

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Committee have much pleasure in informing the subscribers to the Fund that Mr. Macalister commenced the exploration of Gezer on June 14th. He has contributed to the present number of the *Quarterly Statement* an interesting account of the history and topography of this ancient site (pp. 227, *et seq.*). From the prominent part it played in pre-Christian times, it is only reasonable to expect that light will be thrown, not only upon the Biblical problems with which Gezer is connected, but also, as Mr. Macalister points out, upon the nature and extent of Mykenæan influence on Palestinian culture, and upon the ethnological affinities of the Philistines and other coast dwellers. It is estimated that the cost of excavation will amount to £100 a month, and the Committee trust that a liberal response may be given to their appeal for financial support.

The *Quarterly Statement* is the only journal in the United Kingdom devoted to the archaeology and topography of the Holy Land, and has been the means of making known to its readers at home and abroad, not only the direct results of the Society's researches, but the comments and deductions of scholars in regard to them. It may fairly claim to have contributed not a little to the enormous increase in our knowledge of the Bible which has accrued during the last 40 years.

In furtherance of the same objects, it is now proposed to devote a page or so in each number to "Notes and Queries," and so give opportunity to those who have brief communications to make, or detached questions for elucidation — matters, in fact, for which regular articles would be out of place.

Whilst thus endeavouring to add to the interest and value of the *Quarterly Statement*, the Committee wish to remind its readers that the cost of printing and postage absorbs a considerable proportion of the minimum subscription ; and that, in order to pursue those excavations and researches upon which its interest depends, every effort should be made to encourage new subscribers to join, and to place the amount of their subscription above the point which leaves so little for actual work.

There is other work which it is desirable to carry on concurrently with the excavations. There are at present no accurate measurements or special photographs that can be used in any discussion respecting the origin of the people of Palestine. These data have long been desired, and everyone will be glad to hear that arrangements have recently been made for the gradual collection of measurements and photographs of typical men and women of the various races and tribes in the country.

Another branch of the work, for which funds are much needed, is the improvement and extension of the meteorological observations that have been carried out by the Fund for so many years, by substituting self-recording instruments for those now in use, and by establishing additional stations, especially in the Jordan Valley.

The observations on the fluctuations in the surface level of the Dead Sea, undertaken for the Fund by Dr. Masterman, show that a re-examination of the water and bed of the lake with the improved instruments of the present day is much to be desired.

There are also several phenomena, such as the "white line" on the surface of the lake, movements of the water similar to the "seiches" of the Lake of Geneva, sub-aqueous springs, currents, and the presence of patches of mineral oil on the surface of the water, which demand *scientific* examination.

Dr. Bliss writes from Beirut, May 27th, 1902 :—On reading in the April *Q.S.* (pp. 170–175) the article entitled "The Germans at Ba'albek," copied by permission from *The Builder* of January 11th, 1902, I was surprised to note that the large altar excavated in the centre of the great court is described as rock-hewn, with the inequalities in the surface rectified by the addition of

blocks of masonry. I have seen this altar several times, and have noted not only that it is composed entirely of masonry, but that no rock appears under it. However, preferring not to set the statement of one visitor over against that of another, I referred the matter to the officer at present in charge of the excavations. In reply, he states that the altar consists entirely of masonry, resting on a built foundation, under which no rock has been found. These facts invalidate the theorising of the writer in *The Builder* relative to the supposed condition of the site in pre-historic times. In fact, the excavations have thus far revealed no remains antedating the Roman period.

The Rev. J. E. Hanauer writes from Jerusalem, April 12th, 1902 :—"I find that, through some inadvertence on my part 21 years ago, I gave a wrong reference in my second letter on 'The Place of Stoning' (*Q.S.*, 1881, p. 319), and mentioned the German translation of Rabbinowicz's French work instead of the German version of S. Munk's French work. I can only account for the blunder by the fact that I had not the said works of reference at hand, and writing from memory mentioned the wrong one. Would you favour me by allowing the following correction to appear in your next issue :—Instead of 'ein Gerüst'—Rabbinowicz, *Einleitung*, &c., &c., read 'einem Brettergerüst,' Levy's German version of S. Munk's *Palestine*, vol. ii, p. 437 text, and footnote 1."

The following is the original French of the passage alluded to by Mr. Hanauer :—"Selon la loi traditionnelle (*Mischnah*, 4me partie, *Synhedrin*, ch. 4, § 4), on lançait le patient du haut d'un échafaud élevé de deux hauteurs d'homme, et puis on l'accueillait de pierres" (*Palestine*, par S. Munk, Paris, 1856, p. 214*b*, note 1).

Mr. Hanauer remarks also that the representation of the two monkeys upon the piece of mediæval sculpture from Jaffa, which is figured by Prof. Clermont-Ganneau in his *Archæological Researches*, vol. ii, p. 158, is not unlike a piece of sculpture in the Church of the Sepulchre. One is not surprised to hear that a curious fable is associated with it, and we hope to be able to give some account of the story in an early number.

Mr. Macalister writes from Jerusalem that he recently visited Solomon's quarries in company with Mr. Hornstein, in order to

ascertain the truth of two local reports about them : first that there is a deflection of the compass inside the cave, and second that there is an unexplored passage of great length proceeding from a certain part of it. "We tested the compass in every possible way, and found that there is no variation whatever, and also were quite convinced that the alleged passage is equally apochryphal. Mr. Hornstein had a number of his boys with him from the school, who searched in all directions. We spent a long time in the thorough exploration of the cave, and found nothing new. Consequently, if anyone writes to the Fund on either of these points, it will be possible to give an authoritative negative to both of them."

Mr. Macalister also informs us that there can be no doubt respecting the reading of the name HANNO on the jar-handle referred to in the last number of the *Q.S.*, p. 121. As he further points out, the cut on p. 120 is reversed, and on the last line but one of the same page, "ruined churches" should of course be read.

We regret to hear that Herr Sandel, who drew plans for Dr. Bliss, during the excavations at Jerusalem, before Mr. Dickie was appointed, died suddenly on May 31st at Jerusalem.

From the Hebrew weekly paper, *Hashkaphah*, published at Jerusalem, it appears that a new hospital, built and maintained by Dutch and German Jews, and said to be the finest Jewish building in the Holy City, was opened in January last.

In consequence of the great success of the Rothschild school for girls, and the growing demand for education, the Jewish authorities have decided to change their previous policy, and open a school of their own for girls.

According to *Home Words for Jerusalem*, the transfer of the Jewish colonies in Palestine from Baron Edmond de Rothschild to the Jewish Colonisation Association seems to have led to a certain amount of pessimistic feeling amongst the colonists, for which there is no apparent reason.

From the *Revue Biblique*, 1902, p. 281, we learn that at the request of the Greek patriarch of Jerusalem, MM. Hartmann and

Cornély have made a full size copy, in oils, of the great mosaic map of Palestine, Egypt, &c., at Medeba. The copy, which is said to be very satisfactory, is now at the new Greek school of S. Dimitri at Jerusalem, and is accessible to visitors.

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.

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 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 25th to June 23rd, 1902, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £216 12s. 3d.; from Lectures, £2 12s. 6d.; from sales of publications, &c., £91 0s. 4d.; total, £310 5s. 1d. The expenditure during the same period was £423 4s. 9d. On June 23rd the balance in the Bank was £292 2s. 11d.

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.

The Committee will be glad to communicate with ladies and gentlemen willing to help the Fund as Honorary Secretaries. Mrs. F. C. Burkitt has kindly consented to act for Cambridge; E. Ransom, Esq., 24, Ashburnham Road, for Bedford; the Rev. W. Ewing for Stirling, N.B.; the Rev. Canon Gell for Tewkesbury; and the Rev. R. Tapson for Weston-super-Mare, in place of the Rev. Henry George Tomkins, 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 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.

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 V, Livraisons 1-5. *Sommaire*:—§ 1. La stèle phénicienne d'Oumm el-'Aouâmid (pl. I-II). § 2. Dannaba et le pays de Job. § 3. Zeus-Helios et le Baal-Bosor. § 4. Sur quelques inscriptions grecques du Haurân. § 5. Sur quelques noms de lieux de Palestine et de Syrie dans les listes épiscopales de Michel le Syrien. § 6. Légendes romaines et arabes inscrites sur des lampes en terre cuite. § 7. Dédicace phénicienne à Echmoun provenant de Sidon. § 8. Nouveaux bustes funéraires avec inscriptions palmyréniennes. § 9. L'inscription en mosaïque de Beït Sourfk (pl. III). § 10. Antiquités et inscriptions puniques. § 11. Le Castellum romain de Qariat el-'Enab. § 12. Plaque d'or représentant Esculape, Hygie et Télésphore (pl. III). § 13. Un dépôt de flèches

anciennes dans la forteresse de David à Jérusalem. § 14. Le plâtrier Sosibios de Gaza. § 15. Inscription bilingue nabatéo-grecque du Sinaï. § 16. La hiérarchie sacerdotale à Carthage. § 17. Les possessions de l'abbaye du "Templum Domini" en Terre-Sainte au XII^e siècle. § 18. Le Dieu Mifsenus. From the Author, M. Clermont-Ganneau.

"Deux Questions d'Archéologie Palestinienne":—I. L'Église d'Amwās l'Emmaüs-Nicopolis. II. L'Église de Qoubeibeh l'Emmaüs de S. Luc. From the Author, P. Barnabé, d'Alsace O.F.M., Missionnaire Apostolique.

"The Holy City, Athens, and Egypt." By Sir William Thomas Charley, Knt., K.C., D.C.L. From the Author.

"Primitive Semitic Religion To-day." From the Author, Professor Samuel Ives Curtiss, Chicago Theological Seminary.

"Al-Mashrik: Revue Catholique Orientale Bimensuelle." Among the more important contents are:—"Geographical and Ethnological Notes on Lebanon," by Father Lammens; "The testimony of Arabic Authors with reference to Holy Places," by Dom J. Marta; "The Ancient Convents of Lebanon," by Father I. Harfouch.

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

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.

Whilst 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.