

THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

DURING the last quarter of the year 1899 the excavations were continued by Dr. Bliss at Tell Zakariya and Tell es-Sâfi until November 24th, when the party removed to Tell ej-Judeideh and commenced work there. Dr. Bliss's reports are published in the present *Quarterly Statement*, together with an elaborate description by Mr. Macalister of the remarkable rock-hewn subterranean chambers at Tell Zakariya, the rock cuttings at Tell es-Sâfi, &c.

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We deeply regret to record the death of Dr. Albert Socin, Professor of Oriental Languages at Leipzig, who was one of the founders of the German Society for the exploration of Palestine, and up to the time of his death acted as editor of that Society's publications. He was born in 1844 in Basle, and studied at the Universities of Basle, Göttingen, Leipzig, and Berlin. In 1868 he undertook his first journey to the East, and after visiting Cairo resided for about a year at Damascus, studying the Arabic language and the Arabian people. From there he visited Jerusalem and the village Ma'lula on the eastern slope of the Anti-Lebanon. In this place he wrote down from the mouth of a Greek Christian woman the ancient West Aramaic dialect which is still spoken there. The year 1870 Socin spent in Bagdad, in Kerbela, amongst the Manda'ern on the lower Euphrates, in Mosul, in Mardin, and Erzeroum, everywhere investigating and writing down the languages of the country. At the end of 1870 he returned to Basle, and in 1871 commenced his active labours as a teacher in the University there. In 1873 he again visited Cairo, Palestine, and Syria. The result of this second journey

was Baedeker's well-known handbook for Syria and Palestine. From 1876 to 1890 he was Professor in Tübingen, and from 1890 to 1899 in Leipzig. Socin's labours occupy a foremost place in connection with the study of the languages of the ancient and modern Orient. Also he took the liveliest interest in the geography, antiquities, and history of the East. For the "Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palaestina-Vereins" he wrote from 1878 to 1885 the reports on new publications in reference to Palestine with great accuracy and sound judgment. The list of Arabic topographical terms which appeared in Vol. XXII of the "Zeitschrift" was one of his last works. It is a remarkable illustration of his effort to build up the exploration of Palestine on a firm scientific basis.

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Owing to want of space the publication of several important communications has had to be deferred.

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Dr. Schick, in his report, mentions the remarkable fact alluded to by Sir Charles Wilson in his address at the Annual Meeting of the Fund, that the Turkish flag with the crescent and star had been hoisted on the tower of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. It is believed to be the first occasion upon which a Turkish flag has been hoisted on a Christian church.

A carriage-road from Jerusalem to Nâblus is about to be commenced. The engineer is an Armenian.

So many Russian pilgrims came to Jerusalem last year that there was not enough water for them even in the immense cisterns within the Russian compound. So more very large cisterns are to be erected, water being meanwhile purchased from neighbours. A steam pump and leather hose are employed to raise and conduct the water to the Russian ground.

There was at Jerusalem anxiety amongst the people because of a rumour that the world would come to an end on a certain day in the week between November 12th and 18th, so that the police were obliged to announce that anyone speaking openly in public about it would be imprisoned. The days went over quietly, and a storm with heavy rain occurred in the night of November 16th, making an end of the scarcity of water.

A number of moulds of the various objects found in the excavations have been received at the office of the Fund, consisting of inscribed weights, jar-handles, scarabs, &c. (*see p. 28*). They can be seen, and casts of several can be obtained, on application to Mr. Armstrong.

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The concluding volume of Professor Ganneau's "Archæological Researches in Jerusalem and its Neighbourhood" is now published and being issued to subscribers.

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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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Dr. Bliss's detailed account of his three years' work at Jerusalem, published as a separate volume, with the title "Excavations at Jerusalem, 1894-1897," and copiously illustrated with maps and plans, may be procured at the office of the Fund. Price to subscribers to the work of the Fund, 8s. 6d., post free.

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The "Flora of Syria, Palestine, and Sinai," by the Rev. George E. Post, M.D., Beirût, Syria, containing descriptions of all the Phaenogams and Acrogens of the region, and illustrated by 441 woodcuts, may be had at the office of the Fund, price 21s.

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The income of the Society from September 23rd to December 27th, 1899, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £695 10s. 10d.; from sales of publications, &c., £127 2s. 9d.; total, £822 13s. 7d. The expenditure during the same period was £800 13s. 8d. On December 27th the balance in the Bank was £270 12s. 4d.

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Subscribers in U.S.A. to the work of the Fund will please note that they can procure copies of any of the publications from the Rev. Professor Theo. F. Wright, Honorary General Secretary to the Fund, 42, Quincy Street, Cambridge, Mass.

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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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The Museum at the office of the Fund, at 38, Conduit Street (a few doors from Bond Street), 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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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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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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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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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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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 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.

The Committee acknowledge with thanks the following:—

“Receuil d'Archéologie Orientale.” Publié par Professor Ch. Clermont-Ganneau. Tome III, Livraison 22. *Sommaire*:—§ 57. Les inscriptions néopuniques de Maktar (*suite et fin*). § 58. L'építaphe de Ya'mour d'Ascalon. Additions et Rectifications. Table des Matières. Table des figures dans le texte. Table des planches hors texte (Pl. IX et X). Avis.—Les livraisons 23-25, Complétant le tome III, sont réservées à l'Index général et détaillé des Matières Contenues dans les trois tomes. Cet Index, dressé par M. J. B. Chabot, sera envoyé aux Souscripteurs au commencement de l'année 1900, avec les couvertures et titres du présent volume.

The authorised lecturers for the Society are—

#### AMERICA.

Professor Theodore F. Wright, Ph.D., 42, Quincy Street, Cambridge, Mass., Honorary General Secretary of the Palestine Exploration Fund for the United States. His subjects are as follows:—

- (1) *The Buried City of Jerusalem.*
- (2) *Discoveries in Palestine.*

#### ENGLAND.

The Rev. Thomas Harrison, F.R.G.S., The Vicarage, Appledore, Ashford, Kent. His subjects are as follows:—

- (1) *Research and Discovery in the Holy Land.*
- (2) *Bible Scenes in the Light of Modern Science.*
- (3) *The Survey of Eastern Palestine.*
- (4) *In the Track of the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan.*
- (5) *The Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea, and the Cities of the Plain.*
- (6) *The Recovery of Jerusalem—(Excavations in 1894).*
- (7) *The Recovery of Lachish and the Hebrew Conquest of Palestine.*
- (8) *Archæological Illustrations of the Bible.* (Specially adapted for Sunday School Teachers.)

N.B.—All these Lectures are illustrated by specially prepared lantern slides.

The Rev. Charles Harris, M.A., F.R.G.S., Appledore, Ashford, Kent. (All Lectures illustrated by lantern slides.) His subjects are as follows:—

- (1) *Modern Discoveries in Palestine.*
- (2) *Stories in Stone; or, New Light on the Old Testament.*
- (3) *Underground Jerusalem; or, With the Explorer in 1895.*  
Bible Stories from the Monuments, or Old Testament History in the Light of Modern Research:—
- (4) A. *The Story of Joseph; or, Life in Ancient Egypt.*
- (5) B. *The Story of Moses; or, Through the Desert to the Promised Land.*
- (6) C. *The Story of Joshua; or, The Buried City of Lachish.*
- (7) D. *The Story of Sennacherib; or, Scenes of Assyrian Warfare.*
- (8) E. *The Story of the Hittites; or, A Lost Nation Found.*

## SCOTLAND.

The Rev. James Smith, B.D., F.S.A., F.R.G.S., St. George's-in-the-West Parish, Aberdeen. (All Lectures are illustrated with lantern slides, many of which are coloured.) His subjects are as follows :—

- (1) *The Palestine Exploration Fund.*
- (2) *A Pilgrimage to Palestine.*
- (3) *Jerusalem—Ancient and Modern.*
- (4) *The Temple Area, as it now is.*
- (5) *The Church of the Holy Sepulchre.*
- (6) *A Visit to Bethlehem and Hebron.*
- (7) *Jericho, Jordan, and the Dead Sea.*

The Rev. W. Burnet Thomson, M.A., B.D., Galashiels, N.B. His subjects are as follows :—

- (1) *The City of the Great King ; or, Jerusalem and the Explorer.*
- (2) *The Temple, the Sepulchre, and Calvary.*
- (3) *Southern Palestine.*
- (4) *Jerusalem to Damascus.*
- (5) *Palestine and Jesus Christ (for children).*
- (6) *The Bible and the Monuments. Discoveries in Ancient Land.*

All illustrated with lantern slides.

## WALES.

The Rev. J. Llewelyn Thomas, M.A., Aberpergwm, Glynneath, South Wales. His subjects are as follows :—

- (1) *Explorations in Judea.*
  - (2) *Research and Discovery in Samaria and Galilee.*
  - (3) *In Bible Lands ; a Narrative of Personal Experiences.*
  - (4) *The Reconstruction of Jerusalem.*
  - (5) *Problems of Palestine.*
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