

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

the Crusaders, once stood on the southern end, from which the top gently inclines to the north. In the centre of the *tell* is the modern village, about 220 paces in length. To the east are white cliffs, and on all sides the land slopes rapidly. In 1890 Dr. Flinders Petrie visited the place, and found Jewish and Amorite pottery, unmixed with other styles, to within at least 30 feet of the top. On a straight line connecting Ascalon with Jerusalem, Tell es Sâfi will be found to lie about 19 miles from the former and 23 from the latter. Five miles almost directly east from Tell es Sâfi lies Tell Zakariya, a hill over 1,200 feet above sea-level, resembling Tell Judeiyideh in many particulars. For sanitary reasons we shall probably pitch our first camp near this spot. On the lines connecting Tell Judeiyideh with the two other *tells* are minor ruins which deserve examination.

The chief subject of interest at present is, of course, the coming visit of the German Emperor. A carriage road has been constructed to the Mount of Olives *viâ* Scopus. Roads both inside and outside the city have been repaired. The angle in the Joppa Gate has always rendered the entrance of carriages difficult, and now a new entrance is to be effected by tearing down the wall thrown across the moat from the gate to the citadel, by filling up the moat, and by removing some small shops. Mr. Macalister arrived in good health on September 2nd, and we look forward to a season of great interest.

JERUSALEM, *September 12th*, 1898.

BIRKET ES SULTAN, JERUSALEM.

By Dr. CONRAD SCHICK.

1. THERE are several large reservoirs or pools for gathering water at Jerusalem, of which Birket es Sultan is the largest. It is situated in the western valley, opposite the south-east corner of the city wall and 335 feet distant west of it. As it is described in the Jerusalem volume of "The Memoirs," p. 376, mentioned in the modern guide books, and seen by every traveller or pilgrim, it is not necessary for me to give a long description; it will be sufficient to say that it is 588 feet long, and on an average 265 feet wide, an area of 155,820 square feet, and constructed in a very simple manner by two walls being built across the valley—the lower one, on account of the descent of the valley, being much higher than the upper, at the same time also much thicker and stronger, and supported by a mound of earth. The thickness of neither of these walls has yet been ascertained, but that of the lower will very likely be the same as that at the old Pool of Siloam, about 28 feet, against which is put a mound of earth, as at all pools