

THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Committee have much pleasure in informing the subscribers to the Fund that H. I. M. The Sultan has been graciously pleased to issue an Irâde granting permission to excavate the important site of Gezer. There are still some local difficulties to overcome, but the Committee hope to hear very shortly that Mr. Macalister has commenced work on the mound. It is estimated that the expenditure on the excavations will amount to about £100 a month; and it is earnestly hoped that subscribers, by inducing their friends to join the Fund, will enable this amount to be raised.

In the death of the Rev. John Zeller the Fund loses an old friend, who was always ready to assist its officers, whilst working in Palestine, by every means in his power. In the early days of the Fund he rendered valuable services to those engaged in the survey of Galilee. For 45 years Mr. Zeller served the Church Missionary Society at Nâblus; at Nazareth, where he built the Protestant Church in the face of difficulties that would have daunted most men; and afterwards at Jerusalem, where he had charge of Bishop Gobat's School and Preparandi Institution. During his 17 years' residence at Nazareth he won the esteem of the Bedawî tribes east of Jordan, and during the decade 1860-70 he was one of the few men who could pass everywhere alone and in perfect safety. It is feared that his intimate knowledge of Arab life and feeling has died with him, for excepting the report of a lecture which appeared in the *Q. S.* (April, 1901), he published nothing. On retiring from the C.M.S. Mr. Zeller settled at Wernigerode, in Germany, where

he died on February 19th, aged 71. His wife was a daughter of the late Bishop Gobat.

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The Board of Agriculture, on the recommendation of the Director-General of the Ordnance Survey, have very kindly transferred to the Fund the geological specimens collected during the Ordnance Surveys of Jerusalem (1864-5) and Sinai (1868-9). The specimens will henceforward be kept at the office of the Fund.

The Board have also transferred the moulds of the models of Jerusalem and Sinai, and the Committee hope, when arrangements can be made, to issue the models at a greatly reduced price, of which notice will be given in a future number of the *Q. S.*

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Dr. Torrance writes from Tiberias:—Owing to the bad harvest last year, and the delay of the rains this year, grain is very dear. Barley is twice the price it was last year.

We have had an unusual amount of malaria this winter, and my own household has suffered a great deal. This is rather curious, as mosquitoes are very scarce. Smallpox has been very prevalent in Nazareth and Safed. We got through the epidemic in Tiberias last year.

A Syrian has applied to the Sublime Porte for a concession to repair and run the hot baths at Tiberias and in the Hieromax (Yarmûk) Valley, repairing roads, &c.

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Information has reached the Committee that the *fellahîn* of the *Beit Jibrîn* district have been rifling tombs and ransacking the ancient mounds in the neighbourhood with deplorable results. The whole district has been archæologically ruined; graves have been found everywhere, and valuable gold objects have been looted from many of them. It is understood that some of the results of the robberies have been offered for sale at Jerusalem. Ill-directed excavations of this kind are illegal, and as they cannot fail to result in serious losses to archæology, the Committee trust that travellers and residents in Palestine will do their best to discourage them. The robberies have been brought to the notice of His Excellency Hamdi Bey, the Director of the Imperial Museum at Constantinople, who, it is hoped, will be able to check tomb-robbing in other parts of the country.

Dr. Schumacher writes that Professor Sellin, of Vienna, is to excavate Tell Ta'anuk (Taanach), and that in May the German Palestine Society hopes to start work upon Tell el-Mutesellim (Megiddo-Legio). In this connection we may draw the attention of our readers to the account of the German excavations at Ba'albek, in the present number. This country must not be behind-hand in work of this nature. No land is so rich in historical interest as Palestine, and there can scarcely be a district which would not reveal rich archæological finds, if only the means were provided to carry on the work thoroughly, and at once.

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With reference to the excavations carried out by the Armenians on the south side of Jerusalem (*Quarterly Statement*, 1902, p. 2), Mr. Macalister writes:—"The discoveries consist of: (1) An ancient rock-cut house of two or three chambers, partly quarried away at some subsequent time. (2) An extensive building (I should say Roman, or perhaps a little earlier, but there is little to determine the period), partly incorporating the rock-cut house; one room is paved with mosaic. (3) Several cisterns. (4) Three mosaic pavements with guilloche and other patterns. The smaller finds seem limited to Roman pottery, mosaic tesserae (in great numbers), glass, and late lamps—two of them inscribed, one with the common formula  $\Phi\omega\varsigma \overline{\chi\rho\iota} \Phi\epsilon\tilde{\nu} \Pi\alpha\varsigma\iota\tilde{\nu}$ , the other with  $\text{ΤΗ}\text{C } \text{Θ}\text{Ε}\text{Ο}\text{Τ}\omega\text{Κ}\text{Ο}\text{Υ}$ , which I do not remember seeing before." Through the kindness of the Procurator of the Armenian Monastery, Mr. Macalister has been allowed free access to the site of the excavations, and to make coloured copies of the mosaics, which will be forwarded in due course.

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In regard to the "Crusading Inscription," published in the *Quarterly Statement* for last October (pp.407-409), Dr. Selah Merrill writes:—"The little slab in question was not from Acre (p. 409), but was dug up in Jerusalem. I put it on the balcony of my room in the Grand New Hotel in order that it might be cleaned by the rain. One morning a servant was sweeping and he knocked off the slab, which fell to the pavement below, a distance of nearly 20 feet. It fell flat, and was chipped and broken, the fine bits flying in all directions, so that they could not be recovered. This I regret, for a considerable number of letters were lost. What they were I do

not know, for my copy and notes are at my home in America. I was so disappointed that I was on the point of throwing the remaining piece away, but finally saved it. The interesting thing about it is yet to be told. Directly under my balcony a peasant was sitting (squatting) on the pavement eating his breakfast. The stone fell within two feet of his head. When the stone left the balcony I shuddered, for I thought the man would certainly be killed. But he was not hit, and moreover he did not wince or move a muscle except what was necessary to chew his bread and hard cheese. I never saw a cooler feat, not even in my army experience in our Civil War. Had the man been hit on the head the stone would no doubt, by cruel and bloody work, have proved its kinship to the Crusaders.

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With reference to the fourth Note on p. 5 of the *Quarterly Statement* for January, Father H. Vincent writes that the dates mentioned were cut only a few months ago. It is regretted that currency was given to an erroneous impression. Father Vincent maintains that the fragment of a large column, mentioned by Dr. Schick (p. 3) as having been found in the ground of the Dominicans, must certainly have formed part of the basilica of Eudocia (Church of St. Stephen).

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Mr. T. S. Aldis writes, with reference to the Greek inscription at Sheikh Miskin in the January number of the *Quarterly Statement* (p. 24), suggesting that the last clause should be rendered:—"Only the surprising thing is that the Divine grace is not a word (as lord, count, &c.), but a letter T." He asks: "Is it not a delicate way of saying that Ulpian was crucified, whether because he was a Christian or a mutineer is left to conjecture?"

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The "Journal of the Society of Arts," January 17th, has the following notes on the mineral wealth of Palestine from a recent report of the United States Consul at Eibenstock, on the authority of a German mining engineer in Palestine:—

"Valuable mineral treasures have recently been discovered in Palestine, so it may be anticipated that the industrial awakening of the Holy Land is no longer a dream. The newly-discovered mineral deposits lie on both sides of the Jordan and the Dead

Sea. The salt deposits of the Dead Sea could be developed into an industry. The waters hold chlor-magnesium, brom-magnesium, and calisalt. Apart from this, there are the bituminous chalk springs of Neby Mûsa, which contain from 30 to 40 per cent. asphalt. The most important of all the deposits is phosphate. As is well known, natural chalk phosphate, phosphorite, and coprolite are necessary for the production of super-phosphates. The latter composition and sulphur form the most important ingredient in the preparation of artificial manure. The immense fields of phosphate to the east and west of the Jordan need only better means of traffic and communication in order to ensure their development."

In the "Sunday School Times," Professor Hilprecht reports that excavations were carried out last year, by the Imperial Ottoman Museum, at Bostân esh-Sheikh, on the left bank of the ancient Bostrenus, about an hour's ride north of Sidon. The task of excavation was entrusted to Makridi Bey, an intelligent young Greek, who has in preparation an account of his discoveries, which will be published in the "Revue Biblique." An ancient Phœnician temple, sacred to the god Eshmun, was discovered, and the trenches yielded about 240 fragments of sculptures, statues, and architectural remains in marble and limestone, vases in terra-cotta, glass vessels, inscribed gems, &c. Though most of these antiquities belong to the Hellenistic period, there are two large Phœnician inscriptions, each of six lines, and three other fragmentary ones which are important for Semitic palæography. The larger ones are duplicate votive inscriptions by Bôd-'ashtart, a hitherto unknown grandson of Eshmun-'azar.

The table of transliteration, which will be found on p. 202, will, it is hoped, be of use to contributors and readers alike. Exact uniformity is impossible, and, indeed, sometimes undesirable, and it need hardly be said that there is no intention of altering geographical and other names that have become thoroughly naturalised though, strictly speaking, incorrect. The transliteration in question is based upon that adopted in the works of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and is practically identical with the system employed in Socin-Benzinger's "Palestine" (Baedeker). It differs but slightly from that approved of by the International Oriental Congress of 1894, and adopted by the Royal Asiatic Society, &c.

The Museum and Library of the Palestine Exploration Fund at Jerusalem have been removed from the room opposite to the Tower of David to the Bishop's Buildings, near the Tombs of the Kings, where the use of a room has been kindly permitted by the Rev. Dr. Blyth, Bishop in Jerusalem and the East. The Museum is open daily, except Sundays, and the Honorary Secretary, Dr. D'Erf Wheeler, will give all information necessary.

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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 December 24th, 1901, to March 25th, 1902, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £576 4s. 8d.; from Lectures, £2 12s. 6d.; from sales of publications, &c., £110 17s. 9d.; total, £689 14s. 11d. The expenditure during the same period was £487 6s. 0d. On March 25th the balance in the Bank was £405 3s. 7d.

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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.

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.

Photographs of the late 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 24-26 (conclusion). *Sommaire* :—§ 66. Lecture rectifiée des inscriptions de Waddington. § 67. Nouvelles observations sur la mosaïque hébraïque de Kefr Kenna. § 68. Un thiase palmyrénien. § 69. Le dieu nabatéen Cha' al-Qaum; additions et rectifications; table des figures dans le texte; table des planches hors texte; table des matières. From the Author, M. Clermont-Ganneau.

“Al-Mashrik: Revue Catholique Orientale Bimensuelle.” Among the more important contents are :—“Les Soubbas ou Mandéens (suite): leur pays, leur nombre, leur langue,” by P. Anastase Carme; “Les Études Arabes en Europe au XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle (fin),” by P. H. Lammens; “La Consécration épiscopale chez les Melchites d'après un ancien Manuscrit,” “Le Calendrier de l'Eglise d'Antioche au XI<sup>e</sup> siècle d'après al-Birouni,” and “The History of Printing in the East,” by P. L. Cheikho; “An Historical Sketch of Carpentry in the East,” by J. G. Thabet; and “Ancient Convents of Lebanon,” by the Abbé I. Harfouch.

“The Progress of Zionism,” and “Palestine and Her Critics.” From the Author, Herbert Bentwich, LL.B.

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.

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FORM OF REQUEST 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.*

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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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## TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

During the year 1901 the receipts from all sources amounted to £1,936 14s. 9d., which is recorded under the following headings:—

	£	s.	d.
From Donations and Subscriptions .. ..	1,464	1	3
„ Lectures .. .. .	10	5	4
„ Sales of Publications .. .. .	462	8	2

At the close of 1900 the balance in the Bank, which included £10 8s. 0d. for subscriptions paid in advance, was £291 7s. 11d., making the total available £2,228 2s. 8d.

It is to be regretted that the receipts for the year have been seriously diminished, probably by the causes which have affected so many societies.

The Donations and Subscriptions vary in amount. The highest being £20; the lowest, 5s.

The amount received for Lectures came from America. The sales from publications are made up from Maps, £150 8s. 4d.; from Books, £274 3s. 4d.; from Photographs, Casts, and Lantern Slides, £37 16s. 6d.

The expenditure during the same period was—on Exploration, £448 4s. 3d.

Twelve months have now nearly elapsed since the Committee applied for a new firman to explore that huge mound, the Canaanite city, Gezer, situate on the borders of the Shephelah, between Jerusalem and Jaffa, and they are anxiously awaiting the Irâde granting the necessary permission.

In the interval Dr. Bliss and Mr. Macalister have been fully occupied in the preparation from their notes and drawings illustrating the recent explorations in and about the Tells Judeideh, Zakariya, es Safi, and Sandahannah. This Memoir about to be published will give detailed accounts of the two years' work under the now expired firman for that district, and the drawings represent more than a thousand objects of pottery, bronze, &c., all drawn to scale, and serving to elucidate the periods of time during which these sites were occupied.

On printing and binding, including the *Quarterly Statement*, £393 5s. 9½d. The expenditure under this heading is mainly on the production of the Journal itself, which is issued free to all subscribers of half a guinea and upwards.

On maps, lithographs, illustrations, photographs, casts, and lantern slides, the total under these headings amounting to £170 19s. 9½d.

On advertising, insurance, stationery, and sundries, £59 11s. 11d.

The postage on the *Quarterly Statement*, all book and map packets sent out amounted to £121 17s. 2d.—£70 3s. 6d. of this sum being incurred for the postage of the Journal.

On the management, which includes salaries, wages, rent of office and museum, light and coals, £619 5s. 2d.

The liabilities at the end of 1900 were reduced by £250.

The balance in the Bank on December 31st, 1901, was £164 8s. 7d.

The amount received through our Hon. General Secretary, Professor Theodore F. Wright, from America, was from—

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions .. .. .	205	15	6
Lectures .. .. .	10	5	4
Sales.. .. .	27	13	7
Total .. .. .	<u>£243</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u>

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.
Balance in Bank, December 31st, 1901.. ..	164	18	7
Subscriptions in arrear..	349	11	0
Also the stock of Publications in hand, Surveying Instruments, Show Cases, Furniture, &c.			
The valuable library and unique collection of antiques, models, &c.			

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
Printers' Bills and Current Expenses .. .. .	427	5	11

WALTER MORRISON, *Treasurer.*

