

THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. MACALISTER has reached Jerusalem and will commence work under the new Firman as soon as it reaches him. The Committee are daily expecting to hear that the Firman has been granted, and they have requested Mr. Macalister, pending its receipt, to carry out some work at Jerusalem for which a permit to dig is not necessary. The site selected for excavation under the new Firman is Gezer, a place which has a continuous history from pre-Israelite times to the period of the Crusades. It was at Gezer that M. Clermont-Ganneau discovered the bi-lingual inscriptions, Hebrew and Greek, defining the limits of the ancient city.

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On November 4th there was a serious affray in the courtyard of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre between Latins and Greeks. Five Franciscans were dangerously wounded, including the vicar-custodian, a Frenchman; and a Turkish officer is reported to have lost an eye in attempting to separate the combatants. The conflict was due to a dispute as to the respective rights of the Latins and Greeks to sweep certain steps in the courtyard. A large stone thrown from the top of the church during the disturbance unfortunately struck and cracked the interesting tombstone of Philip d'Aubigné (*see Quarterly Statement*, 1887, p. 76).

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This week, a Jerusalem correspondent writes on November 7th, we had a visit from Prince Adalbert, the German Emperor's third son, and great crowds turned out to give him a welcome. As he arrived after dark the whole road from the station to the Hotel du Parc, upwards of a mile, was illuminated with lamps and sprinkled with water.

Information has reached the Committee that a forged inscription has recently been offered for sale at Jerusalem under circumstances which seem to point to renewed activity on the part of the forgers whose work attracted some notice a few years ago.

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Dr. Schick writes that the Armenians have purchased much of the land east and south-east of the Coenaculum (David's Tomb), which was the scene of Dr. Bliss's excavations for the Fund. The ground east of the road from the Zion Gate to the Valley of Hinnom has been resold to the Franciscans, who propose to carry out excavations in it. The Armenians are excavating the portion they retained, and are removing the earth down to the surface of the rock. They have found already several rock-hewn cisterns, remains of houses, rude mosaic pavements, and the continuation southward of the paved street partly traced by Dr. Bliss. They have also cleared out a tank 15 feet long and 12 feet wide, which was 20 feet below the surface of the ground: beneath this was a rock-hewn cistern 12 feet deep.

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Dr. G. H. Mitchell, the Director of the American School of Oriental Study and Research, and his assistant, who is a trained artist and draughtsman, are making careful measurements of all that is found, and their reports will be looked forward to with interest. It is satisfactory to know that the task of recording discoveries at Jerusalem is in such excellent hands, and the Committee of the Fund heartily wish the American School every success in their undertaking.

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Dr. Schick also writes:—On the evening of October 1st we had a very heavy thunderstorm, with much lightning, and some rain, which extended over a wide area. A flash of lightning struck David's Tower, splitting the flagstaff and injuring five men. The storm broke the weather, and there have been several falls of rain since, unaccompanied by the usual high winds.

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The September number of "Home Words," a magazine published in connection with Christ Church, Jerusalem, contains an article by Dr. Schick on an ancient pillar of remarkably great diameter, a

portion of which was found some 25 years ago in making excavations for a mill outside the Damascus Gate. Some time later a similar piece was found on the neighbouring ground of the Dominicans. It was at first thought that they had belonged to St. Stephen's Church, but subsequent discoveries showed that this could hardly have been the case, and Dr. Schick now regards them as portions of the pillar alluded to by Antoninus of Placentia, who was in Jerusalem about the year 560, and who narrates that "In the very middle of the road, not very far from the city" (outside the gate of St. Stephen) "stands a stone pillar, to which the Lord was first led to be scourged, which was raised by a cloud and fled away and was deposited in this place. . . . Upon the top of it is placed an iron cross. It is ascended by means of a ladder, and lights and incense are burned there. At this place also those possessed with devils are cleansed" (Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society, vol. ii, p. 22).

Dr. Schick adds that as the pillar stood not very far from the city, yet not so far as the Church of St. Stephen, it must have been close to the spot where these two large fragments were found.

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Whilst clearing out a portion of the vaults beneath the courtyard in front of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for the construction of a cistern, it was ascertained that the rock lies near the surface beneath the west wall of the buildings on the east side of the courtyard, and throughout its whole length. There appears to be a wall of rock about 22 feet thick, with a fall on either side. The closeness of the rock to the surface beneath these buildings has long been suspected by Dr. Schick.

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*Water Supply.*—Water has been brought at last from the "Sealed Fountain" above Solomon's Pools and 'Ain 'Atân to Jerusalem, and the inauguration ceremony took place, in the midst of drenching rain, on November 27th, the birthday of H.I.M. the Sultan. At 8 a.m. water was turned on from the pipe in the Haram esh-Sherif in the presence of the Governor, the officer commanding the troops, and the local notables, and a blessing on the Sultan and the enterprise was invoked in an eloquent prayer by Sheikh Yusuf. At 1.30 p.m. the Governor attended an inauguration ceremony of a more public character at the end of the branch pipe to the Birket es-Sultan. Here the dam was decorated with flags

and garlands festooned on poles, and many tents were pitched. In the evening the spot was illuminated, and there was much rejoicing.

The water runs in the old low-level aqueduct as far as Bethlehem. Thence it is brought, partly by 4-inch iron pipes and partly by the old aqueduct, to the city. The pipes have been mainly utilised to cut off corners, *e.g.*, they are carried straight across the hollow between the village of Sûr Bâhir and the place where the old aqueduct enters the tunnel south-east of the Hill of Evil Counsel (*see map in Quarterly Statement, July, 1887*). After passing through this tunnel, now a reservoir (*see below*), the water runs in pipes which cross the hill Abu Tôr, and, making a sudden bend near "Aceldama," abruptly descends to the bed of the Valley of Hinnom. From this point one branch is carried *viâ* the Dung Gate to the Haram esh-Sherif, and another up the Valley of Hinnom to the old Arab fountain on the dam of the Birket es-Sultan.

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The engineer of the new waterworks has converted the tunnel of the low level aqueduct, between the village of Sûr Bâhir and Jerusalem, which is said to be 470 yards long, into a large reservoir by deepening it 9 feet 10 inches. The tunnel has been visited by Dr. Masterman and Mr. Hornstein; and the following information is taken from notes kindly supplied by the former:—The tunnel is very tortuous and, except at one spot, runs through soft chalky rock, which is easily cut. The old aqueduct has been in great part destroyed. Originally the water ran through a well cemented rock-hewn channel. At a later period earthenware pipes were laid against the western side of the channel, and covered with hard cement; most of these pipes have been removed. The roof was in some places of rock, in others the channel was covered with horizontal slabs of stone, or by two stones arranged so as to form a pent roof. Four shafts, carefully lined with stone, and still perfectly preserved, led from the tunnel to the surface. Three of these are now being utilised. The most interesting feature is a lofty circular chamber about 10 feet in diameter, which is hewn in the rock, and is near the centre of the tunnel. The chamber, lighted by magnesium wire, appeared to be covered by a domed roof from 50 to 60 feet above its floor. The workmen have tried to strike the dome from the outside, but without success. The dome appeared to be of rock, and if there was an opening to the surface it was very carefully concealed.

Sir Charles Wilson writes:—As far as I can judge, from the reports that have come to hand, there has been a most unnecessary and useless expenditure of money upon the water supply. The low-level aqueduct formerly supplied water to the Birket es-Sultan and the Haram esh-Sherif, and this aqueduct might have been repaired at slight cost. There was no necessity to lay iron pipes up hill and down dale, and to turn a tunnel into a reservoir to deliver water at the same places and at less pressure. Nor can the water be much purer, for it runs in the old aqueduct as far as Bethlehem before entering the iron pipes.

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The old cistern at the lower end of the Birket es-Sultan has been cleared out, and is being converted into a covered storage reservoir for water for watering the roads. Every Friday there is a donkey and cattle market in the pool, which is also frequented by fellahin who crush pottery on the rocks for the manufacture of *hamra*, the red cement used for coating cisterns, flat roofs, &c. The water collected in the pool is therefore not fit for any domestic purposes.

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During the water famine last summer the sale of water, brought by the railway from "Philip's Fountain," went on from early dawn till long after sunset. It is estimated that from 3,000 to 5,000 skins and petroleum tins of water from this source alone were sold daily.

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With reference to the tomb described by Father Vincent in the "Revue Biblique" (see *Quarterly Statement*, 1901, p. 422), it is reported that a date, 1065, has been found inscribed on two stones. The figures are very roughly cut, and are probably connected with some re-adaptation of the tomb.

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M. Clermont-Ganneau writes:—There has been discovered lately in the building material of the Crusaders' Church at Abu Ghôsh a squared stone, whereon is engraved a Roman inscription mentioning a *veillatio* (detachment) of the Xth Legion, Fretensis. This discovery inclines one to think, as I have long conjectured, that here was a fortified post with a Roman garrison charged with the duty of guarding the road from Jerusalem to Jaffa. The supporters of the theory which would place the *castellum* Emmaus of the Gospels at Abu Ghôsh, will not fail to find an argument on their side in this

discovery. However, we must not in any case exaggerate its application, and it is well not to lose sight of the fact that at 'Amwās also Roman inscriptions have been found which prove that this place likewise was held by detached companies belonging to various legions. There must, indeed, have been quite a chain of them spread over the country between Jerusalem and the coast. It seems, too, that the Arabs long preserved the memory of the Roman *castellum* at Abu Ghôsh (Ḳaryet el-'Enab). This is shown by the name which the old Arab geographers gave to that place—*Hisn el-'Enab*, "the fortress of el-'Enab."

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*Carriage Roads in Palestine.*—Dr. Selah Merrill reports as follows:—Jerusalem to Jaffa, 40 miles; twenty-five years in building, and made comfortable only in 1892. Jerusalem to Hebron, 23 miles; completed in 1890. Jerusalem to Jericho, 22 miles; completed in 1898; ten years spent in building it. Jerusalem to the top of the Mount of Olives, about 4 miles; made in 1898 for the German Emperor. A branch from the Jaffa road to 'Ain Karim, less than 3 miles. A branch from the Hebron road at Solomon's Pools to Artas, about 2 miles. Jerusalem to Bireh, 9 miles; built this year (1901). The section from Bireh to Sinjil, about 10 miles, has just been let to a contractor, and work upon it has begun. The builder of the road from Jerusalem to Bireh is an Armenian, and the same man is building the section from Bireh to Sinjil. Jews and Moslems do not undertake such work. Carriages go from Jericho to the Dead Sea and the Jordan, and from Jaffa to Gaza, but across country, there being no made road. From Jaffa to Haifa the same is true, for the road that was made in 1898 for the German Emperor is now, with most of its bridges, in a ruined state.—Jerusalem, November, 1901.

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Mr. Rouse writes from Rugby:—The sporting screen mentioned in *Quarterly Statement*, p. 392, is also used for partridge shooting in Calymnos, a small Greek island near Cos.

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The Committee acknowledge with thanks "Al-Mashrik," an illustrated bi-monthly Roman Catholic periodical devoted to Oriental studies. It is published at Beirût, under the auspices of the Fathers of the University of St. Joseph, and is written wholly in

Arabic. Among the more important contents of the recent numbers we have noted "Archæological Notes on Lebanon," by M. l'Abbé P. H. Lammens, and "The Traditions of the Assyrians in Irak," by Dr. N. Marini.

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The observations on the level of the Dead Sea which have been kindly made for the Fund by Dr. Masterman prove to be of great interest. Between October, 1900, and March 30th, 1901, the level rose 1 foot 3 inches. It then began to fall, and in December was from 9 inches to a foot lower than in October, 1900. This is apparently due to the dry winter season, 1900-1901. Dr. Masterman promises full particulars for the next *Quarterly Statement*.

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The "Flora of Syria, Palestine, and Sinai," by the Rev. George E. Post, M.D., Beirut, 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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*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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The income of the Society from September 21st to December 24th, 1901, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £577 17s. 9d.; from Lectures, *nil*; from sales of publications, &c., £132 6s. 10d.; total, £710 4s. 7d. The expenditure during the same period was £743 10s. 2d. On December 24th the balance in the Bank was £202 14s. 8d.

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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.

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.

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:—

"Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale." Tome IV, Livraisons 22, 23. *Sommaire* :—§ 62. La stèle phénicienne d'Amrith. § 63. Le culte sur les toits chez les Sémites. § 64. Betomarsea-Maioumas et les fêtes orgiaques de Baal-Peor. § 65. La mosaïque hébraïque de Kefr Kenna. § 66. Lecture rectifiée des inscriptions, Nos. 2245, 2146, et 2009 de Waddington. From the Author, M. Clermont-Ganneau.

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* { \_\_\_\_\_  
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NOTE.—*Three Witnesses are necessary in the United States of America; Two suffice in Great Britain.*

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.

Subscribers to the Fund will hear with regret that DR. CONRAD SCHICK, who for more than thirty years has been connected with the work of the Fund, died at Jerusalem on December 23rd. A notice of his life-work at Jerusalem will be given in the April *Quarterly Statement*. Three papers and several notes in the present number show that he was active and observant to the end.