

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the General Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund was held at the Office of the Fund, 38, Conduit Street, W., on Tuesday afternoon, July 5th, 1898. MR. JAMES GLAISHER, F.R.S., occupied the chair.

There were present :—Viscount Sidmouth ; Admiral Sir Erasmus Ommanney, C.B., F.R.S. ; Lord Eustace Cecil ; Colonel Goldsmid ; Walter Morrison, Esq., M.P. ; Colonel Watson, C.M.G., R.E. ; Dr. W. Aldis Wright ; Dr. Ginsburg ; Dr. Chaplin ; Professor E. Hull ; Dr. Löwy ; Henry A. Harper, Esq. ; Fred. A. Eaton, Esq. ; Basil Woodd Smith, Esq. ; J. D. Crace, Esq. ; H. C. Kay, Esq. ; Dr. F. J. Bliss ; and others.

Letters of regret for inability to attend the meeting were presented from the Rev. William Henry Rogers, D.D., Sir Joseph Sebag Montefiore, Mr. D. MacDonald, Professor Flinders Petrie, Canon T. K. Cheyne, Mr. J. Pollard, Mr. James Melrose, the Rev. F. Birch, Mr. F. D. Mocatta, and others.

The Rev. Canon DALTON read the following 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 lease of the premises at 24, Hanover Square having expired, and the landlord not being desirous of renewing it, new rooms were sought for the Office of the Fund, and after much consideration a commodious suite of rooms at 38, Conduit Street, was secured, to which the Offices, Library, and Museum have been transferred.

A letter, dated June 11th, has been received from Mr. John Dickson, 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 have been made for resuming 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 out quickly and efficiently.

After remaining some months in England, and preparing for publication an account of his excavations at Jerusalem, Dr. Bliss proceeded to America, where he has been engaged with success in lecturing on the work of the Fund.

Owing to a disastrous fire at the premises of Messrs. Day and Co., the lithographers, the appearance of Dr. Bliss's book has been unavoidably delayed, but it is confidently hoped that it will be published shortly.

Although the work of excavation has for a time been suspended, the exploration of the antiquities of Palestine has been vigorously carried on by friends of the Fund residing in the country, and several interesting and important discoveries have been made.

Our old and tried colleague, Dr. Conrad Schick, has been indefatigable in noting and reporting new facts brought to light in various ways in connection with the archæology of ancient Jerusalem, and the papers contributed by him to the pages of the *Quarterly Statement* are of great interest. His mature views respecting the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the result of fifty years' study of the subject on the spot, are of especial value.

The discovery which was made last year of an ancient mosaic map of Palestine on the floor of a ruined church at Madeba has thrown much light upon the geography of the country as understood in the sixth century A.D., and also on the condition of Jerusalem and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at that period. A learned article on the latter subject, which was contributed by Pastor C. Mommert to the "Mittheilungen und Nachrichten" of the German Palestine Society, has by permission been translated and published in the *Quarterly Statement*.

Another discovery of very great importance is that of a Cufic inscription near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, translations and interpretations of which by P. Golubowich, of Jerusalem, and by Dr. Max van Berchem have appeared in the *Quarterly Statement*. With reference to this inscription M. Clermont-Ganneau writes:—"It appears to me to be of the highest importance in connection with the history of the 'Martyrion of Constantine'; it proves that the old wall on the Russian ground east of the Holy Sepulchre is indeed the eastern wall of the martyrion."

As in former years, your Executive Committee have to express their acknowledgments to many scholars and explorers for valuable contributions to the *Quarterly Statements*. Prominent among these is a paper on "The Great Mosque of Damascus," by R. Phené Spiers, Esq., F.S.A., embodying the careful examinations of the ground in the vicinity by Mr. Archibald C. Dickie, and accompanied by notes made by Captain (now Major-General Sir Charles) Wilson, R.E., in 1865.

Mr. C. A. Hornstein, of Jerusalem, having made a journey to Kerak and Petra, has contributed an account of the same, accompanied by a series of excellent photographs which are in course of publication.

By M. Clermont-Ganneau is a learned paper on "The Taking of Jerusalem by the Persians in A.D. 614," translated from his "Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale," "Notes on the Seal Found on Ophel," "On the Site of the Tombs of the Kings," &c.

Following up his original investigations of last year on "The Length of the Jewish Cubit," Colonel C. M. Watson, R.E., has contributed a carefully worked out paper on "Jewish Measures of Capacity." To the Rev. Dr. J. E. H. Thomson, Professor H. Porter, and Dr. A. S. Murray, the *Statement* has been indebted for copies of and comments on some newly discovered Greek inscriptions. The Rev. J. E. Hanauer has sent articles on "The Skipping of the Mountains," "The Removal of the Portal of a Church at Acre to Cairo," &c., and the Rev. B. Z. Friedman, a note on "The Bridge and Cave of Benât Y'akûb," embodying the curious Mohammedan and Christian local traditions respecting the daughters of the Patriarch Jacob.

Professor Hilprecht has contributed a "Note on Recently Found Nippur Tablets," the Rev. W. F. Birch papers on "The View from Pisgah," "David's Tomb and the Siloam Tunnel," &c., Professor Sayce, Mr. E. J. Pilcher, and Mr. E. Davis have discussed the "Date of the Siloam Inscription," and Mr. William Simpson has sent a suggestion on "The Temple and the Mount of Olives."

To our chairman, Mr. James Glaisher, the Fund has been again indebted for much arduous labour in preparing for publication a further series of meteorological returns from the Observatories of the Fund in Palestine.

The publications of the Fund during the year, besides the *Quarterly Statements*, have been new editions of "Mound of Many Cities," "Judas Maccabæus," and the collotype print of the Raised Map.

Since the last annual meeting 122 names have been added to the list of annual subscribers, and 115 have been lost through death and other causes.

Our cordial thanks are due to the honorary local secretaries for their help so willingly given in collecting and forwarding subscriptions to the office of the Fund.

The total amount of subscriptions and sales of books received in 1897 through Dr. Wright, Honorary General Secretary for the United States of America, was £226 11s. 3d.

The Committee have to deplore the loss by death since last meeting of the following members of the General Committee :--

Sir P. Le Page Renouf.
 Rev. John Stoughton.
 Rev. W. F. Creeny.
 T. B. Johnston.
 F. Waymouth Gibbs.
 C. W. M. Van de Velde.
 Dean Liddell.
 Dean Goulbourn.
 Sir James Douglass.

The following is the Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for 1897, which was published in the *Quarterly Statement* for April last :—

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

The total income of the Fund for the year 1897 was, from Donations and Subscriptions, £2,008 5s. 4d.; from Legacy by the late Edward Cooper, Esq., £1,000; from Lectures, £65 15s. 4d.; from sales of publications, £762 9s. 6d. Total, £3,836 10s. 2d.

The expenditure on excavations at Jerusalem amounted to £832 15s. 8d. In June the Firman expired, and the excavations were closed. Immediately thereafter an application was made for permission to dig elsewhere, and the Committee are now waiting for this permission to continue the work.

The amount, £708 19s. 1d., spent on printing, binding, &c., is increased this year by the publication of "Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem," "Saladin," and new editions of other works; it also includes the *Quarterly Statement*, which is sent free to every subscriber of 10s. 6d. and upwards. On the other side the sales of books amounted to £534 2s. 11d., showing that there is a steady sale for both old and new books.

On maps, photographs, casts, &c., £391 14s. 8d. was spent; of this amount £228 6s. 7d. has been received back.

On advertising, insurance, stationery, &c., the sum of £71 19s. 10d. was spent.

The postage of books, maps, parcels, including the *Quarterly Statement*, cost £136 7s. 5d.

The management, including rent of office, museum, &c., amounted to £621 13s. 8d.

At the end of the year the liabilities were all cleared off. The Society is entirely free of debt, a period unique in the history of the Society since its foundation in 1865.

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance in Bank, December 31st, 1897.. ..	596 14 10	Current Expenses.	
In hand	48 10 4		
	<hr/>		
	£645 5 2		
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.—Has any gentleman any remarks to make upon the Report which has just been read?

Professor HULL.—I have the pleasure of moving the adoption of the Report. I do not know that any remarks are necessary, except that of congratulation for the progress that has been made in the work of the Society in Palestine, for the number of publications that have gone forth and have been purchased by the public, for the fact that now we have a clear balance sheet, and also for the pleasure of seeing our chairman in his place, looking so hale and hearty. (Applause.) I think these are all subjects for congratulation, and with these few remarks I beg to move the adoption of the Report.

Admiral Sir ERASMUS OMMANNEY.—I quite agree with everything the last speaker has said, and I have very great pleasure in seconding the adoption of the Report.

The CHAIRMAN then put the resolution to the meeting and declared it carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—Usually I have had to speak of the absence of Dr. Bliss in Palestine, but last year we were favoured with his presence, and are now. His experience is of a very unique kind. Mr. Harper told me that when he was at Jerusalem he was shown the excavations, but was told he had to go up to his knees in something worse than water to reach them, so he was contented to remain at the top. But our excavator had to go, whether it was pure or impure; he had to do it, and he did it. He is here to-day. After the close of the excavations he wrote an account of them, which is in course of publication. Since then he has been in America, and I am sure that he will kindly tell us something, as he did last year, with regard to his work.

Dr. BLISS.—As the chairman has just told you, a year ago I had the honour and pleasure of speaking of the excavations at Jerusalem, which had just been closed. I feel as if I had had quite six months of excavations since then, because taking lodgings here in London with Mr. Dickie, who had been with me side by side in the excavations at Jerusalem, we thought the same thoughts and pored over the same maps, worked over the same measurements, and went over the same statistics until I really felt I was conducting excavations in London. Because, of course, the preparation of the book, although based upon the reports in the *Quarterly Statement*, involved a working over of the old material, systematising it, reconsidering conclusions, and putting it into a permanent shape. This work lasted until March 1st, and then with the permission of the Committee I went over to America. The condition was a peculiar one. We had applied for a new permit to excavate, and we did not know at what hour this might be granted. Accordingly I was given permission to go to America subject to instant recall provided I had three weeks there. At the same time it was understood that I was to do as much as I could, by public lectures and otherwise, to interest people in the history and work of the Society. It was rather a case of making bricks without straw. In the first place I was to give lectures, and in the second place, as I was subject to instant recall, I was unable to make engagements

very far ahead. Accordingly, I was not clear to do the best for the Society in interesting people in a practical way, and yet I think, under the circumstances, my efforts were successful. For example, I was given the honour of an invitation to the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society at Hartford, where were gathered together representative Orientalists from America—from the various Universities, and this led to invitations to give lectures at an early date at Yale University, Columbia, Chicago, and at Hartford Theological Seminary. Besides this I lectured at a Jewish College at Philadelphia, at my own Alma Mater, Amherst College, Harvard University, and at various other places, and, gentlemen, I think you would have been gratified to see the great interest that was awakened in our work. I owe a great deal to the cordial co-operation of Professor Wright, our most hard working and conscientious secretary in America. Of course, hearing a voice fresh from the work is different from receiving mere reports, and I think that new interest was stimulated which may bear fruit in the future. Especially at Yale did I receive the most enthusiastic reception. There I had a large audience, mainly composed of students of the college, and besides that there was a large porportion of the citizens of that historical educational centre. The financial aspect, of course, was hampered by the fact that I had always in view this return telegram, and was not free in my movements. But I was able to bring back a considerable amount of money, of which £90 was contributed by three members of the well known family of the Dodges, whose philanthropy is known all over the world, and who have done so much for the East, as is shown by their great contributions to the American College at Beirût, of which my father is President. And I learned one thing, namely, that if ever I was able to return to America for six months unhampered, with a programme that I may have made beforehand, perhaps with the assistance of that great bear-leader, Major Pond, I might be able to come back with several thousand dollars, and having sown seed that would bear fruit in the future. My coming back was most opportune. I had determined to take a certain steamer, and at the last moment I altered it for a quicker steamer, because something told me that I should find this meeting of peculiar interest. The steamer I did not take has not been heard of yet. And I am exceedingly glad that instead of having taken that steamer I took the ss. "Umbria," which brought me here in time to share with you the news that a new firman has been granted for continuing our work in Palestine. A year ago, on June 29th, I made application for this firman. Many people have said to me, "Why have you not received the firman before? It must be that the Turkish Government opposes excavations!" Gentlemen, consider the matter. Turkey has a highly centralised government; everything passes through the Council of State, and must receive the signature of His Majesty the Sultan. You know what the history of Turkey has been during the last year. Important as our excavations appear to us, remember that this is but one of all the thousand details of business that have come

before His Majesty during the year. And it seems to me, when I think of the various documents that must be attended to and signed, that we have no right to feel anything but a sense of congratulation that we have received this permit from that exceedingly busy monarch before the year was complete. A good deal of time was consumed by necessary correspondence, but I am glad to tell you that the questions involving slight difficulties have all been answered satisfactorily, that all the difficulties have been swept away, and it seems to me that, taking into consideration these two things, first the exceedingly busy state of things at Constantinople, and, secondly, the fact that we had to pass carefully and legally through a certain routine, we have got our permit in very good time. Now a word in regard to what we may hope for in the next two years. Our work at Tell el Hesi showed that Palestine is a very important centre, and that a site where the ruins are of mud brick is exceedingly important, because mud brick is a wonderful conservator of antiquities. We have applied for an area including 10 square kilometres, in which area may be found four important sites:—Tell es Sâfi, Tell ej Judeideh, Tell Zakariya, and Khurbet Dhikerin. All of these sites, with the possible exception of the last, show signs of being Israelitish, or certainly pre-Roman. Tell es Sâfi, you know, was the Blanche Garde of the Crusaders, and therefore we may have to work our way through modern remains before we come to the more ancient site. It is a splendid position. This mound is shaped something like the crescent moon, about 600 yards from tip to tip. It is situated upon lofty white cliffs, 100 feet high, and must always have been an important site. The same may be said of the two other Tells; and by whomsoever they may have been inhabited, they were certainly exceedingly important. Now Gath has never yet been identified. Those who were interested in the choosing of this site think that Tell es Sâfi may be Gath, from certain considerations which I have not time to enter into now. I go back with a mind so open that I think it is possible that Gath may be either of these three places, and this, instead of being a limitation, is really the contrary, because we have three chances instead of one. You remember that when the first permit was taken out under the present law of excavations, it was because of the sites of Umm Lakis and Khurbet 'Ajlan, which were supposed to be Lachish and Eglon. Within a week Dr. Flinders Petrie proved that neither of these suppositions could be correct. But, owing to the fact that in these 10 square kilometres there were included other sites, Tell el Hesi was attacked, and has been proved, to the satisfaction of most scholars, to be Lachish—in other words, Lachish was sought for in one place and was found at another. So, gentlemen, whether Gath be found at Tell es Sâfi, or at Tell ej Judeideh, or at Tell Zakariya, or at none of these places, yet there is no doubt that they are all ancient sites, in which something of interest will be found. In returning to Palestine, where I hope to break ground by the 1st of September, it will be a great pleasure to me to feel that I have the interest of so many in this country, not only of the general supporters of the Fund, not only of the General

Committee or of the Executive Committee, but that you, Mr. Chairman, will still follow me with interest, and afford me the support which I have so long received.

The CHAIRMAN.—Since Dr. Bliss has been in Jerusalem Mr. Harper has been there. Whoever has seen the result of his labours in those beautiful coloured drawings—which I am assured are very correct indeed—would be glad if he would favour us with a few words. Perhaps he may tell you something that will interest you.

Mr. HARPER.—Well, Sir, the first thing that occurs to me is that as a Committee we may congratulate ourselves that Dr. Bliss is going out so soon, because I understand that many old ruins are being pulled down in order to make modern improvements. Roads are being made in many parts of the country, and future travellers, and even our friend Dr. Bliss, will, before long, perhaps be able to travel in a dog-cart; he need not ride his horse to the excavations. There will be railways, and he will not be able to tell the Committee anything of his hardships, because everything is being made smooth and easy. Of course, the interest of the country remains the same. But when I look back twenty-eight years, I do not know of any land where the alteration has been so great. It is very fortunate that we began our work so many years ago. We talk in England of the jerry builder, but if you went even as far as Bethlehem and Hebron you would find jerry buildings there also. As for Jerusalem, our friends the Jews are building their new houses there and cutting down olive trees. I had some interesting talks with Dr. Selah Merrill in Jerusalem, who, I hope, will contribute some papers to the Fund, because he is now the United States Consul again, and he takes a deep interest in all matters connected with Jerusalem. As Dr. Bliss knows, the obstacle to excavating in Palestine—I think the truth should be known—is not the Turk. I think Dr. Bliss will bear me out in that. The Turk is a dilatory sort of fellow, but it is other people who are the obstacle. There is always underlying everything a sort of dread of the theological question. The opposition to any excavation work by the people in power arises from their belief that it is not a purely archaeological question; they always think we have a theological motive, and you cannot make them understand that all we want is truth. I think that is nearly all I have to say, excepting that I hope Dr. Bliss, in going again, will not have such dirty excavations as he had in some of those places at Jerusalem when I last saw him there.

Dr. Löwy.—Before I speak of matters which interest me personally, and perhaps interest others also, I wish to say that we ought to congratulate ourselves in having Dr. Bliss as one of the great representatives of excavations. We see in his welcome presence a token of peace and union between England and America. It is a very great pleasure to notice that while England is striving to recover the remains of Biblical antiquity, you have an exceptionally gifted American doing the work hand-in-hand with Englishmen. This is a great triumph both for England and America. It is a sign of amity in the region of learning,

and is a great advantage to the present time and to the time coming. I have listened to many new pieces of information which must be welcome to all of us. But there is one thing to which I wish to advert more particularly. It seems that there are three competitors for the name of Gath. The word Gath means a "wine-press," consequently, there must have been vineyards in the neighbourhood. Now the question is—I put it merely as a question—whether those three competing localities are at the same time wine-growing places. Of course, where there are several places containing vineyards we cannot decide which is the real Gath. I most cordially sympathise with removing the veil, or rather the dust, which covers monuments of bygone ages. Such men as Dr. Bliss, and a few others, while they have been excavating and bringing to light ancient cities, or portions of them, have also brought to light most important inscriptions, which tell us a great deal of the history of former days, I mean days of the period which takes its date from the early times of the Bible. We have, on the whole, very few such relics, and every one of them is exceedingly precious. I would suggest that whilst we are most grateful to those explorers who open the ground of buried sites, fuller attention should be given by the Exploration Fund to certain things which are not buried in the ground, but which are buried in the memories of the native population. I mean, that you should gather the folk-lore of Palestine from the survivors of the ancient races which occupied Palestine and Syria. It is true I have seen in the various *Quarterly Statements* some exceedingly interesting notices of this kind, but these come in very casually. It would be a very interesting work if you had a systematic survey of the remembrances of customs, and whatever else is handed down by the peasants of Palestine, of the Lebanon, and of adjacent parts. In these traditional records there is a fund of history which hitherto has not been systematised and carefully collected. I venture to suggest that the Committee, which is so ably working, should also direct their attention to the preservation of surviving folk-lore. You would have the additional advantage of attracting to your great undertaking a large number of the general public, who, at the present time, are not so much interested as they ought to be. And whilst I speak of the general public I beg leave to make a digression: it would have been an advantage to our meeting if, instead of its being held in this room, a larger place had been taken. A goodly number of ladies and gentlemen might then have been invited and would have been made acquainted with the Palestine Exploration Fund. Now I come to a point which, though connected with my personal history, may serve as a stimulus to those who are able to make researches in Palestine. It is about twenty-five years ago that I had occasion to catalogue the late Lord Crawford's Samaritan manuscripts. At that time I was exceedingly interested in the condition of the modern Samaritans, who, as everybody knows, are now dying out. I believe that there are only about one hundred and twenty men left.

In regard to births the proportion is one girl to six boys. They do not intermarry with the Mohammedans, for they detest them ; they do not intermarry with the Jews, for they avoid them ; they do not even intermarry with the Christians, for there is no communication between them. The Samaritans two hundred years ago used to come from Gaza and from Damascus, and from some other places in Palestine, to visit Nâblus, and perform a sacred service, namely, to read the entire Pentateuch, from the scroll which was supposed to be written outside the Tabernacle of Moses. In Gaza, I believe, they were forcibly converted to Islam. Traditions about the Samaritans may still be lingering in Gaza and in Damascus. I therefore entreat the working representatives of our Society to collect any surviving traditions concerning the Samaritans and to embody their communications in the pages of the excellent *Quarterly Statement*.

The CHAIRMAN.—I might just mention, with regard to the remarks of Dr. Löwy about the Samaritans, that we had a series of questions drawn up, and got information upon the folk-lore of the Samaritans, and all those particulars the last speaker mentioned, and the whole series was printed.

Mr. WALTER MORRISON.—Might I mention that at the start of the Palestine Exploration Fund the collection of folk-lore was one of the first objects put into the prospectus? And I think from time to time we have found much folk-lore, but it is not collected. What we want is to get something published like Lane's "Modern Egyptians."

The CHAIRMAN.—I beg to move that the following gentlemen be elected as additional members of the General Committee :—The Bishop of London, John M. Cook, Esq., Professor Mahaffy, and Dr. Selah Merrill. (Carried.)

The CHAIRMAN.—The next business is the election of the Executive Committee. I may as well say that we wish to add to the Committee the names of the Rev. Herbert Ryle, D.D., President of Queen's College, Cambridge, and the Rev. Professor George Adam Smith.

Colonel GOLDSMID.—I have much pleasure, Sir, in proposing the re-election of the Executive Committee, with the addition of those gentlemen you have mentioned. If I may be allowed to say one word on what my friend remarked about the Jews cutting down the olive trees, I think it is only in fairness to the Jews I should say that to them we owe the planting of an enormous number of olive trees, mulberry trees, and fruit trees of every description. I was there in 1883, and after my visit, seeing that they were at their last gasp and almost at starvation point, I went and saw Baron Rothschild, and I begged him to send help and assistance. He did so, and where there were three starving colonies then, there are twenty more or less flourishing now. The export of wine from these colonies is enormous. The difficulty that Baron Rothschild had was to find markets for the wine. Some was sent to the

Berlin Exhibition, and it had a great sale there. I assisted a few gentlemen in starting in London a depôt for the sale of these wines. Another thing is, I think that this Palestine Exploration Fund will, some 2,000 years hence, owe a debt of gratitude to the Maccabeans. You may have heard of them in London. We had a meeting last Sunday, and we agreed that a monument should be erected to the memory of Judas Maccabeus in Palestine. Two thousand years hence, when you are digging there you may find it, and it may afford a subject of much debate to decide whether it belonged to Judas Maccabeus or to anyone else.

Professor HULL.—I beg to second the re-election of the Executive Committee. (Carried unanimously.)

The CHAIRMAN.—There remains for me but a pleasant task, and that is to ask you to thank those who have worked so well for us. First and foremost there is Dr. Bliss, who did his best, I believe, in every respect, and although this *débris* at the bottom of the valley did not please Mr. Harper, Dr. Bliss took no notice of it, and he did well. There is Sir Walter Besant—I wish he were here—but he has attacked too heavy a task for him to have much leisure. I am thankful for the little time that he can spare us. His love for Palestine is none the less [than when he was here so constantly with us. To these gentlemen, and to our valued and indefatigable Acting Secretary, I ask you to give your best thanks. (Carried unanimously.)

The CHAIRMAN.—There is one other vote. Our Treasurer was absent one year and I had to go through the auditing of that year, and I was told that Mr. Morrison had done that every year since he had been Treasurer. It was a heavy bit of work, a very heavy bit of work. It must not be supposed that our Treasurer merely receives the money with one hand and signs cheques with the other; but he goes through all the accounts, and if there is a penny wrong he will find it out. I would ask you therefore to thank him as warmly as he deserves for the valuable help he has afforded. (Carried unanimously.)

The TREASURER.—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I never expected this compliment. I was one of the original founders of this Society, and it has been a labour of love to me to work for it. I have been Treasurer during nearly the whole period of its existence. And auditing the accounts is one of the necessary duties of a Treasurer.

The CHAIRMAN.—That concludes the business of the meeting.

Mr. HENRY A. HARPER.—I think we ought not to separate to-day without giving an unanimous vote of thanks to our Chairman. I was starting for Palestine when that testimonial was being presented, and I very much regret that I was unable to be present. I think it is only due, and I may say it is what we all feel, that our very best thanks are due to him. How he keeps up his interest is a splendid example to us.

I only wonder he does not now go out and see the land for himself. There are a lot of us who would take him if he would only go. I beg, gentlemen, to propose the thanks of the Committee to our Chairman.

Mr. BASIL WOODD SMITH.—I beg to second that resolution. I am sure everyone who has the privilege of working with Mr. Glaisher is astonished at his energy and perpetual freshness. He is a lesson and a model to us who are many years younger than himself. We return him our most hearty thanks. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN.—I thank you very much indeed for the kind words you have spoken. I have done the best I can ; I wish I could do more. It is a most tempting invitation to me to go to Palestine, but with my failing legs I dare not think of it. I totter about ; but, fortunately, my trouble is all in the lower limbs, and it leaves me with that energy which I wish may continue for some time. I beg to thank every member of the Committee for the honour they did me in presenting me with that testimonial. I thank you all. It is a kindness which has given to me an intensity of pleasure. I quite agree with you in being glad that Dr. Bliss is going out so soon. At all events where he is going it will be away from the jerry builder ; and I hope that this time next year he may have much to tell us of the results of his labours. I thank you.

The proceedings then terminated.

REPORT BY F. J. BLISS, PH.D.

I HAD hoped that this *Statement* would contain a preliminary report from me, dated from the Camp, announcing the commencement of the excavations. The permit authorizing us to dig at Khürbet Judeiyideh and environs was issued some weeks ago, but, owing to the going astray of a letter requesting me to comply with a final formality, I did not find the permit awaiting me here on my arrival on August 30th. It has taken some time to set the matter right, but I hope that we shall be able to be on the ground next week. The three chief ruins of interest included in the permit occur at the three angles of a triangle. At the southern apex of the triangle we find Khürbet Judeiyideh and the *tell* of the same name two miles north-east of Beit Jibrin. The *tell* is a large natural hill, with sides artificially scarped. The top is fairly level, and at one end occurs a large mound of *débris*. The visit made by me to the district in June, 1897, was a brief one, but it struck me at the time that the whole hill had been fortified, with important buildings at one end. The site is a splendid one. Six miles to the north-west of this *tell* is Tell es Sâfi, the summit being about 600 feet above sea-level. The *tell* is long and narrow, not unlike a crescent moon in shape. The length, north and south, is about 550 paces. Blanche Garde, the fortress of