

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the General Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund was held at the Offices, Hanover Square, on Tuesday afternoon, July 20th, 1897. Mr. JAMES GLAISHER, F.R.S., presided.

There were present:—Walter Morrison, Esq., M.P.; William Simpson, Esq.; Canon Dalton, C.M.G.; Dr. W. Aldis Wright; Dr. Ginsburg, J.P.; J. D. Crace, Esq.; Colonel C. M. Watson, R.E., C.M.G.; Colonel Goldsmid; Guy le Strange, Esq.; H. C. Kay, Esq.; Rev. Professor Theodore F. Wright; Rev. Wm. Henry Rogers, D.D.; Colonel Farquharson, C.B., R.E.; Dr. Chaplin; Dr. Percy D'Erf Wheeler; Dr. F. J. Bliss; A. Campbell Dickie, Esq., &c.

Letters of apology regretting inability to attend were received from His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Northbrook, Lord Sidmouth, Major-General Sir Charles Wilson, K.C.B., Sir Walter Besant, Major-General Sir F. J. Goldsmid, Bishop Blyth of Jerusalem, Dr. Löwy, James Melrose, Esq., Rev. W. J. Stracey, Rev. Henry George Tomkins, Professor George Adam Smith, Rev. W. F. Birch, &c.

Canon DALTON read the Annual Report.

GENTLEMEN,

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

They have held twenty-four meetings for the transaction of business.

The chief work of the year has been that carried on by Dr. Bliss at Jerusalem.

Sir Charles Wilson writes:—

“Dr. Bliss's excavations during the last season have been carried out partly on the western hill and partly in the Tyropœon Valley.

“The excavations on the western hill have led to nothing decisive except that, possibly, the old street mentioned in the *Quarterly Statement* (October, 1896, p. 304) may give the line of the ancient street that ran from north to south through Jerusalem.

“In the Tyropœon Valley the limits of the upper Pool of Siloam have been determined, and portions of the rock-hewn steps which appear to have originally led down to it have been found. Above these rock-steps is a well-constructed stairway of large slabs of stone which are set in mortar. This stairway is connected with a street running north up the Tyropœon Valley, and gradually ascending the eastern hill. The stairway and street are evidently Roman and, as the former is said to be older than the Siloam Church, they may very possibly date from the time of Hadrian.

"The church which was known to have existed at Siloam has been discovered, and its plan, which presents several features of interest, has been ascertained. The high altar is immediately over the channel which conveys the water of the Fountain of the Virgin to the Pool; and the nave and choir apparently occupy part of the site of the northern stoa or portico. A possible explanation of the peculiarities observed in the construction is that the original church, like the Church of St. Mary in Probatia, was a small building without aisles erected in one of the stoæ or porticoes that surrounded the Pool. At a later date the church was rebuilt and enlarged, and the platform, &c., near the two pools rearranged. The first church may have been the work of the Empress Eudocia, or of Juvenal of Jerusalem, and the reconstructed and enlarged church that of Justinian.

"The street which has been followed for such a long distance up the Tyropœon Valley is apparently that by which the pilgrim Antoninus (570 A.D.) descended from the 'Double Gate' or 'Triple Gate' of the Haram to Siloam (Ant., xxiv). The drain found under the street may explain the passage in which Antoninus states (xxiii) that 'In front of the ruins of the Temple of Solomon, under the street, water runs down to the Fountain of Siloam.' If Antoninus left the Temple enclosure by the 'Triple Gate' the 'putrid water into which the prophet Jeremias was sent' would in this case be the channel under that gate.

"The street is clearly Roman and no trace appears to have been found of the street which in Herodian and præ-exilic times led from Siloam to the Temple or up the Tyropœon Valley.

"The section across the valley in the *Quarterly Statement* for July, 1897, though it has not brought to light anything of archæological interest, is of great value, and will enable the natural features of the valley to be constructed with much greater accuracy than has hitherto been possible.

"The search for traces of the wall, which must at one period have run along the cliff east of Siloam, has been unsuccessful. But a wall and scarp were found running northwards from the dam of the lower Pool to the west end of the church. It would almost seem that the old wall crossed the valley at, or immediately north of, the church; but the information with regard to the levels is not at present sufficient to throw light on this point.

"It seems probable that the lower Pool of Siloam is the *mikvah* (ditch, R.V. reservoir) which Hezekiah made 'between the two walls for the water of the old Pool' (Isaiah xxii, 11). Thus the construction of the Siloam tunnel, and of the great dam, examined by Dr. Bliss, would be due to Hezekiah. Possibly the rock-hewn steps may have been connected with 'the way of the gate between the two walls which is by the King's Garden' (2 Kings xxv, 4; Jer. lii, 7).

"Two very important discoveries have been made during the last season, but unfortunately not by the officers of the Fund. One the shaft-tomb near Jerusalem, which shows that that style of tomb was used

much further south than was previously supposed. It also supports M. Ganneau's views that the Tombs of the Kings was of the shaft type. The other the geographical mosaic at Mâdeba, of which the value can scarcely be exaggerated.

"Mr. Dickie's exploration of the ground in the vicinity of the Great Mosque at Damascus has been most successful. It shows that the Temple with its enclosures must have been one of the largest and most magnificent buildings of ancient times, and that the church which succeeded it must also have been of great size."

The Executive Committee desire to convey their best thanks to Dr. Bliss and to Mr. Dickie for the important services which they have rendered to the Fund during the year, and also to place on record their appreciation of the tact and courtesy displayed by Shavket Effendi, the son and successor of the late Ibrahim Effendi, as Turkish Commissioner.

The Committee regret that on the expiration of the Firman Mr. Dickie's connection with the work of the Fund ceased. His original agreement was for six months, but he very kindly continued his services as long as the excavations at Jerusalem were being carried on, and has rendered invaluable aid by his beautiful plans and drawings, as well as in assisting Dr. Bliss in superintending the work.

In the early part of the year, when excavations at Jerusalem were not practicable on account of the rains, Mr. Dickie, at the request of the Committee, made a journey to Damascus for the purpose of examining certain points which it was desirable to clear up in connection with the Great Mosque of the Omeiyades there, and the results of his observations on the subject will be published in the next *Quarterly Statement*.

A very remarkable *rock-cut shaft* tomb having been discovered in the property north of the city belonging to Bishop Blyth, the Bishop kindly invited Mr. Dickie to visit and sketch it, which he did, and his description and drawings were published in the *Quarterly Statement* for October last.

Dr. Schick has continued his careful and accurate examinations of ancient buildings in and around Jerusalem, and has forwarded descriptions and drawings of the "Church of the Ascension" on the Mount of Olives; of "Khan ez Zeit," which is in the centre of Jerusalem; of the "Kubbet Shekfee Sakhra," on the platform in the Haram area; of the "West Wall of the Pool of Hezekiah"; of the "Tombs of the Kings," &c., besides contributing interesting papers on other subjects.

Mr. P. J. Baldensperger's "Answers to Questions," on the morals of the Fellahin, published in April last, belong to a class of subjects which can be satisfactorily investigated only by those who, residing in the country, are familiar with the language of the peasantry, and in constant and confidential communication with them. The Fund is therefore much indebted to Mr. Baldensperger for his contribution.

Mr. Gray Hill having succeeded in making a journey to Petra in 1896, kindly placed an account of it at the disposal of the Fund, and it has been printed, with illustrations, in the *Quarterly Statement*.

Among reports of original observations from other explorers which have appeared in the *Quarterly Statement* may be mentioned a description, with drawing, of a remarkable sculpture at Mejdél, by the Rev. J. E. Hanauer; a Greek Inscription from near Nazareth, by the Rev. H. Porter, of the Syrian Protestant College, Beirût; and Notes from Jedûr, by Dr. G. Schumacher.

The *Quarterly Statement* has also been indebted to scholars and explorers for several other important papers.

Dr. H. J. Bailey contributed an article on the quality of the water in "Jacob's Well," which has excited much interest, and the subject has been further discussed by the Rev. H. Clay Trumbull, of Philadelphia, U.S.A., Dr. E. W. G. Masterman, of Damascus, and others. Dr. Murray has given his kind and careful attention to Greek inscriptions sent home.

Professor Flinders Petrie has written on "The Date of the Exodus"; Mr. Ebenezer Davis on "Serapis"; Lieut.-Colonel Porcelli, R.E., on "Bible Coins"; Professor T. F. Wright on "The Valley Gate and the Dung Gate"; Lieut.-Colonel Conder, R.E., "Remarks on Masonry," "The Date of the Siloam Text," "The Mediæval Topography of Palestine," &c.; and Colonel C. M. Watson, R.E., has supplied a noteworthy paper on "The Length of the Jewish Cubit," with original measurements. Dr. Chaplin has contributed a translation of that part of the "Diary of David the Reubenite" which describes his visit to Hebron and Jerusalem, and the Rev. Canon Dalton a "Note on the Hebron Haram." The Rev. W. F. Birch also has sent an interesting communication, on "Tophet and the King's Gardens," which was printed in the January number. Mr. Dickie has contributed an article on "Stone Dressing in Jerusalem."

Mr. James Glaisher, our honoured chairman, has continued his laborious task of preparing for publication the results of the meteorological observations taken for the Fund at Jerusalem and Tiberias, and his papers on this subject are of great and permanent value as recording the meteorology of the Holy Land during the period which they cover.

By kind permission of M. Clermont-Ganneau a translation of an important paper by him on the Mâdeba mosaic, which recently appeared in his "Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale" was published in the last *Quarterly Statement*.

The new publications of the Fund during the year have been "The Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem," by Lieut.-Colonel Conder, R.E., and a translation of Behâ ed Din's "Life of Saladin."

New and revised editions of "Tent Work in Palestine" and "Syrian Stone Lore" have also been published.

The first edition of "A Mound of Many Cities" having been sold out, a new and revised edition is now in the press.

M. Clermont-Ganneau is closely engaged on vol. i of his "Archæological Researches in Palestine." He has promised that the whole manuscript will be completed and ready to go to press in the course of a few months. A part of it is now in type.

In the last Annual Report it was stated that arrangements had been made by the Committee for taking over the publications of the Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society and completing the programme as originally laid down.

The concluding volume ("Life of Saladin") has been translated and is now ready to be sent out.

Since the last Annual Meeting 270 names have been added to the list of annual subscribers, and 125 have been lost through death and other causes.

Your Committee have to record with great regret the death of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. E. W. Benson, who was elected President of the Society in 1891, and took a very deep interest in the progress of the work of the Fund. They are happy to announce that the present Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. F. Temple, has consented to become the President. Dr. Temple was one of the members of the first Committee elected in 1865.

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

Lord Iveagh.
 Herbert Bentwich, Esq.
 Claude G. Montefiore, Esq.
 Charles Samuel, Esq.
 William R. Harper, LL.D., Ph.D.
 Professor V. Hilprecht, LL.D., Ph.D.
 Clarence M. Hyde, Esq., New York.
 Very Rev. Edward A. Hoffman, D.D., LL.D.
 Right Rev. John H. Vincent, D.D., LL.D.
 Rev. William Hayes Ward, D.D., LL.D.

The following is the Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for 1896, which was published in the *Quarterly Statement* for April last :—

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

The total income for the year 1896 was £3,298 0s. 4d. Of this amount, £2,279 16s. 10d. was from Donations and Subscriptions; £5 11s. 3d. from Proceeds of Lectures; £763 17s. 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 *Archæological Researches*, and binding, £566 6s.

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 Honorary General Secretary, Professor Theodore F. Wright :—From Subscriptions, £243 13s. 1d.; from publications, £71 0s. 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.			LIABILITIES.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance in Bank, December 31st, 1896.. ..	360	3 10	Printing, Lithography, Current Expenses, &c.	787	18 6
Stock of Publications in hand, Surveying Instruments, Show Cases, Furniture, &c.					
In addition there is the valuable library and the unique collection of antiques, models, &c.					

WALTER MORRISON, *Treasurer*.

The CHAIRMAN.—At preceding Annual Meetings I have had to speak for Dr. Bliss in his absence. It is, therefore, a great pleasure to have Dr. Bliss with us to-day, and I would ask him, as a favour, to give us some account of the work which has been done during the past year.

Dr. BLISS.—The last time I had the honour of addressing an Annual Meeting was four years ago. We had then finished our work at Tell el Hesi, and I was able to say a few words with regard to what had been accomplished there. We then had already applied for permission to excavate at Jerusalem, but that permission had not arrived, and was not available until almost a year afterwards—in May, 1894. Since then, for a period of three years, with scarcely any interruption, except what was

caused by winter rains, the excavations have been conducted in the vicinity of modern Jerusalem, but within Ancient Jerusalem, as a glance at this map will show. Our work, as you all know, has been confined to the south of the modern city, with very little exception. What we have done has been so fully described in the *Quarterly Statement* that everything I say to-day must necessarily be a repetition, but I should like to call attention to a few salient points. In a short paper which I forwarded to be read at the last Annual Meeting, it was stated that beginning here (indicating on the map), at a point outside the Protestant Cemetery, we traced the wall, with more or less interruption, but always the same wall, right down to a point south-west of the Pool of Siloam, and then in a north-easterly direction to a point nearly in the centre of the Tyropœon Valley, including within the city of that period the Pool of Siloam. Now what was most interesting about this wall was, that at this point here almost immediately south of the Zion Gate, we found distinct signs of two periods. Resting upon the rock, and running for a distance of a hundred yards, was an old thick wall, buried by several feet of *débris*, and resting upon this *débris*, and running in the same general line, was another wall, of course less ancient than the first wall. Beyond this point, for a distance of some 50 or 60 feet, it was ruined entirely, and when we picked it up again just west of the Jewish Cemetery, it was interesting to compare the masonry of that bit with the two other walls, one above the other, and to notice which one it resembled; because this same wall, here entering the Jewish Cemetery, we found emerging from the Jewish Cemetery on the other side, with the same style of masonry, thickness, and direction—excavation in the cemetery being impossible. This identification was very important, for it was this wall that ran down to Siloam, including the Pool within the city. As I have said, the question was: Which did it resemble, the lower wall or the upper wall? Well, comparison of the drawings of Mr. Dickie, of the various bits of wall, and also the testimony of learned archaeologists, such as the Dominican Fathers in Jerusalem and others who honoured the excavations with their visits, led to the conclusion that it was the lower or more ancient wall that included the Pool. This is exceedingly important in the question of Jerusalem topography, because I have not read of a single archaeologist who has doubted that this lower wall of ours was truly the ancient Jewish wall of Jerusalem, and because this *débris*, separating it from the higher wall, points to a period when there was a desolation. Such a period of desolation succeeded the destruction by Titus, the lower wall being before Titus and the upper wall after. Well, such was the state of things when the last meeting was held. During the year further light has been thrown on this question. The investigation of the wall crossing the Tyropœon has been completed. It has taken one turn here and another turn there, where it points to the wall found by Sir Charles Warren, running south-west from the Temple. We have also examined the scarp, noticed by Dr. Guthe in 1880, upon which the wall connecting the two undoubtedly once ran. There are

two passages in Josephus that have led archaeologists to believe that the wall described by him did not include the Pool of Siloam. One passage was that in a speech of Josephus himself, where he speaks of "the Fountain of Siloam and the other fountains that are outside the city" being in the hands of the Romans. The other passage is where he says that in its eastern course it makes a bend "above Siloam," which is supposed to have been a curve excluding the Pool. Most careful search has been made for such a wall. The search has been double. The rock has been examined from the Pool as far as this point here, some 400 to 500 feet north of the Pool. Shafts have been sunk and these connected by tunnels, and every inch of the way has been examined and no sign of such a wall has been found. It is very difficult to prove a negative, but all we can say is that in the path of the tunnel driven such a wall does not exist at the present time. A second search was made for this wall by following the street which ran down the Tyropœon Valley, because it is not certain that this wall should have rested on rock. Therefore, we ran a tunnel along the street to see whether the street passed through the wall by a gate north of the Pool. No such wall or gate was found. In other words, it is proved with almost certainty that this paved street had its terminus in a gate in the wall that includes the Pool within the city. The key of the situation then is the street. This street is very plainly older than the Byzantine Church, because the church is built over a branch from that street to the Pool. Sir Charles Wilson, in the remarks that have just been read, says that the street is undoubtedly Roman, the Herodian street not having been found. I see no reason to suppose that this street may not be as old as the time of Herod, especially as it has never been supposed that in the time of Hadrian the city extended so far south as this. One does not wish to dogmatise upon this question, but it seems to me that these passages from Josephus may be satisfied by the discoveries that we have made. Had you been in Jerusalem with me, had you seen the corner of the wall here, had you seen the rapid way in which it mounted the hill of Ophel, and turned up towards the north, had you stood on the top of that scarp, on which the wall ran, and runs to-day, and looked down to the Pool of Siloam below you, you could indeed have said you were "above Siloam." It is a bend of the wall, and it is a bend above Siloam, and it seems to me that in that discovery we have a justification of the expression of Josephus. In regard to the other question, as to whether the Pool was outside the city at the time of Josephus, note that he says "The Fountain of Siloam." It is quite possible that the term "Siloam" might have been applied equally to the Virgin's Fountain as the source of the waters which fed the Pool of Siloam. That spring was, according to any theory or discovery, outside the city at the time of Josephus, and at every time. You know that Dr. Petrie places great value on the testimony of pottery, and the pottery found at the base of this wall, and within a few yards of the Gate, presents types of the later Jewish times, but still pre-Herodian—types which at Tell el Hesi both he and myself had identified as belonging to that period. So that so far

as that argument goes, it also fits in with the belief that really here we had discovered the pre-Herodian wall, including the Pool of Siloam. One word as to the street. The drain was traced very much further than the street, because the latter was in a ruined condition, although that the street once existed above the drain I think there is no doubt. This drain, when last seen, was pointing almost directly towards Robinson's Arch, under which Sir Charles Warren discovered a massive pavement, whose large, polished stones correspond to the huge paving stones, 10 feet by 6, which we have discovered along our street. We appear thus to have a line of road from Robinson's Arch to our gate which I think can be identified with the Fountain Gate of Scripture. One looks for one thing and finds another. (Hear, hear.) It was while looking for the breadth of this magnificent flight of steps, which we discovered whilst looking for the wall which crosses the Tyropœon Valley, that we came across the interesting Byzantine church which has been so fully described by Mr. Dickie, and to which Sir Charles has referred in his note. While carrying out the investigation of this church—which was somewhat criticised as a point a little out of our province—we came across the genuine Pool of Siloam, and were able to establish its limits more fully than Dr. Guthe had done. Moreover, the discovery of the church, and the dating of it in Byzantine times, gives us an approximate date for this street. In other words, very little time can be lost by digging in Jerusalem if you are able to dig with a certain amount of experience and to compare one point with another. Now, gentlemen, you will notice that most of our work this year has been done in the Tyropœon Valley. I do not like to fill my letters or my reports with an account of the difficulties encountered, but I think I may say it is a pleasure to feel that wherever I may excavate in the future, it will be utterly impossible ever to find a place so unhealthy or foul or dreadful as that cesspool below the Pool of Siloam, and this open drain which comes down towards it. I know one physician in Jerusalem—I think he is here present—who will not visit the excavations without taking ten grains of quinine before and afterwards, and it is in such an atmosphere that we have passed all our days during the past season. The health of the party, considering all these circumstances, has been very good, but the depression of spirits that came over each who descended into that foul place was a thing that had to be fought against, and I must say that we were glad when the work there had terminated. Moreover, this same drainage, so deadly to us, was the cause of life in the vegetable world, and, therefore, our work in the Tyropœon Valley was considerably hampered by the patches of cauliflower, lettuce, and so on, which thrive upon the drainage. I think I can give you no idea of the complications which arose with the landowners and the crop-owners. It means a great amount of worry and trouble, such as I was able to realise this year, when our foreman, Yusef, was detained with typhoid fever, and when Mr. Dickie and myself had to come face to face with the fellahin, and really understood what it was to conduct these operations.

However, all these things are now passed, and when one thinks that real light has been thrown by these excavations on the question of ancient Jerusalem all these little annoyances fade from the memory. (Hear, hear.) And now I should like to say one word more. What we have found may have attached to it more or less of uncertainty, in regard to date, but what we have found need never be looked for again, thanks to the careful measurement of Mr. Dickie, and thanks to his careful plotting and drawing. The value of what we have found may not be proved to-day, but in the archaeological puzzle every piece is of value. It may not fit into its place exactly to-day, but perhaps to-morrow the Germans, or perhaps the day after the Americans, or the Russians may find something which will be the key to our discoveries, as ours may be the key to theirs. (Applause.) I should like to say one word with regard to the unity of the whole work. I feel greatly interested in feeling that so many kind people in Jerusalem have taken an active interest in our labour, and have worked shoulder to shoulder with us. I do not need to speak now of our honorary secretaries, Mr. Dowling and Dr. Wheeler, but of Dr. Schick and Mr. Hanauer; of the Dominican Fathers; and with especial gratitude of Père Germer, who allowed us to encamp in the property of his Order month after month, and who also gave us *carte blanche* to excavate. I would also speak with gratitude of the Greek Patriarch, who gave us facilities, and of many kind friends who have helped to prove that scientific research is one—no matter whether it is forwarded by Englishmen or Americans, by Protestants or Catholics, by Mohammedans or Greeks. (Hear, hear.) And in closing I would like to thank the Committee for all the support they have given me. I have been told by people outside that funds were lacking, and I have seen the appeals in the *Quarterly Statement*, but the Committee have never said anything to me except "Go ahead, at full speed." I have been worried in many ways, but they have never added to my troubles by suggesting difficulties of finance, and for this I beg them to accept our hearty thanks. (Loud applause.)

The CHAIRMAN.—Would Mr. Dickie care to add anything to what has been said? We are so indebted to you, and so glad to see you, that we should like to hear you speak.

Mr. DICKIE.—Thank you, very much, but I think after the full statement by Dr. Bliss I have really nothing to say.

Colonel GOLDSMID.—I have been asked to move the adoption of the Report, and I do so with very great pleasure. Though I am a very old member of this Society, and have always watched it with the greatest interest, I, being a soldier, have had the ill-luck never before to have been here at the time of an Annual Meeting. I am very glad to see that some of my race and religion have joined the Council. I have before thought and said that my co-religionists have not backed up this Society as they ought to have done, but I hope now that you have some Jews upon the Council they will better support this great work—for it is a great work, irrespective of creed. It is a work in which all of us,

whether Jews or Christians, should take the greatest interest, for it is in a land which holds the dearest and highest associations of our faiths. It is many years since I was in Palestine—it was at the time of the great exodus of Jews from Russia in 1883, and I was very anxious about the colonising movement there. After visiting the settlements there and paying a visit to my dear friend Laurence Oliphant, with whom I stayed at Mount Carmel, I went to Paris and saw Baron Rothschild, my efforts being directed to breaking down the evil system by which the Jews who went there lived on the charity of other Jews; for although it may be laudable to spend one's life in prayer, yet the old ideal that work was of equal importance to prayer had been lost sight of. Where there were three little needy colonies in those days there are now over a hundred, some of which are nearly self-supporting, and the output of wine in the Jewish colonies is something enormous at the present time. But I must say that I consider the Jews owe a great debt of gratitude to the Palestine Exploration Fund for the discoveries it has made. I don't think that we in England know more about the historical sites of our own country than is now known about Palestine. I don't know that we can tell for certain the exact site of the Battle of Wakefield; but there are many points about the Maccabean Campaign that are familiar to us, and we know where Judas moved his troops. One work that this Society has done has been to throw away the rubbish and to get at the truth, and that is what we all want. I don't think any of us, whether Jews or Christians, wish to venerate a place because it has been put down for so many years as a sacred site. What we want to know is: Is it a sacred site? I have great pleasure in moving the adoption of the Report.

The CHAIRMAN.—We are favoured to-day by the presence of Professor Wright, of America. We are indebted to him for his indefatigable energy in making known in America what we are doing, and he has given us the practical means for doing this by the handsome subscriptions that he has sent. I thank him very much, and in asking him to second the Report I take the opportunity to say how much the Committee thank him and the Americans generally.

The Rev. Prof. THEODORE F. WRIGHT.—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I have great pleasure in being here to-day, and in seeing the faces of some of those whom I have learned to honour and love in this sacred work. I fully reciprocate, Sir, the feeling you have expressed when you say that you did not feel far from home when you were in America. Your literary men have established such shrines for us throughout England that we feel when we come here that we are indeed coming to the old home, and there is no family in America descended from the early settlers, who cannot go to some place in England, and say: "Here lived my ancestors." Well, Sir, if I have been of any use in your efforts, I feel like giving thanks to Him from whom all our blessings flow. We all may have antiquarian interests, but this work goes beyond and above them. You remember the saying of the Spartan when he heard the beautiful song of the bird.

He said : " I will catch that bird, and I will eat it, and then I shall have its voice." And when he had plucked it, and it lay in his hand, he said : " There is nothing to eat—it was a voice, and nothing more." Now, Sir, Palestine is a little country, and politically it is unimportant. It does not abound in mineral wealth, nor has it great resources of any kind, but it is a voice—the voice of ages, the voice of God. Sir, it seems to have been given to you in England to lead in this great and glorious work, and I have great pleasure in saying, on behalf of many whom I know in America, that they have full confidence in your leadership, that we gladly accept your decisions, and that gradually we are increasing the circle of your influence, with the result that I believe I have been able to transmit more lately than ever before. (Hear, hear.) And this, Sir, I believe will go on. If only you discharge as nobly as you have hitherto done the duty that falls to you, we will gladly co-operate. Lead on, brethren ; the Americans will follow. (Loud applause.)

The report was then unanimously adopted.

Colonel FARQUHARSON, R.E.—I beg to move that the present Executive Committee be re-elected for the ensuing year.

The Rev. Dr. ROGERS.—I have very much pleasure in seconding that resolution. I must say, having attended many meetings in this room, that this is the supremest moment I have passed under this roof. I have never been at a meeting where so much has been contributed, and where we have had the pleasure of seeing men who have been face to face with the work, and who have returned after having achieved the purpose for which they were sent. I think if the speeches that have been delivered to-day are reported, they will have a distinct effect upon as many of the public as our publications reach. I entirely hold with the sentiment that has been expressed by two or three of the preceding speakers that truth is the one aim that we have, and that science and the research for truth combine all nationalities. Such expressions as that are calculated to give force and enthusiasm to the work, and I hope that the Palestine Exploration Fund, which has now gone on since the sixties, will, as it goes on into the century to come, be marked with increased success. It is most interesting to find that the earth is giving forth practical proofs that the old Word is true : " Speak to the Earth, and it will tell thee." We have to rejoice over that wonderful discovery in Egypt, and I think that in the soil of Palestine is yet to be found ample reward for those engaged in this sacred work. (Applause.)

The Executive Committee were unanimously re-elected.

The CHAIRMAN.—Our Firman for the exploration of Jerusalem expired on the 20th of June. We have been digging there three years, under difficulties that Dr. Bliss has only just touched upon. Well, we have had Dr. Bliss here to-day, and a most interesting account he has given us. I should like to move that our warmest thanks be given to him. He has said that he has had assistance in every way. As I have told him, much

has lain to his own credit. I have always heard his tact, his judgment, his urbanity and decision commended, and the result has been the success of his work. I can scarcely find words to express my admiration of the manner in which he has done it. And in thanking Dr. Bliss, we must thank Mr. Dickie also, for the difficulties that one has gone through, the other has also. I should also like to mention Dr. Schick. He is getting on in years—between 70 and 80—but his papers are still admirably clear and definite. And in moving a vote of thanks to Dr. Bliss and Mr. Dickie, I should like to include Dr. Schick, and all other kind friends in Jerusalem who have helped them. And now to come nearer home, Mr. Armstrong is ever at work, and most earnestly at work, upon a salary that I should like to see increased, for he deserves it. There are also our local honorary secretaries. Out of the £3,298 reported by the treasurer, our local secretaries collected £762, and this is all done for the love of the work, and without the slightest remuneration, and I think our best thanks are also due to them. Then there is Mr. Morrison, our treasurer. His is no light work, for I know that he looks after every penny. Well, gentlemen, we cannot but give our best thanks to everyone who has helped us in our work.

Colonel WATSON, R.E.—I am very pleased to second this comprehensive vote of thanks. There is one point I should like to say a few words about. I am an engineer by profession, and know something about tunnelling, and to me the most marvellous thing about the whole affair is the way in which Dr. Bliss has done his tunnelling. How he has accomplished it without injury to a single man I cannot make out, and the best of it is that it is all done so quietly that no one realises what he has been doing. If he had filled his letters with complaints, we should have heard all about it, but he goes about his work so quietly, whether dealing with the Turks or going underground, that there is a danger that some of us may not fully appreciate his difficulties or understand his triumphs. I think that no one could have carried out the work, wholly apart from its antiquarian side, better than Dr. Bliss and Mr. Dickie have done. (Applause.)

The vote of thanks was heartily carried.

Canon DALTON.—Before we separate, we shall all feel it our duty, and no less our pleasure, to pass a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Glaisher for having presided over us to-day.

Mr. WM. SIMPSON. I have the greatest pleasure in seconding that.

The vote of thanks was passed with acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN.—Gentlemen, I thank you very much. I confess to a little disappointment about Jerusalem. I wanted to know more about its revelations than it is likely I, at my age, shall ever know. I thank you very much for the vote you have given me, but I have always been assisted by earnest men, both here and upon the Committee. You have only to look at the attendance book to see how regular are the attendances

there. I feel that the time will soon come when I shall no longer be able to attend the Committee, for I have always thought that the chairman should attend every meeting; if he misses one the link is broken. I thank you very much for the vote you have given me to-day.

The proceedings then terminated.

FOURTEENTH REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS AT JERUSALEM.

By F. J. BLISS, Ph.D.

THE last Report was dated June 8th, only 12 days before the permit expired and the excavations were closed. Hence the present Report must be necessarily brief. The chief interest during this short period centred in the search for the drain and street in the Tyropæon. I was anxious to trace these as far north as possible. Owing to the depth of the shafts necessary to reach the drain from point to point; to the occasional change in direction and in the rise of its base, which prevented our coming down immediately upon it in the trial shafts along the supposed line north; and, finally, to the fact that the drain was, as a rule, silted up almost to the soffit of the covers, the progress was slow, and we advanced only a distance of 250 feet, leaving a distance of about 400 feet to the City Wall, and of about 700 feet to the south-west angle of the Haram area. As a rule, this part of the drain has about the same dimensions as described before, but at one point a contraction occurs in both width and height. This is due to a reparation, effected by building a second lower wall against the original west wall of the drain, and by using smaller covers. Work along this section was very tedious, as the later wall had to be quarried away to allow of any progress. After 30 feet of this contraction the drain reverts to its original dimensions: height, 8 feet to 10 feet; width, 2 feet 6 inches to 2 feet 8 inches. The bottom is sometimes rock, sometimes a making up of cement.

At every point possible search was made for signs of the street above the drain, or, in the absence of this, for the making up below its pavement; but these were absent, even where the covers of the drain were *in situ*. Only at one point was observed a bit of a kerbstone (similar to the kerb of the street) with a wall of a house back of it; but the absence of the making up below it makes it doubtful whether it belonged to the desired street. During last season, at points where the pavement was ruined, we found this making up still existing above the covers. However, the fact that for 450 feet of its length we have proved the drain to run under the street suggests strongly that they were always in connection. It is quite possible that the drain may have been in use