

THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE next *Quarterly Statement* will contain the opening portion of a paper on "Golgotha and the Holy Sepulchre," by Sir C. Wilson. The paper will include translations from early writers who have noticed the two Holy Places, and an examination of the various theories which have been advanced with regard to them.

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The following information respecting the water supply of Jerusalem, extracted from private correspondence, may be of interest to the subscribers to the Fund :—

The deficiency in the rainfall in Palestine last winter led to such a serious scarcity of water at Jerusalem, that the municipality of the city appealed to the Sultan for assistance. His Imperial Majesty at once ordered that £T6,000 should be set apart from the revenues of the "Evkaf" to meet the cost of bringing water in iron pipes to Jerusalem from the "Sealed Fountain," near Solomon's Pools. The work has been placed in the hands of M. Franghia, a Greek engineer, who has ordered, through a German merchant in the city, 20,000 mètres of pipe from Belgium. It is impossible to say when the work will be completed, but in any case the water will only be brought to the Harâm esh-Sherîf, and the lower part of the town, and, though good in quality, it will be insufficient in quantity.

Meantime, to alleviate the distress amongst the poor, the municipality, at the suggestion, we believe, of Mr. John Dickson, H.B.M.'s Consul at Jerusalem, have made a contract with the Railway Company to bring water in tanks from "Philip's Fountain," or from the spring at Welejeh. Instead, however, of

building a reservoir close to the station and fitting it with half a dozen brass taps, they have built a small cistern by the side of the road near the lower pool, Birket es-Sultan. The water is conducted from the tank wagons at the station to the cistern by a garden hose and is then pumped up again and sold to the poor for one-third piastre the skin. This has been a great boon to the poor.

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Notes by Dr. C. Schick:—

1. Owing to the scarcity of water in the city, the fellahin have begun to bring water in skins laid on donkeys from the various springs at some distance round, as from Lifta, 'Ain Karim, 'Ain Yalo, and 'Ain Haniyeh on the one side, and from 'Ain Fara and El Bireh on the other; also carriages bring water from El Bireh<sup>1</sup> in large boxes, tinned inside and properly covered. The two following works have been undertaken by the local authorities:—

(a) In the south-western corner of the lower pool or Birket es-Sultan, in the upper part of the "Valley of Hinnom," west of the city, a cistern, about 40 feet long and 13 feet wide inside, has been built. By means of pipes or waterproof hose water from the spring of Walejeh, near Bittir, which is higher than the railway, is conveyed to large vessels on railway trucks and brought to the station at Jerusalem, whence it is allowed to run through similar pipes or hose into this new-made cistern, and an office has been opened for the sale of this water at a cheap and fixed price.

(b) The old, worn-out earthen pipes of the aqueduct from Solomon's Pools are to be removed, and replaced by iron ones of about 4 inches (or more) in diameter, but this will not be of any service this year.

2. My son-in-law made recently a tour with his family to Hebron and stayed a few days there. He told me the springs there are very scanty and some even dry, but, to his astonishment, he found water in the so-called house of Abraham at "Ramat el-Khalil." Some people are now living there, and the ground round-about is laid out for gardens and cultivated. It seems that at the bottom or on the sides of the fine round well there there is

<sup>1</sup> As the carriage road to this place has been finished about four weeks.

a spring, which must be perennial, as it is not dried up in such a dry season as the present. I think it may be Bor Hassirah ("the well of Sirah," 2 Samuel iii, 26), as 'Ain Sara is too near Hebron.

3. Some friends made recently a tour to Beit Atab and its neighbourhood, and they told me that in the gardens at 'Ain el-Tannur there are such large and fine lemons as scarcely will be found elsewhere south of Jaffa.

4. On the premises of Christ Church they are now digging foundations for a new school building, and have found the rock in the narrow lane north of the church, about 40 feet below the surface of the ground, or somewhat lower than it was found by me at the minister's house, which is attached to the north side of the church. Hence it appears that the original surface of the rock sloped northwards. Hitherto nothing of importance has been found.

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A notice, by Dr. Masterman, of an interesting discovery recently made by the villagers of Siloam has come to hand as we were going to press. Our readers may remember that Dr. Schick, a few years ago, traced, for some distance, the course of an aqueduct in the valley of the Kidron, which, he believed, carried the water of the Fountain of the Virgin to Siloam before the rock-hewn tunnel that now connects the spring with the pool was made. The villagers, working under one of the men, Jum'aah, trained by Dr. Bliss, have found the upper part of an aqueduct, apparently connected with that discovered by Dr. Schick, near the spring, and Dr. Masterman and Mr. Hornstein have followed its course downward for 176 feet. Excavations are being continued, and it is expected that further discoveries will be made. Dr. Masterman's notice, with, it is hoped, additional information, will be published in the next *Quarterly Statement*.

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The "Flora of Syria, Palestine, and Sinai," by the Rev. George E. Post, M.D., Beirüt, 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.

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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.*

The income of the Society from June 20th to September 21st, 1901, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £157 0s. 7d.; from Lectures, *nil*; from sales of publications, &c., £96 9s. 1d.; total, £253 9s. 8d. The expenditure during the same period was £381 9s. 8d. On September 21st the balance in the Bank was £236 0s. 3d.

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

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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, 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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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.

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:—

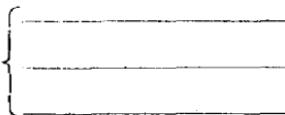
"Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale." Tome IV, Livraisons 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, June to August. *Sommaire* :—§ 51. Sur quelques cachets israélites archaïques (suite et fin). § 52. Dolmens et monuments de pierres brutes en Palestine. § 53. Bostra et son mur d'enceinte nabatéen. § 54. Sur quelques noms de vêtements chez les Arabes de Palestine. § 55. Urne punique avec inscription à l'encre. § 56. La carte de la Terre Promise d'après la mosaïque de Mâdebâ. § 57. La destruction du Saint-Sépulcre par le calife Hâkem et l'inscription coufique de la basilique de Constantin. § 58. Inscription romaine de Niha. § 59. Le droit des pauvres et le cycle pentaétérique chez les Nabatéens. § 60. Les cerfs mangeurs de serpents. § 61. Notes de mythologie sémitique. § 62. La stèle phénicienne d'Amrith (à suivre). From the Author, Ch. Clermont-Ganneau.

#### 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.*