

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the General Committee was held at the Office of the Fund, 24, Hanover Square, on Tuesday, July 16th, 1895.

JAMES GLAISHER, Esq., F.R.S., occupied the chair.

Amongst those present were Major-General Sir Charles Wilson, K.C.B.; Professor E. Hull, F.R.S.; Rev. Canon Dalton, C.M.S.; Dr. Ginsburg, J.P., and John Pollard, Esq. Letters or telegrams regretting their absence were received from Lord Amherst of Hackney, Viscount Sidmouth, Admiral Sir Erasmus Ommanney, Sir Walter Besant, Lieut.-Colonel Watson, R.E., F. D. Mocatta, Esq., Rev. H. G. Tomkins, and others.

The following Report of the Executive Committee was read:—

GENTLEMEN,

In resigning the office to which they were appointed at the last Annual Meeting of the Fund, your Executive Committee have the honour to render the following Report:—

They have held twenty-one meetings for the transaction of business, and there have been three meetings of Sub-Committees.

The excavations at Jerusalem were last year continued without interruption until the winter season, when they had to be suspended for a time. In April of the present year they were resumed, and have since been carried on by Dr. Bliss and his assistants with much skill and energy.

As the heavy labour and responsibility were a great strain upon Dr. Bliss's strength, the Executive Committee, after careful consideration, resolved to send out from England a gentleman fully qualified to make plans and drawings and to assist in the excavations. Mr. Archibald Campbell Dickie, A.R.I.B.A., was accordingly appointed. He arrived at Jerusalem towards the end of March, and has already done excellent service.

The excavations have been mainly confined to the tracing of the line of an ancient wall south of the present city wall; but Dr. Bliss has also, at the request of his Excellency Hamdy Bey, Director of the Archaeological Museum at Constantinople, made some interesting excavations of a ruined and buried church on the Mount of Olives.

In the course of the year 1894 the remains of an ancient tower close to the south-eastern side of the Protestant burial ground were exposed, and a number of other towers discovered in the line of the wall, whilst the wall itself was traced as far as the north-western boundary of the Jewish cemetery. A gateway also was discovered in this wall, about 150 feet south-east of the first-named tower, with a paved road leading

up from it in a north-easterly direction. On one of the slabs covering a drain under this road a large Jerusalem cross was carved, showing, Dr. Bliss remarks, that the drain had been used and repaired in the times of the Crusaders.

On re-commencing work in the spring of the present year, Dr. Bliss sought for and found the wall again on the south-eastern side of the Jewish cemetery, and following it down towards the valley discovered, just at its turn towards the north, another most interesting gateway, a full account of which is published in the *Quarterly Statement* for July. With reference to this gateway Major-General Sir Charles Wilson has favoured us with the following valuable note :—

“It is too early to write with any degree of certainty on the age of the interesting wall and gateway which have been discovered by Dr. Bliss. That wall certainly enclosed Siloam, and the following statements seem to throw light on the subject. Josephus distinctly says (“Wars,” V, 9, § 4) that Siloam was outside the walls. Antoninus (570 A.D.) writes : ‘The fountain of Siloam is at the present day within the walls of the city, because the Empress Eudocia herself added these walls to the city.’ We have thus two definite statements—one, by a contemporary writer, that Siloam was outside the walls at the time of the great siege ; the other, by a Western pilgrim, that the fountain was brought within the walls by Eudocia, who was at Jerusalem between 438–454. Eudocia’s object was probably to protect the church of Siloam which, if not built by the Empress, could only have been recently erected. Theodosius (530 A.D.) mentions that the pool of Siloam was within the walls in his day ; and the restoration of the walls by Eudocia is alluded to by Evagrius in his ‘Ecclesiastical History’ (i, 22).

“The wall and gateway discovered by Dr. Bliss are exactly in the position in which we should expect to find the wall and gateway of Eudocia, and the character of the masonry seems to indicate that both have been largely built with stones from older buildings. Other details equally point to a date not earlier than the fifth century. The spade has, however, so often proved historical notices to be wrong that we must wait for the result of the further excavations which Dr. Bliss has been instructed to make before theorising. Those excavations will, it is believed, settle the question whether the wall described by Josephus followed the line of that discovered by Dr. Bliss, or, as I think, kept to a higher level and crossed the Tyropæon Valley above the Pool of Siloam. In any case, the discoveries are of deep interest, and we must all hope that Dr. Bliss will soon be restored to health, and be able to continue the great work upon which he is engaged.”

In the month of March, Dr. Bliss made, by permission of the Committee, a journey to the land of Moab. He was furnished with a recommendatory letter from H.E. Hamdy Bey, and met with a very friendly reception from the Governor of Kerak, who afforded him every opportunity of exploring the neighbourhood, measuring and making plans of buildings, taking photographs, and copying inscriptions. The

result of this important visit has been the confirmation of many observations made by Canon Tristram and other explorers, and the discovery of the ruins of a Roman fort and a Roman town not previously known; of no less than four Christian churches at Madeba, and of other remains of much interest. A large packet of squeezes of the Greek and Latin inscriptions from Madeba have been received, some of which have been published in the *Quarterly Statement*, and others have not yet been examined.

Unfortunately, soon after his return to Jerusalem Dr. Bliss was taken ill, and had to seek change and rest at his home in Beirut. The latest account, dated July 2nd, says that he hopes to be sufficiently recovered to return in a couple of weeks to his work at Jerusalem; meanwhile the excavations are being superintended by Mr. Dickie.

A beautiful mosaic pavement with an Armenian inscription has been discovered north of the city of Jerusalem; accounts of it by Herr von Schick and Dr. Bliss were published in the *Quarterly Statement*, October, 1894, together with photographs. Dr. A. S. Murray, of the British Museum, has supplied a valuable note upon it, with a translation of the inscription by the Rev. S. Baronian, of Manchester (*Quarterly Statement*, January, 1895).

Baurath von Schick has continued, with his well-known perseverance, to note discoveries in and around the Holy City, and has forwarded many valuable reports respecting them. The discovery of a stair and postern in the old northern wall of Jerusalem, between Damascus Gate and the north-west corner of the city, is especially interesting.

He is still following closely the work going on at the Muristan, carefully noting the rock levels as opportunity occurs, with the view of throwing light upon the difficult enquiry as to the authenticity of the site of the Holy Sepulchre.

The wind having blown down the iron-bound door of Neby Daûd, which for some years had remained open against the wall, there was disclosed in the wall behind it an inscription which seems not to have been before noticed. It is in Latin, and, according to Dr. Bliss's report, is a votive tablet to Jupiter on behalf of the welfare and greatness of the Emperor Trajan and the Roman people, erected by the Third Legion, which takes us back to the interval between the destruction by Titus and the founding of Celia Capitolina. It was partly covered with plaster, and may have been entirely covered when the door was last opened and shut, which may account for its being unnoticed. It is built into the modern wall about 15 feet above the ground. Roman inscriptions are very rare in Jerusalem, and this discovery is therefore of exceptional interest.

Thus the period which has elapsed since our last Annual Meeting has been remarkably fruitful in discoveries and observations of importance, affording proof, if any were needed, of the continued usefulness of the Fund, and of the desirability of prosecuting its further labours with energy and zeal.

A course of lectures on the objects and work of the Fund was again delivered in Jerusalem during the tourist season, and the Committee desire to record their most grateful thanks to the several gentlemen who assisted in these lectures.

The publications of the year have been :—

- “Thirty Years’ Work in the Holy Land.”
 New edition of “Tent Work in Palestine.”
 ” ” “The Bible and Modern Discoveries.”
 ” ” “Names and Places.”

As in former years, the Fund has been indebted to many explorers and scholars for valuable contributions to the *Quarterly Statements*.

Conspicuous among these are a narrative of a journey in the Hauran, by the Rev. W. Ewing, and copies of a large number of inscriptions collected by him there, which have been edited by A. G. Wright, Esq., and A. Souter, Esq.

Amongst the other papers are :—

By Herr Baurath von Schick—

- “The beautiful Mosaic Pavement north of Jerusalem”; “The Stair and Postern in the Old Wall of Jerusalem”; “Recent Discoveries on the Mount of Olives”; “Bethzur”; “The Muristan”; “Excavations inside the New (North) Gate of Jerusalem”; “Reckoning of Time among the Armenians;” “The Church at Deir ez Zeituny,” &c.

By the Rev. Canon Dalton an opportune and useful paper on the “First Wall of Ancient Jerusalem.”

By P. J. Baldensperger, Esq.—

- “The Birth of Abu Zaid”; “Beit Dejan.”

By Lieut.-Colonel C. M. Watson, C.M.G., R.E.—

- “The Stoppage of the River Jordan in A.D. 1267,” from data supplied by M. Clermont-Ganneau.

By A. G. Wright, Esq.—

- “Syria and Arabia.”

By Ebenezer Davis, Esq.—

- “The Siloam and later Palestinian Inscriptions”; “On the Hæmatite Weight from Samaria.”

By Marcus N. Adler, Esq.—

- “Jewish Pilgrims in Palestine.”

By William Simpson, Esq.—

- “On the Swastica.”

By Professor Theodore F. Wright, Ph. D.—

- “Note on the Swastica”; “The Julian Inscription in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.”

By Samuel Bergheim, Esq.—

“The Identification of the City of David—Zion and Millo.”

By Rev. W. F. Birch—

“Ancient Jerusalem”; “The Sepulchres of David on Ophel”; “The City of David.”

By Rev. George Adam Smith, D.D.—

“On Aphek in Sharon.”

By Major Conder, D.C.L., R.E.—

Various Notes.

By Professor Sayce, the late Professor Robertson W. Smith, Dr. Chaplin, and others—

Notes and Correspondence respecting the Hæmatite Weight from Samaria.

To the Chairman of the Fund also, James Glaisher, Esq., F.R.S., the *Statement* has been indebted for a continuation of his reports on the Meteorological Observations taken in Palestine under the auspices of the Fund.

The Committee desire to express their most sincere thanks to the Honorary Local Secretaries for their personal exertions, and to all friends and subscribers for their continued support in carrying out the programme of the Fund.

Since the last annual meeting 263 new annual subscribers have been added. The number who have been removed by death and other causes is 115, leaving an increase of 148.

Your Committee have to record with regret the deaths of the following members of the General Committee :—

Professor J. G. Greenwood.

Sir E. A. H. Lechmere, Bart., M.P.

Very Rev. Robert Payne Smith, D.D., Dean of Canterbury.

Sir Cyril Graham, Bart., C.M.G.

Professor Reginald Poole, LL.D.

Your Committee have the honour of proposing that the following gentlemen be elected members of the General Committee :—

Rev. Charles Wright Barclay, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge.

John Murray, Esq., publisher.

H. S. Noble, Esq., Cork.

P. Mackinnon, Esq., Rosemount, Campbeltown.

Colonel Farquharson, C.B., R.E., Director General, Ordnance Survey.

The following is the Balance Sheet showing the total receipts and expenditure during the year 1894, and the Treasurer's Statement, which were published in the April *Quarterly Statement* :—

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1894.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.					
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance in Bank 31st December, 1893—							1,050	0	0
Net Balance	£397	13	10	By Exploration					
Subscriptions paid in 1893 in				Printing and Binding, including the <i>Quarterly</i>			548	19	8
advance for 1894	20	14	0	<i>Statement</i>					
			418	7	10	Maps, Lithographs, Illustrations, Photographs,			
Donations and Subscriptions	1,778	16	0	Slides, Casts, &c.			283	16	7
From Lectures	126	18	5	Advertising, Insurance, Stationery, and			68	3	8
From Sales of Books	400	18	6	Sundries					
From Sales of Maps, Photographs, Slides, Casts,				Postage, including <i>Quarterly Statements</i> , Books,			132	11	9
&c.	330	10	3	Maps, Parcels, &c.					
				Salaries and Wages			359	14	9
				Office Rent, Gas and Coals			234	18	4
				Subscriptions paid in 1894 in					
				advance for 1895			£51	8	6
				Net Balance			325	17	9
							377	6	3
				Balance in Bank 31st December, 1895			377	6	3
							£3,055	11	0

Examined and found correct,
W. MORRISON, *Treasurer*.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

The Subscriptions and Donations to the work of the Fund during the year 1894 amounted to £1,778 16s. 0*d.*, an increase of £204 2s. 0*d.* over the amount received in 1893.

From Lectures there is an increase of £110. The sale of books, maps, and the various publications brought in £731 8s. 9*d.*, as against £832 16s. 3*d.* expended on their production, to which should be added the postage. The amount spent on Exploration is £1,050.

The *Quarterly Statement*, which is issued free to annual subscribers of 10s. 6*d.* and upwards, cost for printing and illustrations over £450.

ASSETS.	£ s. d.	LIABILITIES.	£ s. d.
Balance in Bank.. ..	377 6 3	Printing, Lithographing, and Current Expenses	567 13 6
Stock of Publications on hand, Surveying In- struments, Show Cases, Furniture.		Exploration.	
In addition there is the valuable library and the unique collection of antiques, models, &c.			

The CHAIRMAN said:—I cannot but express the satisfaction I feel at the results of our working last year. Much tact and judgment have been exercised by Dr. Bliss and others engaged in the work in Palestine. We are glad to know that they are working well with the owners of the property in which excavations are being made, and that there is no difficulty in this respect at the present time. You have heard the remarks in the Report by Sir Charles Wilson in reference to the gateway last discovered. They were most carefully considered, and I agree with him that we must wait until further researches are made. There have been times in the year in which we have had anxiety about money matters. It is impossible to carry on the work in Jerusalem for less than £1,200 a year, but your Executive will not allow the work to stop, though they may at times be short of money. I think that if the admirable work which this Fund is doing in Jerusalem were more generally known, we should not be troubled as we sometimes are by financial perplexities. The closing remark of the Report is, that we have more subscribers than last year. Well, that is a step in the right direction. I feel that if the public had but the slightest conception of the work we are doing, we should have no anxiety at all. I will now ask if any gentleman has any remark to make upon the Report, and if there is no remark, I will move that it be received, adopted, and entered upon our Minutes.

Mr. JOHN POLLARD.—I have pleasure in seconding it.

The resolution was carried.

The CHAIRMAN.—There is a gentleman here—Dr. Masterman—who has seen our works going on at Jerusalem, and perhaps he will favour us with a few remarks and tell us something of what he has seen, if it be agreeable to him so to do.

Dr. MASTERMAN.—I had no idea you were going to call upon me to say anything, and I have not had the opportunity yet of reading the Report upon the work in the July number of the *Quarterly Statement*, so that I am not in a very good position to say much about it, except that I have watched with very great interest all that Dr. Bliss has done. I think I have seen all that he has seen of the wall and of the gateways. There is one thing of special interest connected with the gates, namely, that they show evidence of belonging to two or three periods—certainly to two periods—so that they must have been used for a very considerable length of time. The sills at the entrance to the lower recently-discovered gateway, and the sockets for the gates exist in three layers, and the upper layer is wider and evidently more finished than the lower one. These gateways were apparently only for foot-passengers, and were not very wide. Dr. Bliss discovered a cross on the stone pavement going from the upper gateway in a north-easterly direction. It is rather unfortunate that that stone with the cross on it was left and has been covered up, so that only those who were actually engaged with Dr. Bliss at the time had an opportunity of seeing it. I have seen the other things mentioned in the Annual Report. That mosaic pavement was certainly one of great beauty. I think there was a photograph of it in the *Quarterly Statement*, and the colouring, which could not be shown in the photograph, was very beautiful indeed. I may say, in conclusion, that we who live in Jerusalem feel a continual debt of gratitude to the Palestine Exploration Fund, because, whatever it may mean to the people in England, it means a great deal to us to have the benefit of the accumulated knowledge of explorers who have gone before, and to have the opportunity of watching from time to time the new discoveries which are made; and I am sure that, when going about the country here, I feel astonished how difficult it is to raise the enthusiasm of some people for a Fund which to all students of the Bible should be of the greatest importance. (Applause.)

Mr. CRACE.—What is the difference in the levels of the two sills of the gate?

Dr. MASTERMAN.—I am only speaking from memory, but I think it is about a foot. Dr. Bliss thought he had three levels, but I did not mention the lowest one, because I had no opportunity of seeing the actual sockets. The other two sockets were quite evident. I think I may say that in the upper gateway one might be sure of three, but in the lower gateway, at the time I left, there were only two which were quite clear.

Canon DALTON.—There was no metal work found in the socket.

Dr. MASTERMAN.—No, only the rounded mark left by something having moved about.

Mr. CRACE.—It is ascertained that with the ordinary life of most

cities, the soil level of a thoroughfare is raised about a foot in a century, and therefore the existence of two gateways with the soil of one a foot above the level of the soil of another, would rather imply that the gates had been used for something like a century.

Professor HULL.—I should like to ask the Chairman whether there is still a demand for the raised map, and whether many copies have been sold during the past year? I daresay Mr. Armstrong will be able to tell us.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—There is still a steady demand for it. Three copies were ordered last week.

Professor HULL.—That is very satisfactory. Have any been sent to foreign countries?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes, they have been sent to Russia, the Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, various parts of America, England, Ireland, Scotland, &c.

Professor HULL.—It seems to have quite a world-wide reputation.

The CHAIRMAN.—Well, I think we cannot but tender our thanks to those who have been faithful to us, and in the first place we have our Honorary Secretary, Sir Walter Besant. I do not know whether it is fortunate or not, that he has undertaken the herculean task of the History of London, but I only hope that he will have health and strength to go through with it. I have just had a telegram from him explaining his absence. He generally writes to me if he cannot come. To-day he has some American friends to meet, and so he telegraphed that he would be probably late, but would be here if possible. I can assure you that I am always glad to see him near me at every meeting, for his experience is so great. As for Mr. Armstrong—the Assistant-Secretary—well, every trust placed in him is carried out to the best of his ability, and I cannot help saying that sometimes I have wished our funds were more, so that I could propose some increase in his remuneration. But at the present moment we can scarcely do that, though I look forward to the time coming when it can be done. (Applause.) Of the Editor of our *Statement* I need not say one word, the *Statement* speaks for itself. The admirable manner in which it is conducted is shown by the interest taken in it. To him we are very greatly indebted. (Hear, hear.) Then there is our Treasurer. Once he was away, and I had to go through his work, and I know what he does. It was the work of a trained accountant. Once upon a time I could do it very well myself, but I am getting so old now that I would rather that others do it. To all these gentlemen I would ask you to give a warm vote of thanks for their services, and I would ask those who agree with me to hold up their hands. (This was carried.) Then we come to Dr. Bliss and Mr. Schick. Mr. Schick is not a young man in years, but he is young in thought, and no one would suppose that he, who sends us such interesting papers, is more than seventy years of age. They are full of a spirit which would make one think he was youthful, and we thank him very

much. I am sure you will also agree with me in thanking Dr. Bliss for the excellent work he has done. (Hear, hear.) And to Mr. Dickie, also, we must be grateful. He has not been long there, but he has already sent us some admirable drawings. One thing in the reports pleases me much. It is the statement that if they happen on an interesting stone, they do not move it, or if compelled to remove it, they take drawings of the stone before they do so. Mr. Dickie's pencil speaks so admirably that we can see such things ourselves, and I am sure we must all feel grateful to him for his sketches. (Hear, hear.) Then another to whom we are indebted is Hamdy Bey, the Superintendent of the Museum at Constantinople, who aids and assists us considerably. As was mentioned in the Report, he gave letters to Dr. Bliss, which smoothed his way as he went to Moab. We are also indebted, I should like to say, to his Excellency Ibrahim Pasha, the Governor of Jerusalem. It is a fortunate thing that these gentlemen enter kindly into our desires, and sympathise with us in our pursuits, and do not check us in them. I am sure you will all feel grateful to them for the good feeling they have evinced towards us, as well as for the active assistance they have given. (Hear, hear.) Now, gentlemen, I may say the Committee have pleasure in proposing that the following gentlemen be members of the General Committee. (The names read.) This was seconded and carried.

The CHAIRMAN.—Then there now remains the election of the Executive Committee, and that I cannot propose.

Mr. POLLARD.—I have pleasure in proposing the re-election of the Executive Committee. I am only a member of the General Committee, and therefore I am able to move this. The Report has been most interesting, and I think the work done during the year has been most satisfactory.

This was seconded and carried.

The CHAIRMAN.—Well, gentlemen, that concludes our business, and I can only urge everyone to assist us as far as possible, for we are entering upon a phase of deep interest. I believe that interesting as the work has been already, if it should be continued, and it should be my good fortune to sit in this chair next year, I shall have to announce something which will delight everyone of us. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. GINSBURG.—I think before we separate, gentlemen, we ought to give our most hearty thanks to our Chairman, who so constantly attends, and who indeed, though he is probably the senior of all of us, never fails to inspire us with earnestness and zeal for the work.

Mr. POLLARD.—I have the greatest pleasure in seconding that.

Professor HULL.—I am sure we are all delighted to see Mr. Glaisher in such admirable health, so vigorous in all his connection with this Society, whose meetings he has attended for so many years. We are all delighted to see him in his place as our Chairman. (Applause.)

The resolution was heartily carried.

The CHAIRMAN.—Gentlemen, I thank you sincerely. Your kind words encourage me very much. I am only too glad to do anything I can for the Fund. I think during the whole of last year I was present at every meeting. (Applause.) For I hold this as a principle, that the Chairman who does his duty can scarcely miss a meeting. I thank you very much indeed for the kind vote you have given to me.

The proceedings were then concluded.
