

THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. F. J. BLISS'S detailed report of his work at Tell el Hesi is nearly completed, and will be published shortly.

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Our indefatigable correspondent, Herr Baurath von Schick, sends accounts of recent discoveries at "Tabitha," Jaffa; of Baron Ustinoff's archaeological collection; of observations at the supposed St. Martin's Church, Jerusalem; and of excavations on the rocky knoll west of the so-called "Skull Hill," which have brought to light a remarkable circular wall of reticulated masonry, enclosing a space 80 feet in diameter, and from 10 to 14 feet deep.

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The discovery, in the country of the Philistines, of antique metal figures of animals resembling mice, as described by Herr Baurath von Schick, is most interesting in connection with the account in 1 Samuel, vi, of the sending away of the Ark of God.

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The construction of the Haifa-Damascus Railway is proceeding. By the kindness of Mr. Pilling, arrangements have been entered into for archaeological discoveries made in the course of the works to be reported to the Fund, and, if necessary, to be carefully examined. In the present number of the *Quarterly Statement* will be found a note by Mr. Schumacher on some ancient rock-cut wine presses near Haifa.

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Much interest has been manifested in Mr. P. Baldensperger's paper on the "Folklore of the Peasants of Palestine," which appeared in our last issue. We are now enabled to publish a paper by the same gentleman on the "Religion of the Fellahin." Both papers are in the form of answers to the "Questions" issued by the Fund.

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Mr. Robinson Lees, of Jerusalem, has just made a very interesting journey across Bashan from Amman to Salcad *via* Kulat ez Zerka, an account of which will, it is hoped, appear in the next *Quarterly Statement*.

According to the "Jewish Chronicle" of August 11th, "the colonists at Zichron Jacob have given effect to Baron Edmond Rothschild's wish that they should substitute pure Hebrew for Jüdisch-Deutsch as the medium for conversation. They now speak nothing but Hebrew." It will be interesting to watch the progress of this movement. After the Babylonian Captivity, pure Hebrew was never the language of the common people of Palestine. It is said that at Safed, and in less degree at Jerusalem, Jewish children, both boys and girls, may now be heard speaking Hebrew to one another.

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The Rev. Theodore E. Dowling, Jerusalem, asks for *reliable* information as to the origin of the "Jerusalem Cross." Four theories of the early history of this cross are current in Jerusalem.

Can any date, prior to that of the Crusading Kingdom of Jerusalem, be assigned to it?

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The Rev. Theodore E. Dowling, Hon. Secretary for Jerusalem, who is about starting on a tour in India, has been authorized to receive subscriptions and obtain the names of ladies and gentlemen who are desirous of helping the Committee as Hon. Secretaries. Mr. G. Robinson Lees will act as Hon. Secretary for Jerusalem during the absence of Mr. Dowling.

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The crocodile skin from Nahr el Zerka, mentioned in the July *Quarterly*, having been presented to the Fund by Mr. Howard, has been stuffed and fitted with an artificial head, and is now on view at the office of the Fund.

The following is from the "Daily Chronicle":—"The presence of crocodiles in the river Zarka, near Cæsarea, has often been a disputed point. It has been alleged that an Egyptian colony transported crocodiles to the spot for the purpose of worship about 400 B.C."

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The Rev. Duncan Frazer, of Melbourne, writes that at the north-west shore of the Dead Sea he "saw, in the perfectly clear water, some small minnow-like fishes swimming a few feet from the water's edge." The Rev. Canon Tristram, to whom Mr. Duncan's note was referred, writes that "it is a very familiar fact that *Cyprinodon dispar* live in swarms in the shallow lagoons fed by the warm springs which bubble up through the sand at the north-west end of the Dead Sea. Note in 'Fauna and Flora,' p. 170, will clearly explain the matter."

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The "Times" of September 18th contains the following remarks on Mr. Armstrong's new raised map of Palestine:—"After five years of untiring industry Mr. George Armstrong, the Assistant Secretary to the Palestine Exploration Fund, has produced and perfected a work of which he may justly feel proud. A raised map must prove of the greatest interest to all who have visited or intend to visit the tract of country which it represents, affording, as it does, a picture *au vol d'oiseau* of all the physical features. Mr. Armstrong's interesting work will faithfully present to those who have had the advantage of touring in Palestine the old familiar routes they have traversed, and will give to those who have yet to enjoy such a journey a clear idea of the sort of country they may expect to see. The map, which is constructed on the basis of the Surveys of the Palestine Exploration Fund, on a scale of  $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. to the

mile, embraces the whole country from Baalbec to Kadesh Barnea, and shows nearly all that is known on the east of the Jordan. The natural features of the country stand out prominently, and show at a glance the relative proportions of the mountains, heights, valleys, and plains. The seas, lakes, marshes, and perennial streams are shown in blue, the watercourses on the plains and the main roads are marked by a grooved line, the Old and New Testament sites in red, and the hills and plains in white. Names are given to the coast and a few inland towns, but other towns are numbered to correspond to a reference list of names. The map measures 7 feet 6 inches by 4 feet. It will, perhaps, be specially interesting at the present time, when railway operations are going on in the country. The course of the new railway from Haifa to Damascus can be clearly traced, and the nature of the country it crosses can be seen at a glance. No doubt, too, the educational use to which the map will be put will be very considerable. Casts in fibrous plaster can now be had."

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The Rev. Charles Harris, Milton-next-Sittingbourne, Kent, has been added to the List of Lecturers for the Fund; see p. 268 for subjects.

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Index to the *Quarterly Statement*.—A new edition of the Index to the *Quarterly Statements* has been compiled. It embraces the years 1869 (the first issue of the journal) to the end of 1892. Contents:—Names of the Authors and of the Papers contributed by them; List of the Illustrations; and General Index. This Index will be found extremely useful. Price to subscribers to the Fund, 1s. 6d., post free; non-subscribers, 2s.

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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 published. 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.

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A complete set of the Fund's publications, together with a copy of the new raised map of Palestine, have been sent to the Chicago Exhibition, and will be found in the British Section, Gallery of the Liberal Arts Building, by the side of the Oxford University Extension exhibit.

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The Committee have appointed the Rev. Professor Theodore Wright, Hon. General Secretary to the Fund in the U.S.A., to be their representative at the Chicago Exhibition.

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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 Hesi, price 2s. 6d. each.

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

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

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

The Rev. W. M. Teape, 4, Clyde Terrace, Stockton-on-Tees, has kindly consented to act as Honorary Local Secretary.

The translation of the first portion of M. Clermont-Ganneau's work, "Archæological Researches in Palestine," is completed. The second part, it is expected, will be in the hands of the translator soon.

The new railway from Jaffa to Jerusalem has been laid down on the three sheets of the large map. Scale 1 inch = 1 mile. Copies of these sheets are now ready. Price to subscribers to the work of the Fund, 2s. each; non-subscribers, 2s. 6d.

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:—

"Modern Science in Bible Lands." By Sir J. William Dawson, C.M.G., LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S., &c. Published by Hodder and Stoughton, London. From the Author.

"Jerusalem Illustrated." By J. Robinson Lees, F.R.G.S. Published by Mawson, Swan, and Morgan, Newcastle-on-Tyne. From the Author.

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. See list of Books, July *Quarterly Statement*.

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 third and revised edition of "Heth and Moab" is now ready.

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 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. A. P. Watt and Son, 2, Paternoster Square, are the Sole Agents. The attention of intending subscribers is directed to the announcement in the last page 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 7 and 9 to 18) can be obtained by subscribers to the Fund on application to the Head Office only (24, Hanover Square, W.), for £3 10s. 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.

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 twenty-one years of its existence.

- (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)."
- (17) "The City and the Land."—A course of seven lectures on the work of the Fund, 2nd edition, with Plan of Jerusalem, according to Josephus, now ready.
- (18) "The Tell Amarna Tablets," including the one found at Lachish. By Major C. R. Conder, D.C.L., R.E.

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 20 sheets, with paper cover; price to subscribers to the Fund, 2*s.*; 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 20-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, 12*s. 6d.*; to the public, £1 1*s.*

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.

Single copies of these maps in sheets, with cover, can be sent by post to all foreign countries at an extra charge of 1s.

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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.*

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*New Raised Map of Palestine.*—The want has long been felt, and the wish often expressed, that a map showing the physical features of the Holy Land on a scale sufficiently large to show at a glance the relative proportions of the mountains, valleys, plains, &c., should be produced on the basis of the Surveys of the Palestine Exploration Fund.

This has now been accomplished by Mr. George Armstrong, Assistant Secretary to the Fund. The Raised Map embraces the whole country from Baalbek to Kadesh Barnea, and shows on the east of Jordan nearly all that is known. It is a reproduction in bold relief of the recently issued map, on the scale of three-eighths of an inch to the mile.

The seas, lakes, marshes, and perennial streams are in blue, the watercourses on the plains and main roads are marked by a grooved line, the Old and New Testament sites in red, and the plains and hills are in white.

Names are given to the coast towns and a few of the inland ones; the others have numbers corresponding with a reference sheet. The map measures 7 feet 6 inches by 4 feet, and is on view at the Office of the Fund, 24, Hanover Square.

Casts of this Map in fibrous plaster, partly coloured and framed, can be had for £7 7s. by Subscribers to the Fund; to the public, £10 10s.

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Photographs of the raised map are now ready. Size, 16½ inches by 8½ inches, price 5s.; 8 inches by 4½ inches, 1s.

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Subscribers to the Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society will receive in the course of the month the following translations which have just been completed:—

- (1) Felix Fabri. Part 1, vol. II (1484 A.D.).
  - (2) The Itinerary of Bernard the Wise (870 A.D.), and How the City of Jerusalem is Situated (1090 circ. A.D.).
  - (3) Theodosius on the Topography of the Holy Land (530 A.D.).
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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.

The income of the Society, from June 22nd, 1893, to September 18th, 1893, was—from annual subscriptions and donations, including Local Societies, £148 10s. 7d.; from all sources—£312 7s. The expenditure during the same period was £415 10s. 9d. On September 19th the balance in the Bank was £229 6s. 7d.

Subscribers are requested to note that the following can be had by application to the office, at 1s. each:—

1. Cases for binding Herr Schumacher's "Jaulân."
2. Cases for binding the *Quarterly Statement*, in green or chocolate.
3. Cases for binding "Abila," "Pella," and "Ajlûn" in one volume.

Back numbers of the *Quarterly Statement*.—In order to make up complete sets, the Committee will be very glad to receive any of the following numbers:—

No. II, 1869; Nos. VI and VII, 1870; No. III, 1871; January and April, 1872; October, 1873; January, 1874; January and October, 1875; January, 1883, and January, 1886.

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 authorised lecturers for the Society are—

The Rev. Thomas Harrison, F.R.G.S., 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.*

The Rev. J. R. Macpherson, B.D., Kinnaird Manse, Inchture, N.B. His subjects are as follows:—

- (1) *The Work of the Palestine Exploration Fund.*
- (2) *The Survey of Palestine.*
- (3) *The City of Jerusalem.*
- (4) *Eastern Palestine.*
- (5) *Calvary and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.*

The Rev. J. Llewelyn Thomas, M.A., Briton Ferry, Glamorganshire, South Wales. His subjects are as follows :—

- (1) *Explorations in Judea.*
- (2) *Research and Discovery in Samaria and Galilee.*
- (3) *In Bible Lands ; a Narrative of Personal Experiences.*
- (4) *The Reconstruction of Jerusalem.*
- (5) *Problems of Palestine.*

The Rev. Charles Harris, Milton-next-Sittingbourne, Kent—

- (1) *Modern Discoveries in Palestine.*
- (2) *Stories in Stones ; or, New Light on the Old Testament.*

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.*

The Rev. L. G. A. Roberts, Hudson Parsonage, Province Quebec, Canada. His subjects are as follows :—

- (1) *Work in and around the Holy City.*
- (2) *Work outside the Holy City.*
- (3) *Popular Lecture upon the General Results obtained by the Fund.*

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