

THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

ON April 7th Mr. James Glaisher, F.R.S., who for so many years has been the Chairman of the Executive Committee, entered the ninetieth year of his age, and his colleagues seized the occasion to present him with the following address of congratulation, signed by all the members of the General Committee whose present address could be found. Sir Charles W. Wilson, R.E., took the chair, and there were also present the Rev. Canon Dalton, the Rev. Dr. Ginsburg, the Rev. Dr. Wright, Sir Walter Besant, Sir George Grove, Mr. J. D. Crace, and Dr. Chaplin:—

“Dear Mr. Glaisher,—We, the members of the General Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund, desire to offer you our most sincere congratulations and best wishes on this day, the 7th of April, when you are entering upon your ninetieth year. Born in the same remarkable year that gave to the world Gladstone, Tennyson, and so many other illustrious men, you have yourself witnessed nearly all the important events of this century, with all the wonderful changes that have passed over the world, the unparalleled discoveries of science, and the expansion of the Anglo-Saxon races from a population of twenty millions to nearly one hundred and twenty millions. You have yourself advanced science in two directions at least—in knowledge of the atmosphere round the earth and in the science of meteorology. Your services in science have been recognised by that Fellowship of the Royal Society which is desired by every scientific man. We desire to convey to you our recognition and appreciation of those labours, conducted with resolution and success during the long period

covered by your years of life. It is now more than thirty years since you joined the Executive Committee of this Society. The Palestine Exploration Fund was then commencing its work on lines wisely drawn up by the original projectors—lines which allowed of expansion, yet indicated the nature of the direction which the work should take. As a member of the Executive Committee you have assisted in the conduct of the successive expeditions sent out to the Holy Land—that of Sir Charles Wilson, that of Sir Charles Warren, that of Professor Palmer, those of Colonel Conder, that of Sir Herbert Kitchener, that of M. Clermont-Ganneau, that of Professor Hull, those of Professor Flinders Petrie and Dr. Bliss, besides the smaller journeys of special research conducted by other travellers. By means of these expeditions a flood of light has been poured upon the interpretations of the Bible; the country has been surveyed; its fertility and the former denseness of its populations have been proved; the true glory and splendour of the Temple buildings and of Jerusalem have been now brought to light. The Land and the People can be understood at the present day as had never before been possible. One department of the work has been from the outset under your charge—that of the climate and the meteorology. Your papers from time to time published in our journal on this subject prove the care and trouble which you have bestowed upon it. It is now eighteen years since you assumed the office and the responsibilities of chairman of the Executive Committee. Only those who have worked with you know the unremitting care with which you have watched and conducted the surveys and the excavations abroad, the publication of the reports at home, and, which is a matter of considerable care and anxiety, the management of the finances of the Society. In offering you this grateful recognition of your part in a work which we have every reason to regard as a contribution to the right understanding of the Bible, only second to its translation into the vernacular, we venture to express our earnest hope that you may continue in the post you now occupy for many years to come, and that the time is still distant when you will find it necessary to resign your chair as the head of the Executive Committee.”

## RENEWAL OF PERMISSION TO EXCAVATE.

A letter dated June 11th has been received from John Dickson, Esq., H.B.M. Consul at Jerusalem, stating that he has received a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, requesting him to inform the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund that the Iradé sanctioning the excavations which they propose to carry out has been duly communicated through the Ministry of Public Instruction to Hamdi Bey.

Arrangements will, as speedily as possible, be made for recommencing these important researches, and it is hoped that all interested in the Exploration of Palestine will join in supplying the Committee with the needful funds in order that the work may be carried on quickly and efficiently.

Dr. Schick sends the following notes and news:—

This year very many Russian pilgrims came to Jerusalem, which had not been the case for some years. It is a sign of a peaceful state of political affairs. At the Russian settlement outside the city, a large new wooden barrack with tiled roof was erected to accommodate the pilgrims, as the existing buildings were not large enough for the purpose.

The Christian feasts and Moslem pilgrimage to Neby Mûsa have happily passed without disturbance.

The Rev. A. H. Kelk, Minister of Christ Church and Head of the London Mission to the Jews, has had a set of tubular bells put up on Christ Church, which hitherto had only one small bell, not on the church itself but on one of the neighbouring buildings. This bell was put up in the year 1854, when the Moslems were not prepared to hear bells, and, with a little one on the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, was the very first bell in Jerusalem. It has, however, been followed by many, some of them large. Last Christmas a set of three bells was also put up on the tower of the new German Church of the Redeemer, and I heard their voice first on Easter Day. People are being taught to ring them, so that when the Emperor comes they may be able to do it well. I have been requested by the Germans here to write an essay on the genuineness of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, or the true site of Golgotha, to be presented to the Emperor when he comes to the dedication of the Church. I have, by the help of God, tried to do so, and have related everything which has come to my knowledge during the last 50 years; what can be said against and what for it. But, after all, I have the full conviction that the site is genuine.

A German professor from Heidelberg was recently here and called upon me with reference to an inscription found in the Khankey by M. Clermont-Ganneau, which I did not remember, but found afterwards mentioned in the

Jerusalem Volume, p. 427, and the *Quarterly Statement*, 1871, p. 103. The professor said this stone had been on the pagan altar of the tenth legion, and hence their sanctuary was at Calvary, or the place of the present Church of the Holy Sepulchre. If he is right, we have in this another proof of the genuineness of the said place, as, according to Eusebius and Hieronymus, Constantine built his church where formerly a Temple of Venus stood, which was on Calvary and the Holy Tomb.

One thing has often struck me, namely, people saying that the Christians of the time of Constantine were ignorant, superstitious, and so on. Major Conder even says (*Quarterly Statement*, 1883, p. 73) they hardly knew the difference between Christ and Serapis. People who were persecuted for their faith in Christ, and gave their lives as martyrs for Christ, certainly knew the difference between their risen and living Lord and pagan idols. Certainly also they knew the Scriptures, and were acquainted with the configuration of the ground in and about Jerusalem much better than we. They lived only 300 years after the crucifixion, we 1,800 years. Common sense suggests the question, "Can we know it better than those of old?"

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We have received from its author, P. Girolamo Golubowich, a copy of "Serie Cronologica dei Reverendissimi Superiori di Terra Santa," printed at the Convent of St. Salvatore, Jerusalem, 1898. It contains much interesting information bearing upon the history and present condition of the Franciscan establishments in the Holy Land, a list of the Presidents and Custodians from the year 1219, copies and translations of Firmans granted to the Order in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, list of the various establishments now existing, &c.

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Through the courtesy of Dr. J. H. Gladstone, F.R.S., we have received a copy of his lecture, delivered at the Royal Institution, on "The Metals used by the Great Nations of Antiquity," and published in "Nature." We hope to reprint in our next issue that portion of the lecture which refers to Palestine.

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The office of the Fund is now established in the new premises at 38 Conduit Street (a few doors from Bond Street), where the Museum is open to visitors every week-day from 10 o'clock till 5, except Saturdays, when it is closed at 2 p.m.

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Dr. Bliss's detailed account of his three years' work at Jerusalem is now in the press, and will be published shortly as a separate volume, with the title "Excavations at Jerusalem, 1894-1897." The book will be copiously illustrated by maps and plates.

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The income of the Society, from March 28th to June 23rd, 1898, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £182 18s. 10d.; from Lectures, *nil*; from sales of publications, &c., £147 15s. 1d.; total, £330 13s. 11d. The expenditure during the same period was £511 5s. 11d. On June 23rd the balance in the Bank was £819 3s. 2d.

*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.

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The price of a complete set of the translations published by the Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society, in 13 volumes, with general index, bound in cloth, is £10 10s. A catalogue describing the contents of each volume can be had on application to the Secretary, 38, Conduit Street.

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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 office of the Fund, where they may be seen by subscribers.

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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.

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The Committee have to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the Library of the Fund:—

"The Hittites and their Language." By Lieut.-Colonel C. R. Conder, R.E.

From the Publishers, Wm. Blackwood and Sons.

"Serie Cronologica dei Reverendissimi Superiori di Terra Santa." By P. Girolamo Golubowich, Jerusalem, 1898. From the Author.

"La Carte Mosaïque de Madaba." Presented by Canon Dalton, C.M.G.

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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.

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.

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

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Subscribers who do not receive the *Quarterly Statement* regularly are asked to send a note to the Acting 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.

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The Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund desire to make clear that they have no book on their List of Publications called "Picturesque Palestine," nor is any person authorised to represent this book as published by the Society; nor has the Society any book-hawkers in its employment.

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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, Jerusalem. Hours: 8 to 12, and 2 to 6. Maps of Palestine and Palestine Exploration Fund publications are kept for sale.

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Photographs of Dr. Schick's models (1) of the Temple of Solomon, (2) of the Herodian Temple, (3) of the Haram Area during the Christian occupation of Jerusalem, and (4) of the Haram Area as it is at present, have been received at the office of the Fund. Sets of these photographs, with an explanation by Dr. Schick, can be purchased by applying to the Secretary, 38, Conduit Street, W.

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Application for Lectures should be addressed to the Secretary, 38, Conduit Street, W.