

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Died

ON THE 23RD DECEMBER, 1902,

HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

(DR. TEMPLE),

President of the Society.

THE sad intelligence here recorded has arrived as this number of the *Quarterly Statement* passes through the Press. The Committee can but express their sorrow for the loss of a President who was loved and honoured by all men.

The Committee, whilst gratefully acknowledging the generous support that the work of the Fund has received from the subscribers, desire to make a special appeal to them in favour of the excavations which are now being carried out by Mr. Macalister on the site of the old Levitical city of Gezer. The remarkable results that have been obtained show that the importance attached by students of the Bible to a complete examination of this ancient city was no idle fancy, and that discoveries of equal, if not of greater, value may be expected when the remaining portions of the mound are opened.

It is only necessary here to refer to the unique discovery of an untouched pre-Israelite tomb, containing the cremated remains of a primitive race of small stature, and the buried remains, with associated burial deposits of an early Semitic race, possibly Amorite ;

to the discovery, also unique, of an ancient Canaanite temple, with the remains of the first-born sacrificed to the god of the "high place" of Gezer; to the strong indications that the "high place," though apparently covered up before Josiah "began to purge Judah," retained its sacred character for several centuries after the capture of the city by Joshua; and to the lurid light that has been thrown upon those barbarous sacrifices and idolatrous practices, which the Hebrew prophets denounced with all their vigour and in the strongest language (*see* Jer. vii, 31; xix, 5, &c.).

Amongst the enormous number of small finds may be noted the foundation deposits, that only occur beneath or beside houses built between the Conquest and the Captivity, which are believed by Mr. Macalister to be memorials of the time when the wandering Israelites pitched their tents amidst the sands and gravels of the desert; Egyptian inscriptions; bronze implements of a finish and beauty hitherto unknown in Palestine excavations; and a series of "graven images, and molten images," in stone, bone, and bronze, which range from the first rude attempts to represent human and animal forms to the more artistic works of a comparatively recent age.

The firman under which the excavations are being conducted will expire in the spring of 1905, and the complete examination of Gezer before its expiration will require an expenditure which the Fund, with its present income, is unable to meet. The amount now spent upon the excavations is £1,200 a year, and Mr. Macalister estimates that he will require at least £1,500 a year during the next two and a half years. The Committee trust that the supporters of the Fund will not allow excavations, which have already yielded such important results, to stop short of complete success from want of funds. They would suggest that every one interested in the work should endeavour to obtain additional subscribers, and would appeal to those who are in a position to do so to make special donations, or to increase their subscriptions for the next two years.

Palestine, once considered so poor in archæological treasures, has recently become the scene of great archæological activity. This new departure in Palestine exploration is due, in no slight measure, to the initiative of the German Emperor who, it is said, is bearing the cost of the extensive excavations which are being

carried out under the supreme direction of Professor Puchstein, at Ba'albek, of the excavations at Nihâ, north of Zahleh, in the Lebanon, and of the tentative excavations which have been made at Palmyra, Jerash, Ammân, and other centres of Roman influence in Eastern Palestine.

Under the auspices of the Emperor, the German Society for the Exploration of Palestine are excavating at Tell Mutsellim (Megiddo ?); and a large building has been erected, on the Imperial camping ground north of Jerusalem, for the German Archæological Institute for the Exploration of Palestine, of which Professor Dalman has been appointed the first president.

Professor Torrey, the first director of the American School of Oriental Research, has excavated at Sidon. The Austrians are excavating the site of Taanach, "by the waters of Megiddo," where Professor Sellin has made important discoveries. A Russian expedition has been working at Palmyra, and has secured for the Imperial Museum at the Hermitage the celebrated customs tariff of the time of Hadrian in Palmyrene and Greek. And Macridy Bey has been excavating the temple of Eshmun, erected by a grandson of Eshmunazar in the vicinity of Sidon, for the Imperial Ottoman Museum at Constantinople, which will be greatly enriched by his discoveries.

Mr. Macalister's reports show that the work of the Fund is in safe hands, and that the first Society formed for the systematic exploration of Palestine only needs financial support to enable it to hold its own with the friendly rivals that have happily decided to take an active part in the archæological exploration of the Holy Land.

The long-expected *facsimile* of the celebrated mosaic map of Palestine that was found some years ago at Medeba, has at last been completed at the cost of the German Society for the Exploration of Palestine, and is now in the hands of the publishers.

The Rev. A. Forder, who is well known to travellers east of Jordan, has recently published an account of some of his missionary journeys "with the Arabs in Tent and Town," which contains interesting information respecting the Arabs of Moab and the Syrian desert.

A small sailing boat now makes weekly voyages, with more or less regularity, from the salt station at the north end of the Dead Sea to the Kerak region.

During the summer a small mosque, with a handsome minaret, which is visible from a long distance, has been built close to the new Russian buildings at Jericho.

The heat at Jerusalem during the six days—September 16th–21st—appears to have been unusual, the thermometer ranging from a night temperature of 73° to a day temperature of 100.5° . The heat-wave was accompanied by a very light air from the S.E.

The attention of subscribers is called to a work by Sir Charles Warren, entitled "The Ancient Cubit and our Weights and Measures." He brings evidence to show that all weights and measures (except those of the metrical system) are derived from one source—the double-cubit cubed of Babylonia.

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., 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.

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 September 23rd to December 22nd, 1902, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £632 8s. 4d.; from Lectures, £5; from

sales of publications, &c., £189 4s. 5d.; total £826 12s. 9d. The expenditure during the same period was £665 10s. 3d. On December 22nd the balance in the Bank was £440 6s. 2d.

Subscribers to the Fund are reminded that, whilst the receipt of every subscription and contribution is promptly acknowledged by the acting secretary, the list of subscriptions will henceforward be published annually and not quarterly. A complete list of subscribers and subscriptions for 1902 will be published in due course in a separate form.

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.

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 four 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 12-17. From the Author, Professor Clermont-Ganneau, M.I.

“Le Lac de Tibériade.” From the Author, Professor Lucien Gautier.

“Al-Mashrik : Revue Catholique Orientale Bimensuelle.”

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.