

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Fund was held on July 14th, at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street. In the absence of Lord Amherst of Hackney through illness, Mr. JAMES GLAISHER (Chairman of the Executive Committee) presided. Lord Amherst wrote:—

“Will you kindly express to the meeting my very great regret that I am unable to keep my engagement to preside at the anniversary of the Palestine Exploration Fund this year. It is quite impossible for me to do so, as I am only just recovering from a second return of the malarial fever, of which I had so severe an attack in Jerusalem last year. I had previously, however, the great pleasure of going with Dr. Bliss, who himself was taken most seriously ill only a few weeks later, over the line of his excavations, and of seeing some of the most interesting discoveries which he had then recently made. I should like to bear testimony to the great skill with which he has carried out this work for us, and especially to the tact he has shown in avoiding frictions with the various owners and occupiers of the plots of ground through which his excavations have been carried. I am indeed glad to learn that we have obtained an extension of the Firman, so that I hope this most interesting work may now be continued. I should like to say one word about a member of our Committee who has done so much work for us, and to the result of whose work at the present moment the thoughts of every one are daily and anxiously turned. I need hardly say I mean the Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, Sir Herbert Kitchener. We must, of course, take full advantage of our Firman, and, therefore, I doubt if there will be much money over for any other undertaking; but I hope the members will bear in mind that there is a most interesting portion of the country south of the Dead Sea yet unsurveyed, which is bounded on the east by the already surveyed ‘Arabah,’ on the west by the Mediterranean, and on the south by the River of Egypt; and perhaps if an opportunity offered to get this done, a special subscription for that purpose might be raised.”

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of Lichfield and Exeter, Viscount Sidmouth, Major-General Sir Charles Warren, Sir Walter Besant, Mr. Walter Morrison, M.P., Lieut.-Colonel Conder, Professors Kirkpatrick and Petrie, Dr. Rogers, Revs. W. F. Birch and C. Lloyd Engstrom, D. MacDonald, Esq., Henry Harper, Esq., I. Spielman, Esq., and others wrote expressing regret that they were unable to be present.

Lieut.-Colonel WATSON, C.M.G., R.E., read the Report.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In resigning the office to which they were appointed at your last Annual Meeting, the Executive Committee beg to lay before you the following Report:—

They have held 22 meetings for business.

The chief work of the year has been the excavations at Jerusalem, which have been carried on with much energy, skill, and tact by Dr. Frederick Bliss, assisted by Mr. Archibald Dickie.

The following summary of the results of the excavations from May, 1894 to May, 1896, has been forwarded to us by Dr. Bliss:—

“The progress of the excavations during the last two years has been illustrated by the plans and reports of Mr. Archibald Dickie and myself in the *Quarterly Statements*.

However, a brief summary, statistical rather than theoretical, will be of advantage, in grouping together the results which are more or less scattered in the pages of the Journal.

Our point of commencement, as well as our point of departure, was the great rock scarp under the Protestant School, and in the Protestant cemetery south-west of the Cœnaculum. It was our point of commencement because, picking up the line of scarp outside the cemetery, we found a tower connecting it with the exposed scarp pointing north-east. Around this tower and scarp was a deep fosse. The scarp was also our point of departure, for the wall subsequently found by us and traced to Siloam begins at the top of this fosse, which thus separates it from the tower and scarp, and after running south-east turns to the east for some distance, when it again runs south-east to a point just outside and south of the lower pool of Siloam.

The distance between fosse and pool along the line of wall is 2,420 feet, or a little under half a mile. The sum of the lengths of the pieces of wall actually excavated along this line amounts to 1,175 feet, or almost a quarter of a mile. The reasons for our not seeing it along the whole line were two: first, its utter destruction proved at various points; second, the fact that it passed under a Jewish cemetery for the length of over 100 yards. From the fosse to this cemetery 77 per cent. of its length was actually seen and measured; from the other end of this cemetery to the pool 31 per cent. was seen. But the bit of wall entering the cemetery and the bit of wall emerging from it were identical in masonry, character, and direction. Moreover, beyond the cemetery, though the wall itself has disappeared for some distance, yet a line of exposed cliffs shows where it must have been for 100 yards. Between the fosse and the pool the base of the wall dips 420 feet, or about 1 in 5.

I never ride down the valley of Hinnom without glancing up the hill, and noting with satisfaction that the points through which the wall was found to run are always at the top of the steepest part of the slope, just where General Sir Forestier Walker, speaking simply as a military man, said that a wall ought to run, when he visited me a few days after the work had begun. In other words, it occupies the extreme possible southern position. At its south-west angle it is 370 yards south of the present city wall; at its south-east angle it is 670 yards south of the Hâkûrat-el-Khâtûniyeh, near the present Dung Gate.

Between the fosse and the Jewish cemetery the wall is double, that is to say was built in two periods. For 100 yards these periods are so distinct that we may say there are two walls. The upper or later wall rests on several feet of *débris* which buries the older wall, whose foundations are in the rock. [From considerations of masonry, &c., the wall emerging from the cemetery and running down to Siloam appears to be the older or lower wall.] On the upper wall were found five towers; on the lower, four, two of them very beautifully built.

Two gates were found at the south-west and south-east angles of the city respectively. Both gates have superimposed door-sills, indicating three periods; the sockets, bolt holes, and in the case of the lower gate, door jamb, are clearly seen. Under both gates large drains pass.

The wall was found at greatly varying depths.

At one point its ruined top was so near the surface that the fellah had often struck his plough against it, while the rock is only 6 feet below the surface.

At another point the rock is 48 feet below the surface, and towering above it the wall was found still standing to a height of 45 feet.

At many points we had to dig deep before we found the top of the wall. Sometimes the ruin was so great that only a single rude foundation course remained. Sometimes we would be pleased to find several fine courses continuing, only to be disappointed at their suddenly ceasing where the wall had been robbed for stones.

The masonry ranged from the rudest foundation rubble to exquisitely jointed and finished work.

Theory was to be avoided in this sketch, but I may be permitted to remark that there are good reasons to suppose that the lower wall is Jewish:—

Firstly.—The *débris* separating it from the upper wall indicates a time when no city wall ran along this line, and points to an interruption in the city's history like that which occurred after the destruction by Titus. The upper wall would then be Roman or Christian.

Secondly.—The pottery found along the base of the lower wall is almost exclusively Jewish, while that at higher levels is Roman.

I have shown that the lengths of the pieces of this wall actually traced amount to a quarter of a mile.

The united lengths of our shafts, tunnels, and trenches amount to over a mile and a quarter.

This, however, by no means indicates lost labour. Indeed the work that was without some good result is a very small percentage of the whole; for negative results take as much labour as positive.

To prove where the line was destroyed required many a tunnel and trench.

Our mile and a quarter of digging represents other labour as well.

We followed a paved road for 100 yards leading to the south-west gate.

For another 100 yards we worked around a scarp defending the wall.

From the line of wall west of the cemetery we drove a tunnel north for 100 yards to see whether some other wall crossed its path east and west.

The investigation of remains—a huge, apparently isolated tower, a beautiful mosaic pavement, &c.—struck in the line of this tunnel—added another 100 yards to our labours.—And at the end of this tunnel, towards the north, we found another city wall enclosing the summit of the Western Hill, which has been examined at various points for a distance of 250 yards. This wall, which appears to be very late, also has its tower, which was investigated.

Near Siloam, outside the city wall, interesting Roman baths were discovered. Drains have been examined at various places.

Branching off from the main line of wall near the pool, another wall was found running north excluding the pool from the city, and this we are still investigating.

Our work has gone very smoothly. A buried wall is no respecter of persons, and runs through the lands of a Greek patriarch, a Moslem effendi, a Latin father, or a Siloam fellah, with all of whom the excavators must come to some understanding, financial or otherwise. But I am glad to say that this understanding has always been friendly. Unfortunately most of our work has been covered up; a barley field has revealed its secrets, and once again is in superficial appearance a mere barley field. The two gates still remain open, and when we come to lay down in red lines the final results of the work, I hope that the map of the south of modern Jerusalem will present at a glance an intelligible idea of the topography of the ancient city."

The Executive Committee desire to convey their best thanks to Dr. F. Bliss and Mr. Archibald Dickie for the admirable manner in which they have carried out their duties in the conduct of the exploration, and also to express their appreciation of the services of the late lamented Yusif Abu Selim and the workmen.

They deeply regret the death of Ibrahim Effendi El Khaldi, the Turkish Commissioner, who always carried out his duties with the greatest tact as regards the explorations while carefully attending to the interests of the Turkish Government.

The excavations are not the only work which has been carried on at Jerusalem under the auspices of the Fund. The veteran explorer Herr von Schick, indefatigable as ever, has pursued investigations of a very interesting character within the city. His examination of mediæval churches and convents in Jerusalem, and of the quarter known as Bab Hytta, throw a flood of light on the conditions of the Holy City during the period covered by the Crusaders' occupation of it.

During the past year the Fund has sent out no expedition except that to Jerusalem, but an important tomb at Sur Bâhir has been reported and described by Mr. Dickie, and a report of the adventurous journey

of Mr. Gray Hill east of Jordan has been placed at our disposal, and published in the *Quarterly Statement*.

The Executive Committee have also to thank many other scholars and explorers for contributions to the *Statement*, which for some years has formed a repertory of Palestine discovery, and the opinions held respecting various points of interest.

Lieut.-Col. Conder, R.E., has contributed papers on "The Syrian Language" and "On the Onomasticon," besides notes on Dr. Bliss's excavations and various other topics.

To the Rev. Canon Dalton, C.M.G., we have been indebted for a paper on the Latin Inscription at Bab Neby Da'ud, and Mr. Ebenezer Davis has also supplied another on the same subject.

M. Clermont-Ganneau also, though very busy completing his work on "Archæological Researches in Palestine," has not forgotten to look into the *Quarterly*, and has forwarded some valuable notes on the Corea of Josephus, the Stoppage of the Jordan, and a number of the inscriptions found and copied by the Rev. Mr. Ewing.

Captain Haynes, R.E., has discussed at some length the "Route of the Exodus," "Caleb's Reconnaissance," and "The Date of the Exodus," and Lieut.-Col. Watson, R.E., has contributed a very interesting study of the site of the Jewish Temple.

The Rev. W. F. Birch and Rev. E. H. Hanauer have published their views as to the site of the Cave of Adullam; the Rev. T. E. Dowling, Chaplain to the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, has sent a description of some Biblical coins found in Palestine; Mr. John Bellows, a noteworthy paper on "Chisel-drafted Stones at Jerusalem"; and Rev. Theodore F. Wright, of Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A., Prof. R. H. West, of Beirut, H. A. Harper, Esq., and others have sent in useful contributions. Nor must we omit to mention the laborious reports on the Meteorological observations taken for the Fund at Jerusalem and Tiberias, which have been drawn up and contributed by our respected Chairman, Mr. James Glaisher.

The Fund, having made arrangements to take over the publications of the Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society, have issued during the year translations of—

Marino Sanuto's Secrets for True Crusaders;
Burchard of Mount Zion; and
Jacques de Vitry.

The Executive Committee desire to express their most sincere thanks to their Honorary Secretaries for personal services rendered so cheerfully, and to all their friends and subscribers.

Since the last Annual Meeting 227 annual subscribers have been added, and 131 have been removed through death and other causes.

Your Committee have to record with regret the death of Lord Leighton, P.R.A., who had been a member of the General Committee since the year 1875.

They have the honour of proposing that the following gentlemen be elected Members of the General Committee :—

The Right Honble. Earl Northbrook.
 The Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor.
 The Rev. Dr. Ryle, Hulsean Professor of Divinity at Cambridge.
 Gray Hill, Esq.

The income of the Fund during the year 1895 was from donations and subscriptions, £1,737 3s. 8d.; from lectures, £6 5s.; from sales of publications, £749 1s. 8d.; total receipts, £2,492 10s. 4d.

The expenditure during the same period was on exploration, £1,002 5s.; on printing the *Quarterly Statement*, new editions of books, maps, photos., &c., £775 11s. 10d. (the *Quarterly Statement*, which is sent free to all subscribers of 10s. 6d. and upwards, alone costing close on £500); on advertising, postage, insurance, stationery, &c., £172 12s. 9d.; the management, including rent of office, £598 9s. 10d.

The balance in the Bank at the end of 1895 was £320 17s. 2d. The liabilities at the same date amounted to £944 4s. 6d.

The balance sheet was published in the April *Quarterly Statement*.

The amount received since January 1st, 1896, up to July 7th, from donations and subscriptions, £1,032 11s. 2d.; sales, £446 13s. 8d.; total, £1,479 4s. 10d. The expenditure during the same period has been £1,608 9s. 4d.

The liabilities on July 7th, 1896, were £1,291 13s. 0d.

The balance in the Bank on the same date £191 12s. 8d.

In order to carry out the objects of the Fund effectively a considerable increase in its income is absolutely and essentially necessary, otherwise the excavations at Jerusalem will have to be suspended. The Firman having been so lately obtained from the Sultan for continuing these operations, which have been prosecuted to the present time with such unequalled success, their cessation or delay would be a matter to be most deeply deplored.

Major-General Sir CHARLES WILSON, K.C.B., R.E.—Mr. Chairman, I have the honour to move the adoption of the Report, but before doing so I should wish to say a few words with regard to the meaning of the

explorations that have just been described. I think that in a few words I can explain to you their general importance. In the first place, we were rather in doubt last year as to whether, at the southern portion of his work, Dr. Bliss had got hold of the old Jewish wall. There was an idea that the wall he had found was that built by the Empress Eudocia about the middle of the fifth century. Dr. Bliss's excavations during the past year have clearly shown that the wall we believed to be Eudocia's was built upon the old city wall of the time of Titus. It is true that there is not much of this old wall left, but at one point it is very clearly defined; that is on the south. At that particular point you have the old wall and above it a large accumulation of rubbish; and built on this rubbish, and still standing, you have the later wall, which is probably that of Eudocia. There is another point, near the Protestant Cemetery, which is not quite cleared up. You see a sort of passage here (*referring to map*). It is not very clear whether that forms part of an inner ditch or whether it is, as in the case of many of the old Greek towns in Asia Minor, a rock-hewn road giving access to the valley below. That is a point which we hope will be cleared up during the course of this season's operations. Then the discovery of the later wall is also very interesting, because that wall probably existed at the time of the Crusades, or shortly afterwards. The present walls of Jerusalem date from the time of Suleiman the Magnificent, the great Sultan of Turkey. Then, coming down to the Valley of Siloam, it is extremely interesting to find a gate at that particular point. It is not quite clear whether it actually stands on the site of the old gate, but that will be cleared up during the excavations this year. The most interesting problems we hope to solve during the present year are the course of the wall in the Tyropœon Valley, and the position of the "Gate between the walls" which is mentioned in the Old Testament and through which the last King of Jerusalem fled (2 Kings xxv, 4; Jeremiah xxxix, 4, lii, 7). I hope we shall be able to solve that question, and also throw some light on the form of the Tyropœon Valley. It is a curious fact that, with all the excavations that have taken place, we still know nothing of the real course or form of the great central valley, except where Sir Charles Warren many years ago carried out his excavations near the Haram. In this valley we may hope to find some objects of old Jewish art. There is a depth of over 100 feet of rubbish, and surely we may hope that something has been washed down into this great mass of rubbish. We have hitherto been unfortunate in not finding architectural or archaeological remains of importance dating from Jewish times. Another interesting point which will be cleared up is whether, as many writers suppose, there was a separate wall enclosing the upper city. Some of Dr. Bliss's recent excavations seem to point to the fact that there was such a wall, for beneath the wall was found a very old cutting in the rock which seems to run in the direction of a well-known scarp within the city. It is possible that these two may be connected, and that we may find some traces of the old Jewish wall which

surrounded the upper city. I should like to say a word with regard to the way in which Dr. Bliss has carried out these excavations. Having myself excavated at Jerusalem, I can appreciate the great difficulty and sometimes danger of his work. I must say that he has carried out his excavations with remarkable success, and, what is a very good thing indeed for the Fund, at a very moderate cost. I think they are the cheapest excavations that have been made anywhere. He seems to get on well with his workmen and to get the most out of them that is possible. Well, all these difficulties and dangers will be very much increased during the ensuing season, because he will have to burrow down into this enormous depth of rubbish. We do not know the character of the rubbish; we can only hope that it is tolerably firm, and that Dr. Bliss will be able to get on as well as he has hitherto done. The work will be very difficult, and I am afraid much more expensive than that hitherto carried out; but I am quite certain that the results will be commensurate with the cost, and we must all wish that Dr. Bliss may have the same success that has hitherto attended his labours. I shall be glad to move the adoption of the Report.

Canon DALTON, C.M.G.—In seconding the adoption of the Report you have heard read as to the work done during the last twelve months, I shall not detain you with any very lengthy remarks. Sir Charles Wilson has told you what has been already accomplished, and what remains to be done. I would beg to draw your attention mainly to the last paragraph of the Report, and I will read it once more:—"In order to carry out the objects of the Fund effectively, a considerable increase in its income is absolutely and essentially necessary, otherwise the excavations at Jerusalem will have to be suspended. The Firman having been so lately obtained from the Sultan for continuing these operations, which have been prosecuted to the present time with such unequalled success, their cessation or delay would be a matter to be most deeply deplored." Our present financial position, however, is simply this. The excavations at Jerusalem, which, as Sir Charles Wilson has told us, are the cheapest he has ever heard of, cost about £100 a month. We have now, at the present moment, a balance at the bankers of only £190. The question, therefore, we have to face to-day is a very urgent one. "Do you wish the excavations to go on or not?" It is manifest they cannot go on without funds. The present is an unique opportunity for prosecuting the work, and I am sure we shall all agree it would be a very great pity to suspend or in any way delay its completion. Let us therefore endeavour by every means in our power to exert ourselves that this untoward event should not occur. Now, there are two points in the annual outlay of the Fund, to which, in case they should have escaped your notice, I would beg to refer, as they account in a great measure for our pecuniary difficulties. The first is that all subscribers of half-a-guinea to the Fund have had sent to them, up to now, a copy of the *Quarterly Statement* free by post. Now, the expense of printing and circulating this *Quarterly Statement* consumes

a very large portion indeed of that half-guinea. None of the writers of the articles and papers that appear in it receive a halfpenny for their contributions. These all are given ungrudgingly and without payment ; but each number contains engravings, maps, and plans, without which these interesting articles would lose all their value, and it is the production of these that adds so greatly to the cost of printing. I do not think that any subscriber to the Fund who reads that *Statement* will consider there is any margin for retrenchment here, or would be willing to forego receiving the *Quarterly Statement* as heretofore, free. And the second point concerning which I wish to remind you is the item of "management and rent of rooms." This is necessary for the reason that the Fund possesses a museum of objects found from time to time in Palestine, models, and an extensive library and stock of printed books, which have to be housed and taken care of in some accessible spot in London if they are to be of any service, and, of course, a suitable spot cannot be found without paying rent for it. So, neither here, again, is there any legitimate hope of retrenchment. In short, all the operations of the Fund, I venture to say, are conducted on the most economical principles. But the fact is too palpably clear that if the work is to continue we must strenuously endeavour to supplement our present very moderate and inadequate funds. I would, therefore, venture to appeal to the two bodies who are represented here to-day—the subscribers and the non-subscribers. First, to the subscribers, and especially to the half-guinea subscribers, who form so very large a proportion of our supporters, and ask them whether, as they are already receiving back nearly the full value of their subscription in the shape of the *Quarterly Statement*, and seeing how little then remains out of that subscription to go towards prosecuting the real and substantial work in Palestine, I would ask them to consider the possibility of raising their subscriptions, at any rate whilst the excavations are going on ; and besides of endeavouring also to gain more subscribers by making better known amongst their friends and acquaintances the work done and the great need there is of additional support. And, lastly, those who are not already subscribers I would venture to ask to set right at once this hitherto—as I imagine—accidental inadvertence on their part. Should their interest have been kindled to-day by what they have heard, or should they wish for any further information as to the Fund and its work, they will find Mr. Armstrong, if they will call at 24, Hanover Square, ready and most happy to supply it to them. Gentlemen, I beg to second the adoption of the Report, and I leave the matter with every confidence in your hands.

The Chairman then put the Resolution to the meeting, and declared it carried.

THE CHAIRMAN. Our next business is the election of the Executive Committee.

REV. W. J. STRACEY. Mr. Chairman, I have been asked, and I have very great pleasure in proposing the re-election of the Executive Com-

mittee, and in doing so, Sir, I think we must not only congratulate you, but we must congratulate ourselves on the fact that you seem to put your clock back from year to year, and that you go to all this work with the activity and energy of a young man. We are always very glad to see you looking, year after year, as young as ever. What struck me, from what has just been said, is, I think it would be a good plan for the Executive Committee to take into consideration whether it is advisable that £700, or the best part of £700, should be expended upon the distribution of the *Quarterly Report* gratis? I think it would be a very good plan if a certain charge of one shilling or two shillings a number was made. It would add immensely to the funds of the Institution, and it would not be felt by anybody. I venture to make this one suggestion, and I now propose the re-election of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year.

Mr. JAMES MELROSE.—I have much pleasure in seconding the proposal which has just been made, and I trust that the appeal will be well responded to with regard to the increase of the funds of this Society. It cannot be expected that the Executive Committee can make bricks without straw, and it is highly desirable, in the interests of the public, that the work should be carried on. I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN.—It has been moved and seconded that the Executive Committee be re-elected. Those in favour will please hold up their hands. (Resolution carried.)

The CHAIRMAN.—I should like now to move a vote of thanks to our workers in Jerusalem. They deserve it, and deserve it well. It has been truly said that no excavations have been carried on for so small a sum of money, and how it is done I can scarcely tell. It is a pleasure to me to know that there is such a feeling among our workers there, that they do everything in their power to keep the expenses down. To Dr. Bliss I need not say how much I feel indebted for his tact, his judgment, and perseverance. To him you will accord a warm vote of thanks, and not less to Mr. Dickie, to whom we are indebted for those beautiful drawings, which so accurately represent the stones so far below the surface of the earth. And I ask you all and everyone to accord not only your thanks, but also your sympathy. It is but a few weeks since that Dr. Bliss and Mr. Dickie were attacked by two men. Dr. Bliss was attacked first, and Mr. Dickie in protecting him was stabbed and his right arm broken, so that we cannot expect any drawings from him for some time. Your sympathy for men working under those circumstances I am sure will be given freely and heartily. (Hear, hear.) Then there are others to whom we must express our gratitude. The Governor of Jerusalem, I am sure, is doing everything he can, and there is his Excellency Hamdi Bey at Constantinople. To those I would ask you to give a warm vote of thanks. And then there are those who work at home—how our office is kept up, and how the work is done for the money I do not know. It is perfectly true that I look after the

expenses in every shape. I do not know of a single sixpence of the money contributed to this Fund that has ever been expended but for the purposes of the Fund—not a glass of wine, or a biscuit, or a cup of tea has been paid for by the Fund, and yet I have known it a good many years now. So that to Mr. Armstrong, our active secretary, we must express our thanks. I said last year I should like to increase his salary, and perhaps that good time may come in the future. Then the editor of our *Statement*—but I will not say a word about him, the *Statement* speaks for itself. To these gentlemen I should like to give a vote of thanks. But here I find that I am imperfect, for I have not included Herr Conrad Schick, who is over seventy, and yet as energetic as a young man. I will ask you, ladies and gentlemen, to accord all these a hearty vote of thanks in recognition of their labours. We are indebted for our meeting to-day to the managers of the Royal Institution. They have for many a year been generous to us, and given us the use of this theatre. May I ask you to give the Managers of this Institution your thanks. (Applause.) I will ask Colonel Watson to second these motions.

Lieut.-Colonel WATSON.—Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, it is a real pleasure to me to second these votes of thanks. I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Bliss very well; I made his acquaintance in Jerusalem, and I have a good knowledge of his capacity and ability which make him so well fitted to be our explorer in Palestine. Probably some of you do not know that Dr. Bliss was born and brought up in Palestine. He knows the languages of the country as well as English. He is an American, the son of the well-known Dr. Bliss, the head of that splendid educational establishment at Beirut, which has done more for the education of Syria, probably, than any other school, or any number of schools put together. If any of you know Beirut, I strongly recommend you to pay a visit to the college. And you will quite understand that a man like Dr. Bliss, born and brought up in such an atmosphere from his very earliest days, should possess qualities which make him now so thoroughly well fitted to do the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund. His knowledge of the languages, his knowledge of the people, enables him to deal with the Turks, the Arabs, the Greeks, the Romans, and all the different religions in Jerusalem, in such a way that we have had no difficulties. We might have had great difficulties, and the fact that we have had so few difficulties is to a great extent due to Dr. Bliss's tact. To Mr. Dickie, of course, we all owe the greatest thanks for the admirable manner in which he plans out the drawings of the various excavations. You see some of his work on the table before you. As the Chairman has stated, not very long ago, unfortunately, Dr. Bliss and Mr. Dickie, in walking back to Jerusalem at night, were attacked by a couple of thieves, with such violence that Mr. Dickie's arm was broken. He suffered a good deal from it, but I have heard from Dr. Bliss, in a letter received yesterday, that Dickie's arm is going on very well, and he hopes soon to be able to return to his work. Well, ladies and gentlemen, there are other people whom we ought not to forget. There is the

Turkish Commissioner, whose recent death we greatly regret, who was appointed to supervise the explorations. You know, in Turkey, if you go exploring, you must always have a Commissioner appointed by the Turkish Government to see that you conduct your explorations in accordance with the laws of the land. Explorers have a way of putting things in their pockets, and the Turkish Government, I think very properly, directs that all interesting finds made on Turkish soils are to go to their excellent museum at Constantinople. That museum is under the charge of a most intelligent Turk. Perhaps some in this room are acquainted with him. I am happy to say that I have met him, and have much enjoyed his society. His name is Hamdi Bey, and he is as good a specimen of a Turkish gentleman, literary and scientific, as you could possibly wish to meet, and to him we owe great thanks for having assisted in getting us the Firman in the first instance, and lately an extension of the Firman. We are very much indebted to His Majesty the Sultan for having been kind enough to allow us to carry out these explorations at Jerusalem. We hear a great deal nowadays about the Turks, but I must say, as far as the Palestine Exploration Fund is concerned, we have nothing but good to say of the Turks, from the Sultan down. We have the Pasha of Jerusalem, Ibrahim Pasha, who has been a good friend to us. He has helped Dr. Bliss through his difficulties, and to him we owe a great deal. I think it is a happy thing to feel that Turks, Jews, Mohammedans, Americans, and English, in fact all nations, have no discord, and no feeling as regards these explorations, but just to acquire knowledge of what has happened in the past. (Applause.) I am sure, ladies and gentlemen, you will all sincerely join in this vote of thanks.

Dr. WILLIAM WRIGHT.—Mr. Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen, I have had one pleasant moment on this classic ground, and that was at the point at which our good Chairman proposed to close the meeting. I thought I should be saved from making a speech, but still I am pleased to say a word on behalf of those employed by this Society.

I used to live in Syria, and knew the men and their work well, and I think one of the things which has made this Society what it is, is the high character of the men the Committee were fortunate enough to employ in their work.

One afternoon when I was sitting on the top of my house on Mount Hermon, I saw what I considered two Turkish soldiers passing up the valley. They began to pitch a tent, and I was a little struck with the business-like manner in which they were doing their work. A little later one of my men came up to me and told me that two Turkish soldiers had passed, and were much interested to know that I lived there. I hurried down from the top of the house and approached the tent. As I came near I saw that one of the soldiers was a tall man and the other short. They looked what is called "the long and the short of it." The little man came to me and began to talk in Arabic very fluently. When you begin

salutations in Arabic, you ask as many questions as you can—"how is your father, how is your mother, how are all your relations, your aunt, &c.," and when you have got to the end, you begin again. You do not wait for an answer, but you both ask the same questions until you are out of breath. When I got to that point I looked round and saw the big Turkish soldier laughing out of a big English face, such as never adorned the head of a Turk. I turned to my little friend, and said "Perhaps you and I could get on better in English," and then I found I had stumbled on Drake and Palmer returning from the desert of the Tih.

We spent the next few days together, and the following night on the top of Mount Hermon. We passed from place to place, and I had an opportunity of finding out the marvellous faculty Professor Palmer had for learning foreign languages. We passed from one village where the language was spoken in one way to another where it was spoken slightly different, and he seemed to have caught the change of dialect with the change of air. You know who Drake was. You know that he went out to Syria not believing much in the Bible he had gone to illustrate. You know also what his end was, and the loving Christian message he sent to his mother in his last moments. Those two have gone, and I speak freely of them, but Mr. Armstrong is with us, and I hope he will excuse me if I give an illustration of the way of getting through difficulties by P. E. F. men. He and I were once riding together past Kulat El-Jendal. On our journey we met some of the people of the village. They came running to us, and told us that all the people who passed that way were being stripped, and they implored us to go back and not risk passing through the place. We spoke very large. Mr. Armstrong had an instrument for surveying that glanced very much, and I had a geological hammer, and as we came near the place, Armstrong moved his compass so that it would shine as much as possible, and I kept moving my hammer, as if we were loading and priming infernal machines. The result was, we passed without any picturesque incident.

Not only abroad, but at home you have been very lucky in your officials. Very lucky in getting your distinguished Chairman. It was a great piece of luck getting Sir Walter Besant so long for our Secretary, as well as the other men who are here to-day, and Sir Charles Warren, and also one who is absent up the Nile. You will remember the Sirdar was the surveyor of Galilee.

I am here to-day by command. I happen to be on the Executive Committee, but I had no hand in putting myself forward as a speaker. You have a Chairman who says, and it is done. I am here in obedience to his command. I am here because the Society I represent is a great debtor to this Society. Here is one set of English maps we have made from your maps (*producing a copy*). When our eloquent Canon here was urging you to support this Society, I thought it would be a good thing to follow on the *cui bono* lines. What is the benefit? You have

carried on this Society for 31 years, what have you done? I am here to-day as a debtor. There is a specimen of our Bible maps that we have made from your survey. Of course they are not confined wholly to Palestine, because Sir Charles Wilson, Professor Ramsey, and others have been through Asia Minor, and we have taken advantage of their identifications.

Though this is not a religious society, I ask from my point of view, *cui bono*, what good are you doing? You are exploring an Oriental land, and throwing light on the Bible. That book which we all reverence is an Oriental book. It was written by Orientals for Orientals. Every expression in that book had its origin somewhere in Oriental lands, and even the most sacred expressions are moulded and limited by Oriental expressions, and the most fervent aspirations of the men who spoke and wrote in that book only found a tongue in thoughts that had their natural birth in the Holy Land. All the speakers in the original book were Orientals. Even our Lord Himself, as He passed along the high-ways, pointed to Oriental things that lay along the highways, and made them the signs and symbols of God's dealing with men.

In our English translation we have the entire substance of the Oriental book, but many burning words lose their effect in translation, and not only the artistic form, but much of the light and colour is lost in passing into Western phraseology. Now the business of this Society at the present time is to enable us to get behind what we may call the Western veil that lies on the face of the Oriental Bible, and to study the book among the surroundings, among the customs, and in the very atmosphere in which the book itself was written.

In doing this work you have gone about the business as you proposed in your first meeting, in a scientific manner. Your method from the beginning has been the Baconian, you collect your facts, you publish them to the world, you let men judge and come to decisions on them. There is another way of dealing with the Bible much in vogue. There is the guess-work way, and important conclusions are reached on evidence that would not be accepted in any police-court in London. The method has a much grander name. I have seen the Bible dealt with in this manner, and patriarchs and prophets brought in convicted of ignorance and error on evidence that would not have created a *prima facie* case against a poacher. You go by the Baconian method, you lay hold of facts, you publish them, you do not dogmatise over them, you give them to us and tell us to judge by them. That is the business your Society is doing; that is good business, scientific business—work worth doing and worth paying for.

You know that it is one of the facts of modern times, that all the good work in the world is being done by experts. Wherever you find work being done that is worth doing, it is being done by experts. This Society employs experts. When all good work is being done by experts, surely it would be a mistake to leave this vital work in the hands of inexperienced men. There are some who have not read about your work.

I had two Oxford students lunching with me to-day, and I asked them what they thought of this Palestine Exploration Fund. And they said, "We do not take it in at Oxford."

You have made vast changes in the maps of Bible lands. When I went to Palestine about 30 years ago, the rivers ran up and down hills in the most reckless manner. That is a very short time ago. Those were the days when people believed that the Bible came down from heaven bound in calf. The Bible did not come to us in that fashion. There are a good many other things to be cleared up yet regarding the Bible, but this Society of yours has shown that that Book is substantially what it professes to be, and that, I think, is worth fighting for and worth paying for.

I support the resolution that our best thanks be given to those gentlemen who have been working for us. I knew Dr. Bliss as a baby. I have known him ever since; I have seen him in his father's home and I know his work, and I am sure he is doing good work. You have had a long succession of good men engaged in your work both at home and abroad, and I do trust that the English public—especially the Bible-reading public—will support you better than they have done. In the Society to which I belong we have published the maps of the Exploration Fund in at least nine languages. Six more will come before us by the end of the week, and I hope, before this Society is many years older, we shall have your Palestine Exploration maps in some two or three hundred languages, scattered throughout the world, and showing to the various peoples the localities where the things occurred that are spoken of in the Book.

Dr. Löwy.—Ladies and gentlemen, we have heard most eloquent and interesting and instructive speeches, and everyone who has spoken seems to me to be in competition with his predecessor. Everyone, however honourable, wishes to outdo his predecessor. However eloquent one gentleman may be, the one who follows wants to be more eloquent. Now, it will be my ambition and my endeavour, not by speech but by a few observations, to outdo all my predecessors. (Applause.) You can see in the beloved face of our Chairman that his ardent wish is to benefit to the utmost this Society over which he so honourably and nobly presides. Now, if we really wish to make to him a declaration of love it will not be by compliments, but by carrying out that financial suggestion, that eloquent suggestion, which was made by one speaker, namely, that we who are half-guinea subscribers are to metamorphose ourselves into guinea subscribers. Admonition begins with example; I will at once change myself into a guinea subscriber, and I do so by way of a bribe. I request you ladies and gentlemen who are half-guinea subscribers not to leave me in the cold. But the excellent suggestion, which was made that we should pay a guinea instead of a half stopped short. I should request those who can afford to pay two guineas as well as one, they should also convert themselves. And then there should be a competition among those who subscribe in order to benefit that excellent

and old Society which really promotes the most excellent commentary on the Bible that can possibly be desired. Now I suggest that, if we wish to thank our Chairman properly, those who subscribe with me, before they leave the room, not afterwards, should put down their names as guinea subscribers if they are half-guinea subscribers hitherto, or as two guinea subscribers if they have subscribed one guinea. This is the way to thank our President for the efforts he has made for so many years, and I need not say that we thank him for presiding to-day, or how much we wish he may go on presiding for many years to come. He will always have our cordial thanks for the great work he has done. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN.—I thank you very much for your kind expressions towards myself. I certainly am in earnest, and I always have been earnest to assist this Society as far as in my power lay, but I am getting old now and the time will come when I may not be able to attend the meetings. In conclusion I beg to inform you that the medal and diploma awarded to this Society at the Chicago Exhibition arrived to-day, and with them the following remarks on our exhibition :—“The exhibit gives evidence of efficient organisation, and displays a number of very accurate and carefully executed maps ; numerous relics and curiosities of great value and scientific interest ; a large number of photographs showing the methods and work of the organisation and the region of its operation. Also publications of scientific value and interest to Bible students.” I have further the pleasure to mention that Lord Amherst, whose absence we so much regret to-day, has sent us a donation of £25.

The proceedings then terminated.