

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Fund was held on Tuesday, July 14th, when the large room of the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, kindly lent for the occasion, was well filled by subscribers and their friends. A full report of the meeting will be found in the present number.

The Committee desire most earnestly to draw attention to the present financial position of the Fund. As will be seen by reference to the Treasurer's Report then presented there are outstanding liabilities amounting to nearly £1,000, and besides these, the excavations now in progress at Jerusalem cost about £100 a month.

The majority of members subscribe half a guinea a year. For this they receive the *Quarterly Statement* free by post. The cost of this is little more than covered by their subscription. Hence it results that the majority of the subscribers at the present moment cannot be said to be more than nominally contributing towards the active work of the Fund in Palestine.

The Committee venture to think that this fact can scarcely be fully appreciated by subscribers.

The importance of the excavations now in progress, to all who take an intelligent interest in ancient Jerusalem, cannot be exaggerated. The success that has hitherto attended the devoted labours of Dr. Bliss and Mr. Dickie is incontestable. They are now at work in the Tyropæon Valley. For the Committee to be compelled for financial reasons to suspend or delay the completion of these excavations would be most lamentable from every point of view.

The Committee would therefore, in order to avert such a catastrophe, respectfully ask the majority of subscribers to the Palestine Exploration Fund to consider whether they will not endeavour to increase their subscriptions, at all events while these important excavations are in hand.

If the majority of those who now subscribe half a guinea would make it a whole guinea the anxiety of the Committee, as regards the financial position of the Fund, would be greatly relieved.

At the same time any further contributions that the guinea subscribers might be liberal enough to make in response to the present urgent needs of the Fund would also be devoted to the acceleration of the excavations.

Dr. Bliss's excavations in the Tyropæon Valley have brought to light a very remarkable stone stairway, forming part of a road leading down from the city past the Pool of Siloam. This stairway is 24 feet broad, and on its eastern side is a parapet, apparently constructed to prevent passengers falling over the scarp which exists there. The steps are 34 in number, so far as discovered. They are about 7 inches in height, and are arranged in a system of wide and narrow treads alternately, the wide treads measuring between 4 and 5 feet in breadth, and the narrow ones about one foot and a quarter. The stones composing these stairs are well jointed, and finely polished by footwear.

It is impossible not to be reminded by this most important discovery of the statement in Nehemiah iii, 15, that Shallun repaired the gate of the fountain, the wall of the Pool of Siloam, by the King's Garden, "and unto the stairs that go down from the City of David." It is not suggested that these newly discovered stairs are identical with those mentioned by Nehemiah, but possibly they may be on the same site.

As will be seen on the plan accompanying Dr. Bliss's report, this stairway is less than 30 feet west of the western wall of the (present) Pool of Siloam.

Also another paved roadway leading down from the city has been discovered near the top of the hill, a little east of David's Tomb, and apparently continuous with the long street which runs through the city from the Damascus Gate, and traverses the present Jewish quarter.

In its width, in its kerb on either side, in the size and appearance of its slabs, and in its inclination, this street resembles the one found in the Tyropæon Valley.

Students of Jerusalem topography have long been of opinion that such a roadway existed in this situation. The main thoroughfares of a city are apt to remain in the same spots from age to age, and it has always been thought probable that the great central street of the Holy City was continued further south than the present wall.

Of quite special interest is the rock tomb near the Tombs of the Kings described by Mr. Dickie. It is the only rock tomb with a vertical shaft which has yet been discovered in South Palestine.

The income of the Society, from June 23rd to September 19th, 1896, was—from annual subscriptions and donations, including Local Societies, £284 6s. 10d.; from all sources—£551 0s. 4d. The expenditure during the same period was £629 1s. 3d. On September 21st the balance in the Bank was £148 1s. 2d.

In the "Mittheilungen" of the German Palestine Society Herr von Schick reports that in his latest examination of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre he has become convinced that under the present Golgotha there is really *rock*, and has found the crevice of which former Pilgrims speak, in which a man could lie down. Also north-west of the Holy Sepulchre, under the Greek Patriarchate, he has discovered the cave in which a hermit formerly dwelt.

Herr von Schick reports discovery of some tombs outside Jerusalem, about 500 feet north of the new gate. They are partly cut in the rock, partly built of masonry. They still contain bones. Herr von Schick considers them to be Christian.

Herr von Schick's elaborate report on the Church of the Ascension will be found in the present number. It is illustrated with plans.

Dr. Post's "Flora of Syria, Palestine, and Sinai," is now ready, and may be obtained on application to the author at Beirut. (*See advertisement.*)

The work embraces 126 orders, 850 genera, and 3,416 species, many of the latter, as well as numerous varieties, being new to science. It is illustrated by 445 woodcuts, and a coloured map, showing the botanical regions of the district covered. It contains a general analytical key to all the orders, and special keys to the larger tribes and genera. Much labour has been expended on these keys, and it is hoped that, by their means, the usefulness of the book will be greatly increased, especially for students and travellers.

We have received from Mr. Gray Hill an account of a visit lately made by him to Petra, which, it is hoped, will appear in the next number of the *Quarterly Statement*.

Mr. G. H. Skipwith, in a letter addressed to the "Academy," writes:—
 "My object in writing . . . about Jeremiah is chiefly to inquire of those interested in the exploration of Palestine, whether valuable results might not possibly be obtained by a careful examination of the site of Anathoth. The images of Anath, from which the place is said to have derived its name, cannot have outlasted the reformation of Josiah (Robertson Smith, 'Rel. Sem.,' 2nd ed., p. 211). But here, as early as the reign of Solomon, was situated the estate and place of exile of the deposed high priest Abiathar (1 Kings ii, 26, 27). . . . Even the legend in 2 Mace. ii, is not without instruction for the explorer. The site of Anathoth is known. Is it possible that it may yield monuments of its ancient importance?"

The Rev. J. J. C. Valpy, of Elsing Rectory, writes:—"In the *Quarterly Statement* for July, p. 232, I read: 'Area Atad . . . beyond Jordan . . . difficult,' *i.e.*, across the Jordan. Does beyond Jordan mean across? I will endeavour to show to the contrary. The ancients knew only of Jordan as the river flowing from lake to sea. To writers of central west Palestine what was north of the northern end of Jordan was 'beyond Jordan.' 'Beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles,' means beyond the northern end of Jordan. Similarly, in Gen. 1, 11, beyond Jordan will mean, not across Jordan, but south of the southern end of Jordan. As in one case, so in the other, beyond is not = across."

The first portion of M. Clermont-Ganneau's work, "Archæological Researches in Palestine," is now ready, and being sent to subscribers.

Memo. for Subscribers to the Survey of Palestine.—In the original programme it was intended that the "Archæological Researches" of M. Clermont-Ganneau should be published in one volume, but the work increased so much since its commencement that the Committee found it necessary to arrange for the publication of the whole in two volumes. Vol. II has been published in advance for the reasons stated in the prefatory note.

Vol. I, which treats of Jerusalem and its neighbourhood, is well forward, and, when ready, will be sent out to the first 250 Subscribers without any increase in their subscriptions for the full set.

There are only a few copies of the sets left at the price of £7 7s. When these have been cleared out the price will be raised to £12 12s. (See advertisement in fore-part of Journal.)

A third and revised edition of "Syrian Stone Lore," by Lieut.-Colonel Conder, R.E., is now ready.

An important work by Lieut.-Colonel Conder, R.E., entitled, "The Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem"—1099² to 1292 A.D.—and describing the condition of Palestine under the Crusaders, is in the press, and will be ready in January. It is based on the chronicles and contemporary accounts, both Christian and Moslem, and on the information collected during the progress of the Survey, with descriptions of the scenes of the important events, and other information not to be found in previous histories of the Crusades. The whole will form an octavo volume of about 400 pages, with two maps, giving the Crusading names and boundaries of the "Fiefs" throughout Palestine.

The following works have recently been issued by the Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society:—

Part 14 of Book III of Marino Sanuto's "Secrets for True Crusaders to Help Them to Recover the Holy Land, A.D. 1321." Translated by Aubrey Stewart, M.A. Geographical [notes by Lieut.-Colonel Conder, R.E., with three maps.

"Burchard of Mount Sion (1280 A.D.)." Translated from the original Latin by Aubrey Stewart, M.A. With geographical notes by Lieut.-Colonel Conder.

"Jaques de Vitry (1180 A.D.)." Part of the Abbreviated History of Jerusalem. Translated from the original Latin by Aubrey Stewart, M.A.

To be followed by Bohaeddin's "Life of Saladin," which is now in the press.

A complete set of the Palestine Pilgrims' Text Translations in 12 volumes, with Index, bound in cloth; price, £10 10s.

Branch Associations of the Bible Society, all Sunday Schools 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 Committee have to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the Library of the Fund:—

"Travel-Pictures from Palestine." By James Wells, D.D. 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. A catalogue of Books in the Library is published in the July *Quarterly Statement*, 1893.

Mr. George Armstrong's Raised Map of Palestine is on view at the office of the Fund. A circular giving full particulars about it will be sent on application to the Secretary.

The third edition of the new Collotype Print or Photo-relief from a specially prepared copy of the Raised Map of Palestine is now ready. Price to subscribers, 2s. 3d.; non-subscribers, 3s. 3d., post free.

The print is on thin paper, measuring 20 inches by 28½ inches.

It having again been reported to the Executive Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund that 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 of any sort or kind in their employ, and that **NONE OF THEIR WORKS ARE SOLD BY ANY ITINERANT AGENTS.**

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., every week-day except Saturdays, when it closes at 2 p.m.

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.

Subscribers are requested to note that the following cases for binding, casts, and slides can be had by application to the Assistant Secretary at the Office of the Fund:—

Cases for binding Herr Schumacher's "Jaulân," 1s. each.

Cases for binding the *Quarterly Statement*, in green or chocolate, 1s. each.

Cases for binding "Abila," "Pella," and "Ajlûn" in one volume, 1s. each.

Casts of the Tablet, with Cuneiform Inscription, found at Tell el Hesay, at a depth of 35 feet, in May, 1892, by Dr. Bliss, Explorer to the Fund. It belongs to the general diplomatic correspondence carried on between Amenhotep III and IV and their agents in various Palestinian towns. 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.

Lantern slides of the Raised Map, the Sidon Sarcophagi, and of the Bible places mentioned in the catalogue of photos and special list of slides.

In order to make up complete sets of the *Quarterly Statement* the Committee will be very glad to receive any of the back numbers.

While desiring to give 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 those who are entitled to receive it, but changes of address and other causes occasionally give rise to omissions.

The authorised lecturers for the Society are—

AMERICA.

Professor Theodore F. Wright, Ph.D., 42, Quincy Street, 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.*

ENGLAND.

The Rev. Thomas Harrison, F.R.G.S., The Vicarage, Appledore, Ashford, Kent. His subjects are as follows:—

- (1) *Research and Discovery in the Holy Land.*
- (2) *Bible Scenes in the Light of Modern Science.*
- (3) *The Survey of Eastern Palestine.*
- (4) *In the Track of the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan.*
- (5) *The Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea, and the Cities of the Plain.*
- (6) *The Recovery of Jerusalem—(Excavations in 1894).*
- (7) *The Recovery of Lachish and the Hebrew Conquest of Palestine.*
- (8) *Archæological Illustrations of the Bible.* (Specially adapted for Sunday School Teachers).

N.B.—All these Lectures are illustrated by specially prepared lantern slides.

The Rev. Charles Harris, M.A., F.R.G.S., Appledore, Ashford, Kent. (All Lectures illustrated by lantern slides.) His subjects are as follows:—

- (1) *Modern Discoveries in Palestine.*
- (2) *Stories in Stone; or, New Light on the Old Testament.*
- (3) *Underground Jerusalem; or, With the Explorer in 1895.*
Bible Stories from the Monuments, or Old Testament History in the Light of Modern Research:—
- (4) A. *The Story of Joseph; or, Life in Ancient Egypt.*
- (5) B. *The Story of Moses; or, Through the Desert to the Promised Land.*
- (6) C. *The Story of Joshua; or, The Buried City of Lachish.*
- (7) D. *The Story of Sennacherib; or Scenes of Assyrian Warfare.*
- (8) E. *The Story of the Hittites; or, A Lost Nation Found.*

SCOTLAND.

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

- (1) *Excavations in Jerusalem, 1868-70, 1894-5.*
- (2) *Lachish, a Mound of Buried Cities; with Comparative Illustrations from some Egyptian Tells.*
- (3) *Recent Discoveries in Palestine—Lachish and Jerusalem.*
- (4) *Exploration in Judea.*
- (5) *Galilee and Samaria.*
- (6) *Palestine in the Footsteps of our Lord.*
- (7) *Mount Sinai and the Desert of the Wanderings.*
- (8) *Palestine—its People, its Customs, and its Ruins.* (Lecture for Children.)

All illustrated with specially prepared lime-light lantern views.

[For continuation of List of Lecturers see page at end of Subscriptions.]