statement* is doubtful.

"You will, therefore, learn with pleasure that a second course of lectures is to be delivered in the Holy City during the coming winter, which series Dragomans are particularly invited to attend, and to take notes, and ask questions."

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

In a note on the last *Quarterly Statement* the "Jewish Chronicle" remarks:—"A glance at the advertisements makes one seriously regret that the fine map of Palestine published at a low price by the Exploration Society has been so little patronised by members of the Jewish community. . . . Major Conder's 'Tent work in Palestine' would form an appropriate and acceptable gift as a prize or birthday present."

The value of the work of the Fund and its officers in elucidating the Bible histories is strikingly shown in the Rev. Charles Neil's new work "The Teacher's Synoptical Syllabus of Scripture Lessons," several of the maps in which are by Major Conder and by Mr. George Armstrong. The "Names and Places in the Old and New Testament and the Apocrypha" by Mr. Armstrong is enumerated by Mr. Neil as one of the books which were found "extremely helpful" in drawing up his valuable "syllabus."

The following may be had on application to the Assistant Secretary at the Office of the Fund, viz. :—

Casts of the Tablet with a Cuneiform Inscription found at Tell-el-Hesy, price 2s. 6d. each.

Casts of the Ancient Hebrew Weight brought by Dr. Chaplin from Samaria, price 2s. 6d. each.

Casts of an Inscribed Bead from Palestine, forwarded by Professor Wright, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A., price 1s. each.

Photographs of Tell-el-Hesy, showing the excavations, price 1s. each.

The following gentlemen have kindly consented to act as Honorary Local Secretaries: The Rev. Robert Campbell, St Margaret's Manse, Dunfermline, in place of the Rev. James Brown, resigned; The Rev. Robert Edmund Parr, West Hartlepool; The Rev. E. H. Cross, D.D., Belvedere, Trinity Road, Folkestone; The Rev. W. Earl, Hadly, Wellington, Salop.

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

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.

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 :—

- “The Land of Promise.” By H. Bonar, D.D. From J. A. Eastwood, Esq.  
 “The Holy City, Jerusalem, its Topography, Walls, and Temples.” By S. Russell Forbes, D.D. From the Author.  
 “Le Château de Baniyas et ses Inscriptions.” By M. Max Van Berchem. From the Author.  
 “The Temple of Ezekiel’s Prophecy.” By Henry Sulley. 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 other Bible Lands. A list of these will be published in the April *Quarterly Statement*.

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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 third and revised edition of “Heth and Moab” is now ready.

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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.” The Index to the *Quarterly Statements* is being brought up to date.

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The first volume of the “Survey of Eastern Palestine,” by Major Conder, 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 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.

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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 16) 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 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.

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*1 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.*

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The first and second parts, Vol. I., of "Felix Fabri," were issued to subscribers to the Pilgrim's Text Society in May and July of last year. 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.) has also been published by the same Society.

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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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We regret that, owing to Mr. George Armstrong being laid aside by a severe attack of influenza, the statement of the financial position of the Fund has to be postponed until our next issue.

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Subscribers are requested 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 "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.

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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.