

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE KING has graciously conveyed to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the President of the Fund, His Majesty's consent to become Patron of the Palestine Exploration Fund in succession to Her Late Majesty Queen Victoria.

With deep regret we record the death, at the age of 64 years, of Sir WALTER BESANT, Knt., Honorary Secretary of the Fund, which took place at his residence, Froggnal End, Hampstead, on Sunday, June 9th, 1901.

The Treasurer of the Fund communicates the following:—

“ Many of our subscribers, when they read of the death of Sir Walter Besant, must have felt that they had lost a personal friend. He was a man of wide culture, of wide knowledge, and of considerable administrative ability, and he had the gift of sympathy. Those who formed an acquaintance with him soon found themselves treating him, and being treated by him, as if they were old friends. This natural gift of inducing others to speak without reserve must have greatly helped him in planning his many novels, for we know from his own evidence that the characters in them were modelled on men and women whom he had met. And this gift of sympathy, of securing friends, was

one of the faculties which made him so valuable an official of the Palestine Exploration Fund. He was of a generous temper, ever ready to give thought and time, when time meant money to so active a writer, to help others, to give sound advice, or to further useful work. It is sufficient to mention the People's Palace and the Authors' Society as examples of his unselfish activity on behalf of the interests of other men.

"But it is as the Secretary of the Palestine Exploration Fund that we have in this place to deplore his death.

"In the early days of the Fund the Acting, as well as Honorary, Secretary was Mr. George Grove, afterwards Sir George Grove. Mr. Grove was a man of great ability, of many-sided knowledge, of untiring energy, and strong self-reliance; indeed, his fault lay in this latter quality, for he was always ready to take up any subject which appealed to his feelings without regard to the other calls on his time. The work of the Fund suffered; it became necessary to engage a paid secretary, and in a fortunate hour for the Fund, Mr. William Lethbridge, who was then a reader, and afterwards a partner, in the firm of W. H. Smith and Son, recommended Mr. Besant for the post.

"Mr. Besant, after taking a high degree at Cambridge, had gone as a professor to the college in the Mauritius. His health broke down, and he returned to England. On becoming connected with the Fund, he showed his administrative ability at once. Order was introduced into the office, work proceeded smoothly. He soon substituted a *Quarterly Statement* in the place of occasional papers.

"It was partly his work that the Fund began to publish books, and it was certainly due to his tact and knowledge, and to the tact and knowledge of Mr. Hepworth Dixon, who was long the Chairman of the Executive Committee, that almost every book published by the Fund has been a commercial success, as well as an important contribution to our knowledge of the Holy Land.

"His genial, simple manners and quiet humour charmed visitors to the office, and he was possessed of no ordinary amount of common sense. All members of the Executive Committee recognised the value of his suggestions and counsel.

"Of late years increasing literary work, and his many other engagements, took up most of his time, but he was always ready to help us with his counsel when any complication arose.

"The successful working of the Fund has been in no small

degree due to him, and has led to the systematic examination by other societies and explorers of countries famous in the Old World. And thus, while we in particular can best appreciate the value of his work, his influence has had a farther reaching effect than the special work of our Fund."

Colonel C. R. Conder writes:—

"Sir Walter Besant was so well known that it is only because he was one of my earliest and kindest friends that I ask space for a few words. I believe that the success of the Palestine Exploration Fund was mainly due to his appreciation of all that is best in England, and to his knowledge of English character, and sympathy with the love of the Bible in England. I knew him well since 1872, and not only admired his energy and ability, but most highly appreciated his kindness, patience, and tolerance of differences of opinion. His work was invaluable to the Society, and he was one able fully to understand both the truth and the beauty of the Bible, and practically to carry out in London the lessons he learned from the Gospel."

The Annual Meeting of the General Committee will be held at the Office of the Fund, 38 Conduit Street, on Tuesday, July 16th, at 4 P.M.

Dr. F. J. Bliss writes:—

"It will interest the readers of the *Quarterly Statement* to hear that the majority of the objects found in our excavations are now arranged in a small museum. A large room in the Government School, just inside Herod's Gate, has been set apart for the purpose by Ismail Bey, the local Director of Public Instruction. Last autumn I numbered the objects selected for exhibition and made a catalogue, but owing to the lack of proper cases no arrangement could then be made. On my return last month I was gratified to find that Ismail Bey had obtained a grant from Constantinople which had enabled him to secure four large cases with glass on the four sides. These, with the two cases already in the room, have now provided ample room for the objects. Case No. 1 contains 101 examples of pre-Israelite pottery, including specimens from Tell el-Hesi. It was a gratification to find that these had been preserved by the authorities for over 10 years. In case No. 2 we have 116 examples of Jewish

pottery, including a series of the stamped jar-handles. Case No. 3 contains 184 specimens of Seleucidan ware. In the lower shelf of each case may be found the duplicates (unnumbered), which in the case of the Seleucidan period are very numerous. Case No. 4 is marked 'Miscellaneous,' and besides examples of pottery figurines, human and animal, contains various objects in bronze, iron, bone, and stone. In Cases 5 and 6 are exhibited the scarabs, gems, tablets, coins, and glass objects. The majority of the coins, as well as the greater proportion of the objects in the beautiful glass collection, were placed in the museum by Ismaïl Bey. For the classification of the coins the museum is indebted to Dr. Selah Merrill, U.S. Consul.

"The unique character of this small museum is obvious. It contains the only full collection from which the history of Palestinian pottery may be studied from pre-Israelite to Roman times. Ismaïl Bey hopes that he will soon receive authority to appoint a guardian, print the catalogue, and throw open the museum to the public for a small fee. The position will be convenient for travellers, as the museum can be visited after the inspection of the Church of St. Anne and the Pool of Bethesda by making a very small detour from the main road going north from St. Stephen's Gate."

In the April number of the *Quarterly Statement*, p. 165, it is stated that the church at Kubeibeh has been rebuilt since the publication of the "Memoirs." Dr. Schick writes that this is not quite correct, as the rebuilding of the church, which was begun about three years ago, was stopped owing to questions respecting the building in its interior (called "House of Cleopas"), which have never yet been settled.

Dr. Schick reports that the Benedictines, who are now in possession of the church at Abu Ghôsh, are about to restore it for a sanctuary and station for pilgrims.

He also mentions that "until now (April 29th) we look to heaven in vain for rain. Very often there have been winds and clouds, as if rain would come, but they have passed without rain. I am told that the railway has already begun to bring water to

the station, and that people may go there and buy it at a very reasonable price." Dr. Masterman, writing on May 20th, stated that three quarters of an inch had fallen within three or four days with great benefit to the country.

On April 1st Dr. Torrance reported that only 12·67 inches of rain had fallen at Tiberias, and that fears were entertained of great distress throughout the country. Locusts also had appeared at Tiberias and on the coast.

In connection with the Imperial concession to the municipality of Jerusalem to bring water from Wady 'Arrûb to that city, Dr. Schick reports that there is also on foot a scheme to construct an aqueduct from the Euphrates across the Syrian desert to Medina and Mecca, and that he had been asked to report on the feasibility of this being done. The result of his investigations, so far as the maps at his disposal afforded information, was that, in his opinion, the thing is impossible. The projectors of this scheme assert that Alexander the Great had an idea of carrying out such a work.

The Committee have applied for a firman to enable the Fund to continue its excavations in Palestine, and they hope soon to be in a position to publish in the *Quarterly Statement* full details with regard to further operations.

The Committee have pleasure in announcing that M. Clermont-Ganneau, whose valuable contributions to the work of the Fund are well known, has kindly promised to supply a series of archæological and epigraphic notes to the *Quarterly Statement*. The first notes of the series appeared in the April number.

A subscriber offers for sale a complete set of the "Memoirs" of the Survey of Western Palestine in 8 vols., comprising:— "Memoirs" (3 vols.), "Name Lists," "Jerusalem," "Special Papers," "Fauna and Flora," "Index"; also one Great Map in Portfolio (1 inch), one Old Testament Map, one New Testament Map, one Water Drainage Map, one Portfolio of Jerusalem Plates. "All in a very good condition."

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 two sets left of the first 250 copies of this valuable work. Those who wish to secure a set at £7 7s. before the price is raised should write to the Secretary of the Fund.

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

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

The income of the Society from March 22nd to June 20th, 1901, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £175 5s. 2d.; from Lectures, *nil*; from sales of publications, &c., £132 6s. 7d.; total, £307 11s. 9d. The expenditure during the same period was £482 11s. 1d. On June 20th the balance in the Bank was £364 0s. 3d.

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.

Rev. Wm. Ronaldson, 390, Castle Street, Dunedin, Otago, has kindly consented to act as Honorary Local Secretary, in place of Mr. Herbert Webb, resigned.

The Committee will be glad to communicate with ladies and gentlemen willing to help the Fund as Honorary Secretaries.

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.

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:—

"Jerusalem: a Practical Guide to Jerusalem and its Environs." From the Author, E. A. Reynolds-Ball, B.A.

"Voyage Archéologique au Safâ et dans le Djebel ed-Drûz." Par René Dussaud et Frédéric Macler. Avec 1 Itinéraire, 17 Planches et 12 Figures. From the Editor, Ernest Leroux, 28, Rue Bonaparte, Paris.

- “Among the Mountains, in the Sinaitic Peninsula, Waldensia, and Maharashtra.” From the Author, the Rev. Canon Gell, M.A.
- “A Journey from Aleppo to Jerusalem, A.D. 1697.” By Herr Maundrell, M.A., late Fellow of Exeter College and Chaplain to the Factory at Aleppo. From Aubrey Stewart, Esq., M.A.
- “My Tour in Palestine and Syria.” Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1899. From the Author, F. H. Deverell.
- “La Montagne de la Galilée.” From the Author, Rev. P. Barnabe, d’Alsace, O.F.M.
- “Recueil d’Archéologie Orientale.” Tome IV, Livraisons 11, 12, 13, January to March. *Sommaire* :—§ 27. Inscriptions grecques de Syrie (suite et fin). § 28. Le Zeus Madbachos et le Zeus Bômos des Sémites. § 29. Le dieu Monimos. § 30. Les noms nabatéens Thomsaché et Abdadousares. § 31. Nouvelles inscriptions nabatéennes. § 32. L’inscription sinaitique des trois Augustes. § 33. L’année sabbatique des Nabatéens et l’origine des inscriptions sinaitiques et safaitiques. § 34. Sceaux et poids à légendes sémitiques du Ashmolean Museum. § 35. L’inscription phénicienne de Tortose. § 36. Sur quelques inscriptions puniques du Musée Lavignerie. § 37. Un néocore palmyrénien du dieu ‘Azizou. § 38. Les inscriptions romaines de l’aqueduc de Jérusalem (à suivre). Livraisons 14, 15, April. *Sommaire* :—§ 38. Les inscriptions romaines de l’aqueduc de Jérusalem (suite et fin). § 39. Sur quelques noms propres puniques. § 40. Le mot punique *Mu* chez Plaute. § 41. Le nom phénicien Banobal et l’inscription de Memphis. § 42. Épitaphe d’un archer palmyrénien. § 43. Sur quelques noms propres juifs. § 44. Apollon Mageirios et le Cadmus phénicien. § 45. Le Phénicien Theosebios et son voyage à Pouzzoles. § 46. La belle Simè d’Eleuthéropolis. § 47. Les poteries rhodiennes de Palestine (à suivre). Livraison 16, May. *Sommaire* :—§ 47. Les poteries rhodiennes en Palestine (suite et fin). § 48. Un sceau des Croisades appartenant à la Léproserie de Saint-Lazare de Jérusalem (pl. I, D, E). § 49. Le trône et l’autel chez les Sémites. § 50. Le peuple des Zakkari. § 51. Sur quelques cachets israélites archaïques (à suivre).

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.

ERRATUM.

Quarterly Statement, 1900—p. 343, six lines up, for “penholder” read “pan handle.”