(*From a Photograph by the American Colony.*)

JERUSALEM : TOWER OF DAVID, WITH THE NEW CARRIAGE ENTRANCE BESIDE THE JAFFA GATE, AND THE RECENTLY-ERECTED FOUNTAIN.

(*To face p.* 1.)

THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

WE regret to record the death of Mr. H. A. Harper, who had for many years been a member of the Executive Committee of the Fund. Mr. Harper was well known by his pictures of scenes in the Holy Land, and numerous illustrations to articles for books and magazines. His "Illustrated Letters to My Children from the Holy Land," "Walks in Palestine," and "The Bible and Modern Discoveries," have had a large circulation. The latter is included in the publications of the Fund.

Dr. Schick has sent the following notes :—

1. The 1st of September, 1900, was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Sultan's accession to the throne, and the event was celebrated throughout the empire by flags and other decorations, and illuminations in the evening. Several of the chief towns also erected some monument in honour of His Majesty and as a remembrance of the day. I hear that in Nâblus they have put up a clock which strikes the hours, and in Jaffa a fountain at the harbour. In Jerusalem a fountain has been placed on the space of ground created at the Jaffa Gate by filling up the castle ditch, to make a wide entrance for the German Emperor two years ago. This fountain is to be supplied with water from cisterns, which will be made close by in the ditch. In the meantime, water from Bir Eyûb is brought up by the people of Selwan. Coming towards the city from the west, one sees this fountain or drinking place (Sabîl) in front of him as a new domed building glittering in gold and leaning against the grey walls of the castle. It is round in

plan, but behind a segment is cut off to give room between it and the castle wall for a man to fill it with water. Outside are four projecting pillars of red stone with mouldings, and over them the dome with the never-failing gilded crescent. The basin containing the water is furnished with about a dozen taps, and to each tap a drinking cup is fixed by a chain. The diameter of the building is about 8 or 9 feet, and the whole height about 25 feet. It is built of red and white stones alternately.

On the same day the Greek Convent opened their new fountain in the Muristan, and the Armenian Convent a movable one in the place before the entrance to their large Convent, which in the evening was illuminated with electric light.

2. When invited to see some antiquities in the Armenian Convent, I made use of the opportunity to see also their library, which, to my astonishment, is in an old church, similar to those I reported upon in the *Quarterly Statement*, 1895, p. 321, and elsewhere.

3. The carriage road from Jerusalem to Nâblus, for such a long time designed, is now being actually made. The work began about four weeks ago, under the superintendence of an Armenian, who has come from Constantinople for the purpose. Some Jerusalem Effendis had tried to have the road carried over 'Ain Sinia, but in vain, as this village is situated in a deep valley, and the line of the new road is to be kept as much as possible on the high ground, and as nearly as may be on a level. The work is already done between Jerusalem and Bireh, whence a branch will be made to Ramallah.

4. In one of my reports I mentioned that a German post-office had been established in Jerusalem, and this, as it seems, gave occasion for a French office also to be opened, and people speak already also of a Russian and an English one.

5. At Haifa there was recently a dangerous riot. At the landing stage made two years ago, near the German colony, for the landing of the German Emperor, people are accustomed to take sea baths, as the spot is convenient for the purpose. Certain hours are appointed for females, and as it happened that young men from Haifa assembled there at this time, the Mudir (or Governor) of Haifa stationed a sentinel there to send them off. But, instead of obeying, they began to beat the soldier, and as he

had no cartridges for his gun, and could not defend himself, he ran to the neighbouring German Hotel. The mob followed and broke the windows with stones, on seeing which the Germans of the colony came out well armed and the mob fled. At the time there were in the hotel, as guests, some high Turkish officers, and they telegraphed to 'Akka for soldiers, who came after a few hours and made many prisoners. An investigation is now being made, and it is spread abroad that the Christians are about to kill the Moslems! Others say the affair is owing to the jealousy of the French against the Germans.

6. The Armenian Convent have bought a piece of ground north of the north-east corner of the city, or Burj Laklak, and intend to make some excavations there. They asked me what they would be likely to find. This I could not say, but advised them to begin and they would certainly find something.

7. The Greeks are making great alterations in their part of the Muristan, and many ancient remains will be destroyed or buried deep under the new buildings. The new plan is east of the "Crown Prince Frederick Street," already made, from which three broad streets will run in a westward direction and be crossed by two diagonal streets, the whole forming at the point of intersection an open space or square from which the new streets will radiate. In the centre of this open space is the recently-made fountain alluded to above.

In digging for foundations north of the Church of Mar Hanna a narrow street, or lane, with steps, was found leading past the lower church and further eastward, how far I cannot say.

8. In making the carriage road to Nâblus an ancient aqueduct has been discovered, cut in rock 10 feet deep, 2 feet wide at the top, and a little narrower at the bottom. It is roughly worked. The lowest part contains fine sand-like earth, over which is common red earth without stones, and above this stones of all sorts. It is covered by strong flat stones, and was cleared on the top for about 30 feet in a direction south and north. It is north of Wâdy al-Joz, at the level 2,555·8 on the Ordnance Survey plan $\frac{1}{10000}$. It would be interesting to clear it out to some depth and ascertain where it comes from. The late General Gordon had always the idea that the water of the spring at Bireh had once been brought to Jerusalem, bringing it in connection with the

aqueduct from the north, excavated by me some years ago, and laid down in the new edition of the Ordnance Survey map $\frac{1}{2500}$ and in Sir C. Warren's Portfolio, Nos. IV and XXXVII, and the recently issued reduced Plan of Jerusalem, showing in red recent discoveries. On the northern slope of Wâdy al-Joz is to be seen on the surface a rock-cutting as if the aqueduct had come out here. It is in the line of some cuttings on the southern slope opposite, as if these were the continuation of it. If this were so a bridge or elevated aqueduct about 70 to 80 feet above the ground would have been needed to cross the valley.

Dr. Bliss writes that a new Kaimakamîyeh (Lieutenant-Governorship) has been established at Beersheba. An architect proceeded there from Gaza in a carriage, sending men ahead to smooth certain rough places on the road. The drive back he accomplished in four hours. In building the new Government House material from the ruins is being utilised. The carriage road to Nâblus is progressing.

Excavations at Baalbec, under a two years' permit granted to the German Emperor, have been going on for three months. At present the work is confined to clearing out the *débris*, which stands to a considerable height above the original ground levels of the temples. A series of Arab houses has been excavated, showing that at one period the walls of the great enclosure were used to protect a small settlement.

The Firman for excavations at Tell es-Sâfi and its neighbourhood having expired at the end of October, Dr. Bliss has prepared a general summary of the two years' work, which will be published subsequently, and Mr. Macalister has returned to England, bringing with him numerous plans and drawings of the objects found.

Observation of Dead Sea Levels.—Mr. Macalister reports as follows:—

"In accordance with the request of the Committee I visited Jericho on October 8th, 1900, and on the following day proceeded to 'Ain Feshkah.

"After a short search I succeeded in finding a rock which combines all the requisite characteristics for selection. It is a boulder standing sheer out of the water to a height of about 20 feet, with a smaller rock in front of it that affords convenient standing ground for taking observations, but is so situated that it does not prevent a plummet or tape-measure being dropped perpendicularly to the surface of the water from the mark which I caused a stonemason to make on the face of the rock.

"This mark is a horizontal line, 8 or 9 inches long, with the initials PEF beneath it. The line at the time when it was cut was exactly 14 feet above the surface of the sea (determined by a common tape-measure). Time, 10 a.m., October 9th, 1900. This may be taken as the first observation of the contemplated series.

"The rock in question has the additional advantage of being easily found. Southward from 'Ain Feshkah stretches a rank growth of reeds along the margin of the sea. This row of reeds is interrupted near its southern end by the rock, which is the only break in the growth. To reach the mark it is necessary to scramble round the south end of the rock.

"Dr. Masterman, of Jerusalem, accompanied me, and he is therefore acquainted with the spot."

With reference to the projected American School for Oriental Study and Research in Palestine, Professor Theodore F. Wright sends the following information :—

"The American School at Jerusalem is founded on the same basis as the American schools in Athens and Rome. All are fostered by the American Institute of Archæology, which is a large organisation with branches in the larger cities. The students will be graduates of colleges, and probably also of theological seminaries, which have a three-years' course in addition to the four years of collegiate instruction. About twenty of these seminaries have united in a small annual contribution, which gives them the privilege of sending a student who will receive instruction free. Of course, special students will also be admitted. The director will be selected from the contributing institutions, and will be changed yearly for the present. A modest beginning in hired quarters will be made as soon as a Firman is obtained, and to this the first director is giving his attention. What the school may become by growth

it is impossible to say; but it is not unlikely that excavation will be attempted in due time, Americans having been very successful in Greece. The prime object is study of the languages of the Bible lands, their fauna and flora, and the life of their inhabitants, in order to gain the Oriental point of view for future studies. If excavation is attempted it will be thorough, examining the whole length, breadth, and depth of a Tell, as is now being done by Americans in Babylonia with the best results."

It is understood that also a German School of Archæology is about to be established in Jerusalem.

We understand that the German Palestine Society has obtained, through the German Embassy at Constantinople, the sanction of the Porte to the completion of the survey of the country east of Jordan by Dr. Schumacher, and that the German Government have given the Society a grant of 25,000 marks (£1,250). We congratulate the German Society on their good fortune, and wish Dr. Schumacher every success in carrying out this important work.

The Committee are glad to learn from Dr. Bliss that the state of his health has very materially improved during the last few months, and that he is now better and stronger than at any time since the excavations which are just completed were begun.

M. Clermont-Ganneau has kindly promised to contribute to the *Quarterly Statement* notes on the important discovery of a Hebrew inscription in Mosaic at Kefr Kenna, reported in the "Comptes rendus des Séances de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-lettres," and on the Roman inscription which has been found on the "high level" aqueduct near Jerusalem.

The concluding volume of Professor Ganneau's "Archæological Researches in Jerusalem and its Neighbourhood" has been published and issued to subscribers. This completes the set of four vols. as advertised under the title "Survey of Palestine." There are only six sets left of the first 250 copies of this valuable work. Those who wish to secure a set at £7 7*s*. before the

price is raised should fill up the form and send it to the Secretary of the Fund.

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

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, 8*s.* 6*d.*, post free.

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 21*s.*

The income of the Society from September 25th, 1900, to December 22nd, 1900, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £880 9*s.* 1*d.*; from Lectures, £1 0*s.* 0*d.*; from sales of publications, &c., £160 0*s.* 6*d.*; total, £1,041 9*s.* 7*d.* The expenditure during the same period was £772 10*s.* 10*d.* On December 22nd the balance in the Bank was £248 14*s.* 11*d.*

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.

J. Sparke Amery, Esq., has kindly consented to act as Honorary Local Secretary for Ashburton in place of the Rev. H. J. Barton Lee, resigned.

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 10*s.* A catalogue describing the contents of each volume can be had on application to the Secretary, 38 Conduit Street.

The Museum at the office of the Fund, 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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:—

"Le Mont Thabor, Notices Historiques et Descriptives by P. Barnabé, O.F.M." From Dr. Conrad Schick.

"Autour de La Mer Morte." From the Author, Lucien Gautier.

"Moriah." From the Author, Andrew J. Gregg, A.B., T.C.D.

"Census of Cuba, 1899." From the War Department, U.S.A.

For list of authorised lecturers and their subjects write to the Secretary.

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.

Form of Bequest to the Palestine Exploration Fund.

I give to the Palestine Exploration Fund, London, the sum of_____ to be applied towards the General Work of the Fund; and I direct that the said sum be paid, free of Legacy Duty, and that the Receipt of the Treasurer of the Palestine Exploration Fund shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors.

*Signature*_____

Witnesses _____

_____

_____

Note.—*Three Witnesses are necessary in the United States of America; Two suffice in Great Britain.*