

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Committee again draw attention to the financial position of the Fund. 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 labours of Dr. Bliss and Mr. Dickie is incontestable. The work in the Tyropœon Valley, which had necessarily been suspended during the heavy rains, has now been resumed.

The great need of the Fund is *new annual subscribers*, and if everyone interested in the exploration of the Holy Land could succeed in inducing one friend to become a subscriber, the financial difficulties of the Fund would be at an end.

Dr. Conrad Schick notes in a recent report that the German-speaking Jews in Jerusalem have formed a Literary Society, and founded a library, which already contains 12,000 volumes contributed by their co-religionists in Europe and America. This has been done in a kind of rivalry of the Talmud Schools, where only Rabbinical literature is studied.

Dr. Schick also reports that the Latins have introduced a new organ into their part of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which has excited the jealousy of other Churches, who have lodged a complaint with the Pasha about it, and the matter has been referred to Constantinople.

It is reported that there is a proposal to extend the railway from the present railway station at Jerusalem across the Wady Rababeh (so-called Valley of Hinnom) by an iron bridge, round the southern slope of the traditional Zion, and on to the "Dung Gate," where a second station will be established, and whence the line is to be carried northwards past the south-eastern corner of the Haram es Sherif, and subsequently southward above the Village of Silwan, and then eastward to the Dead Sea. From the Dung Gate a carriage road is to be made leading up the Tyropœon Valley to Damascus Gate and further north. Dr. Schick remarks:—"People here think this plan too fantastic, and I myself thought so at first. But the thing is possible, and I have seen many things done in this country which I once thought would never be done. What is needed is money!"

Professor R. Phenô Spiers, F.S.A., is preparing a paper on the Great Mosque of the Omeiyades at Damascus. Mr. Dickie has been recently there to examine certain points which it was desirable to clear up, and the results of his investigations will be embodied in the Professor's paper, which it is hoped will be published in the *Quarterly Statement* for July.

The Rev. T. E. Dowling has resigned the post of Hon. Local Secretary to the Fund in Jerusalem on his being appointed Chaplain of the Memorial Church, Pera, Constantinople.

The income of the Society, from December 22nd, 1896, to March 20th, 1897, was—from annual subscriptions and donations, including Local Societies, £857 13s. 9d.; from all sources—£1,110 0s. 1d. The expenditure during the same period was £843 5s. 2d. On March 20th the balance in the Bank was £559 19s. 2d.

Dr. Post's "Flora of Syria, Palestine, and Sinai," is now ready, and may be obtained on application to the author at Beirut. (*See* p. 151.)

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.

The following gentlemen have kindly consented to act as Honorary Local Secretaries:—

- Rev. J. F. McLaughlin, Victoria University, Queen's Park, Toronto.
- Rev. H. J. Barton Lee, Headborough, Ashburton.
- D. S. Chisholm, Esq., Inverness, N.B.

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 now well forward, and, when ready, will be sent out to the first 250 Subscribers without any increase in their subscriptions for the full set.

The set consists of "The Survey of Eastern Palestine," by Lieut.-Colonel Conder, LL.D., R.E., in one vol.; "The Fauna and Flora of Sinai, Petra, and the Wâdy 'Arabah," by H. Chichester Hart, B.A., in one vol.; "The Archæological Researches," by Professor Clermont-Ganneau, in two vols. Four volumes in all.

There are only a few copies of the sets left at the price of £7 7s.

An important work by Lieut.-Colonel Conder, R.E., entitled, "The Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem"—1099 to 1292 A.D.—and describing the condition of Palestine under the Crusaders, was published 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 forms an octavo volume of over 400 pages, with two maps, giving the Crusading names and boundaries of the "Fiefs" throughout Palestine.

The Committee have to announce that in accordance with a circular letter published in "Notes and News," January *Quarterly Statement*, 1896, the following translations have been issued to subscribers to the Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society:—

"Marino Sanuto's Secrets,"
 "Burchard of Mount Sion,"
 "Jacques de Vitry,"

and that a translation from the original Arabic has been made of Bohâ ed Dîn's "Life of Saladin," A.D. 1145-1232, which forms the concluding work of the Text Series.

This translation has been revised and annotated by Major-General Sir Charles Wilson, K.C.B., and Lieut.-Colonel Conder, LL.D.

The work is in the press, and will be ready, it is hoped, shortly.

A complete set of the translations in 12 volumes, with general index, bound in cloth, price £10 10s. A catalogue describing the contents of each volume can be had on application to the Secretary, 24, Hanover Square.

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 donations to the Library of the Fund:—

"The Historical Geography of the Holy Land." 4th edition. By George Adam Smith, D.D. From the publishers, Hodder and Stoughton.

We have received from M. Clermont-Ganneau No. 17-23 of his "Études d'archéologie Orientale," which contains the following, among other articles:—

14. Sur quelques localités arabes de l'époque des croisades.
15. Thisbé la ville d'Elie et le mont Aûf.
16. Nouvelles inscriptions grecques et romaines de Syrie.
17. Une inscription des croisades de Saint Jean d'Acre.
18. Edouard I^{er} d'Angleterre et la mission mongole de 1287, en Gascogne.
19. Inscription phénicienne gravée sous un pied de Vase en terre cuite.
20. Le mois phénicien de Zebah Chichchim.
21. L'inscription phénicienne de Narnaka.
22. Les stèles araméennes de Neirab.

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 will be found 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

In the *Quarterly Statement* for January, Dr. Bliss's Eleventh Report was accidentally printed from an unrevised proof, and contains the following *Errata* :—

Page 19, line 7 from top,	for "these" read "then."
" 23, " 1 "	for "relic" read "ubi."
" 23, " 6 "	for "larantur" read "lavantur."
" 23, " 6 "	for "apus" read "aquis."
" 23, " 7 "	for "astendentur" read "ostendentur."
" 23, " 7 "	for "leprasi" read "leprosi."
" 23, " 8 "	for "piscuia" read "piscina."
" 23, " 10 "	for "relic" read "ubi."

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1896.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Balance in Bank 31st December, 1895—		By Exploration.. .. .	1,333 15 0
Net Balance	£306 14 2	Printing and Binding, including the <i>Quarterly Statement</i>	566 6 0
Subscriptions paid in 1895 in advance for 1896	14 3 0	Maps, Lithographs, Illustrations, Photographs, Slides, Casts, &c.	289 3 10
	<hr/>	Advertising, Insurance, Stationery, and Sundries	85 8 11
Donations and Subscriptions	2,279 16 10	Postage, of Books, Maps, Parcels, including the <i>Quarterly Statement</i>	150 13 9
From Lectures	5 11 3	Salaries and Wages	402 9 11
From Sales of Books	763 17 0	Office Rent, Gas, and Coals	230 16 3
From Sales of Maps, Photographs, Slides, Casts, &c.	248 15 3	Liabilities paid off during the year	200 0 0
		Subscriptions paid in 1896 in advance for 1897	£45 11 2
		Net Balance	314 12 8
			<hr/>
			360 3 10
		Balance in Bank 31st December, 1896	360 3 10
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£3,618 17 6		£3,618 17 6

Examined and compared with Vouchers and Cash Book and found correct.

WALTER MORRISON, *Treasurer.*

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

The total income of the Fund for the year 1896 was £3,298 Os. 4d.; of this amount £2,279 16s. 10d. was from Donations and Subscriptions; £5 11s. 3d. from proceeds of Lectures; £763 17s. 0d. from sales of books; and £248 15s. 3d. from sales of maps, photographs, casts, and slides.

The amount spent on Exploration was £1,333 18s. 6d.

On printing the *Quarterly Statement*, new editions of books, the archaeological researches, and binding, £566 6s. 0d.

On new editions of maps, lithographs, illustrations, photographs, slides, and casts, £289 3s. 10d.

The advertising, insurance, and stationery cost £85 8s. 11d.

The postage of the *Quarterly Statement*, books, maps, parcels, circulars, letters, &c., cost £150 13s. 9d.

The management, including rent of office, amounted to £633 6s. 2d.

The liabilities were reduced by £200.

From America the following amounts were received through the Hon. General Secretary, Professor Theodore F. Wright: from Subscriptions, £243 13s. 1d.; from publications, £71 Os. 5d.

The *Quarterly Statement* is sent post free to all Subscribers of 10s. 6d. and upwards, and all Subscribers are entitled to purchase the publications at the reduced prices as stated in the list.

In taking over the works of the "Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society," as arranged for according to the circular letter published in the *Quarterly Statement*, January, 1896 (Notes and News), £108 5s. has been received for new sets and odd numbers to complete sets. Against this, £181 6s. 7d. has been expended for translating, printing, and binding. The sets in stock will cover this and any additional expenditure that may be necessary under this head.

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
Balance in Bank, December 31st, 1896.. ..	360	3	10	Printing, Lithography,			
Stock of Publications in hand, Surveying Instruments, Show Cases, Furniture, &c.				Current Expenses, &c.	787	18	6
In addition there is the valuable library and the unique collection of antiques, models, &c.							

WALTER MORRISON, *Treasurer.*

TOURISTS are cordially invited to visit the Loan Collection of "Antiques" in the JERUSALEM ASSOCIATION ROOM of the Palestine Exploration Fund, opposite the Tower of David. Hours: 8 to 12, and 2 to 6. Maps of Palestine and Palestine Exploration Fund publications are kept for sale.

Application for Lectures should be addressed to the Secretary, 24, Hanover Square, W.