

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund was held in the Hall of the Royal Institution on June 22nd, the Lord Bishop of Salisbury in the chair. Between 300 and 400 were present, including Sir Charles Wilson, Walter Morrison, Rev. Arthur Carr, J. D. Crace, Canon Dalton, Joseph Pollard, Professor Hull, Viscount Sidmouth, Major-General Sir F. J. Goldsmid, Colonel A. E. W. Goldsmid, and others. The Report, having been moved by our American Hon. Secretary, Professor Theodore Wright, and seconded by Professor Hull, was carried unanimously. The following gentlemen were added to the General Committee:—The Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster, Sir John Leng, M.P., Rev. J. Hastings, D.D., G. L. Clark, Esq., Kenneth Cochrane, Esq., and William Lamplough, Esq. The Executive Committee was re-elected, with the addition of the Rev. R. F. Horton, D.D., Chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales. Sir Charles Wilson followed with an account of the results of the excavation now being carried on at Gezer. He opened with an answer to the question which is frequently put, How is it known that any particular object belongs to the Aboriginal, the Canaanite, the Jewish, the Greek, or the Roman period? After explaining the laws of stratification, he proceeded to illustrate them by the seven strata of Gezer. The two lowest were occupied by an aboriginal non-Semitic race, small in size, unacquainted with metals. The neo-lithic people give place to a Semitic race, of stronger build and of more advanced civilisation. Here, in the third strata, was found the now famous "high place," which was apparently altered and enlarged in the period represented by Stratum IV; under its floor were the jars containing the remains of newly-born infants. The fifth and sixth strata represent the occupation of Gezer by the Israelites. The use of iron and the

frequent lamp-and-bowl deposits under the foundations now begin to appear. Sir Charles Wilson suggested that the latter were a modification of the older pre-Israelite foundation sacrifices. At all events, these deposits completely disappear at the time of the Exile. The sixth stratum, with its royal stamps, is certainly of the age of the Monarchy; whilst in the seventh and last we have the Syro-Egyptian period, the age of the Ptolemies and Maccabees.

In proposing a vote of thanks, the Chairman dwelt on the assistance which the excavations afford to the better understanding of the Bible, and most heartily commended the report to his listeners. The Treasurer then moved a vote of thanks to Mr. R. A. S. Macalister, and to the resident contributors in Palestine, whose observations derived from first-hand sources are a prominent feature in the *Quarterly Statement*, and to the local Hon. Secretaries. Dr. Theodore Wright responded. Mr. Crace proposed a vote of thanks to the managers of the Royal Institution for kindly granting the use of the Lecture Theatre, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Sir Charles Wilson and seconded by Col. Watson.

Owing to want of space a fuller account of the General Meeting must be held over until the next number of the *Quarterly Statement*, when we hope to resume Mr. Baldensperger's interesting series of studies of life in the East, which has been unavoidably crowded out from the present issue. Attention was duly called at the meeting to the fact that the Palestine Exploration Fund is entirely supported by voluntary contributions, and the Committee are extremely anxious to do all that can be done within the length of time at their disposal to finish the excavation of the site which they have chosen, and which, as time has proved, has yielded the most remarkable results. To the sum of £205 5s. recorded in the list of special donations in the last number, there are to be added: Herbert Dalton, Esq., £15; G. J. Clarke, Esq., Peter Mackinnon, Esq., £10 each; Messrs. A. and C. Black, £5 5s.; Kenneth Cochrane, Esq., S. Melville-Bergheim, Esq., James Melrose, Esq., Lieut.-Colonel Granville R. F. Smith, and Rev. E. L. Adams, £5 each; smaller donations under £5 (details will be recorded in the Annual Report), £4 3s. The total, £274 13s., is still a long way from the £2,000 so urgently required.

In the present number of the *Quarterly Statement* we print the fourth of Mr. Macalister's reports of the excavation of Gezer. The results continue to be of exceptional interest. Numerous weights have been unearthed which are of great value for the investigation of Semitic weights and measures. The pottery deposits are extremely rich, and a saucer bearing a group of legible, but almost unintelligible characters, will provide food for students of Hebrew epigraphy. Curious figures of the goddess Ashtoreth have come to light, and the Egyptian objects are still numerous. Our knowledge of the Temple of Gezer has been increased in the most welcome manner, and the traces of infant sacrifice apparently connected with the widespread custom of foundation-rites will not escape the notice of those who are interested in the study of folk-lore. Mr. Macalister concludes with a brief retrospect of the year's work, which, as he points out, only represents about one-eighth of the amount of information which is to be gleaned from this ancient site by trenching alone. With the invaluable results which the year has brought, the increased light that has been thrown with such vividness upon the Old Testament, the rapidly-growing store of knowledge which the Fund's excavations in Gezer are collecting and bringing to bear upon the archaeology of the East, we have every reason to be satisfied, and the need becomes ever more urgent to pursue the excavations on a larger scale in order that the ruins of Gezer may be forced to give up all their secrets before the expiration of the firman. It would be a thousand pities for the work to be incomplete, and unless the Fund is in a position to increase the number of labourers—which means a proportionate increase of the expense—it will be impossible to carry on the excavations with the necessary thoroughness and expedition within the allotted time.

No one can foresee all the surprises that may be in store. Since going to press Mr. Macalister has written to announce that he has discovered another cave of bones which promises to be richer even than the last. Fresh discoveries of the lamp and bowl deposits have been made. Under the foundation of a house-wall a jar was found on its side, containing *two* infants—the first time that two have been found—and above it were two saucers, one of which contained two others. Behind stood two upright jars each with one handle, and two lamps, one inside the other. These pottery groups are the most perplexing features of the excavations, and Mr. Macalister

feels that he has not yet arrived at their true meaning. Another cave has been opened up with a series of 15 magnificent jars and dishes ranged round the wall for no apparent purpose.

Further, a block of limestone was turned up, inscribed with Greek, which appears to have belonged to a votive offering dedicated to Heracles by Eunêlos, son of Iôn, in acknowledgment of some victory. The writing is of the same style as the recently-discovered ossuary of Nicanor of Alexandria, and with this it agrees that the stone in question, to judge from the buildings where it was found, belongs to the last three centuries before the Christian era. A full account of the "find," with reproductions of the inscription will, it is hoped, reach us shortly, and will be published in the October number of the *Quarterly Statement*. But the present information is a sufficient illustration of the archæological wealth which lies hidden under the *tells* of Gezer, and only strengthens the conviction that more prolonged and thorough labours will render the *complete* excavation of Gezer one of the most important of all recent contributions to our knowledge of ancient Palestine.

Dr. Masterman writes that there was a sharp earthquake shock at Jerusalem at 12.45 a.m., on March 30th, and that there were less severe shocks at Beirût and Gaza. The centre of the disturbance was in the Jordan Valley, or further east. Very little damage was done at Jerusalem, but in villages near the city some mud and stone houses were thrown down. A native story was current that the level of the Dead Sea had been greatly lowered by the earthquake. This story, which found its way into some of the English papers, proved to be untrue. The latest observation, taken for the Fund by Mr. C. Hornstein, shows that the level of the water rose $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches between March 23rd and May 13th.

Mr. Hanauer, whose interesting article in the present number on the ancient harbour of Jaffa should not pass unnoticed, writes to record some curious "finds." From the Gaza district a bronze *oscillum* of Bacchus crowned with ivy, grapes, and vine-leaves, and horned: "insignis cornu." From the excavations for the erection of the Anglican Church and College of St. George-the-Martyr, a portion of white mosaic and a leaden funerary jar or urn, full of human ashes, calcined bones, and pieces of charcoal. The jar,

Mr. Hanauer learns, was apparently made by hand, and was placed in a cubical cavity in the rock and was covered with a stone slab. Further, a three-handled metal vessel with traces of silvering and gilding, possibly originally a censer or a hanging lamp. In the course of the work carried on by Dr. Merrill at Neby Da'ud a great charnel-house was discovered; with every skeleton there were three roughly made nails of iron. It is supposed that these were to indicate that the deceased were Christians. A deep cistern was also laid bare in which were skeletons seated round the walls. Whether they were intentionally placed in that position, or, having taken refuge there for some reason, died of starvation, is quite uncertain. A number of earthenware lamps of the common almond-shaped kind were also found, also some fragments of sculptured stone, chiefly with the egg and dart pattern.

The *Geological Magazine* for November, 1902, contains an interesting paper by the Rev. Professor T. G. Bonney, F.R.S., &c., on "The Basalt of the Moabite Stone," a small fragment of which was brought home by the late Professor Palmer in 1870. "The rock apparently is in good preservation; minutely granular, nearly black in colour, but proving on a closer examination to be speckled with more than one dark mineral, and with less definite greyish spots, all very small." Its specific gravity is 2.89. A slice, "when examined under the microscope, exhibits a porphyritic structure, though on a small scale." The minerals are:—Augite, not abundant; olivine, rather abundant; iron-oxide (hematite, or perhaps ilmenite); plagioclastic felspar; and calcite, apparently an original constituent.

The prospects of an exceptionally good harvest in Palestine this year are increasing every day. The only danger seems to be the possible appearance of locusts. Wheat, barley, durra, grass, vegetables, fruit trees—oranges, figs, apricots—and vines are in a condition which justifies the highest expectations.

The observations kindly made for the Fund, at Jaffa, by the Rev. J. Jamal, show that the rainfall at that place during the last rainy season (October, 1902, to April, 1903) amounted to 28.05 inches. Rain fell on 54 days, and the largest monthly rainfall, 6.7 inches, was in January, 1903.

Mr. A. M. Luncz, of Jerusalem, well known as an ardent student of Palestinian lore, is planning a new and critical edition of the Jerusalem Talmud, which, as all Hebraists are aware, is sadly needed. For this purpose all available MSS. will be thoroughly collated, and the text will be accompanied by all necessary notes. It is proposed to add indexes of (*a*) personal, (*b*) place, and (*c*) botanical and zoological names—a list of Old Testament references, and a general subject index, in our opinion are extremely desirable. Fuller information may be obtained from Dr. Friedländer, of Jews' College, Guilford Street, W.C., or from Mr. Luncz himself, Tuchband's Hotel, Houndsditch, E.C. All who are interested in Palestine must wish success both to this new scheme, which will help to make that great store-house of early Jewish learning more easily accessible, and to the indefatigable editor, whose labours are carried on under the greatest of sufferings—blindness.

With reference to the Egyptian stele found by Mr. Macalister at Gezer (*see Quarterly Statement*, January, p. 37), Professor Petrie writes to point out that it is the usual type of formula of the twelfth and thirteenth dynasty, for a citizen (*ankh-en-nuf*), Amen-dudu. The style of the figure would agree well with this date.

Mr. Macalister's two reports on the excavations at Gezer have been reprinted from the *Quarterly Statement* in pamphlet form, and can be obtained on application to the Acting Secretary, price 1s. 2d. post free.

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.

The income of the Society from March 23rd, 1903, to June 23rd, 1903, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £263 19s. 2d.; from Lectures, £32 10s. 6d.; from sales of publications, &c., £156 16s. 8d.; total, £453 6s. 4d. The expenditure during the same period was £520 7s. 4d. On June 23rd the balance in the Bank was £357 6s. 10d.

Subscribers to the Fund are reminded that, whilst the receipt of every subscription and contribution is promptly acknowledged by the Acting Secretary, they will henceforth 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 following gentlemen have kindly consented to act:—Rev. J. R. Craigie, 173, Macdonnell Avenue, Toronto; H. W. Price, Esq., Cambridge, Waikato, New Zealand; and Rev. R. M. Linton Smith, St. Nicholas Rectory, Colchester.

Subscribers will please note that they can still obtain a set of the "Survey of Palestine," in four volumes, for £7 7s., but the price has been increased to the public to £9 9s. The price of single volumes to the public has also been increased. Applications should be made to the Acting Secretary.

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:—

- "The Life and Letters of Sir George Grove, C.B." From the Author, Charles L. Graves.
- "The Service for the Consecration of a Church and Altar according to the Coptic Rite." From the Bishop of Salisbury, edited by the Rev. G. Horner.
- "Al-Mashrik: Revue Catholique Orientale Bimensuelle."
- "Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale." Tome V, Livraisons 16-19. From the Author, Professor Clermont-Ganneau, M.L. § 39. Fiches et Notules (suite): Chartimas, patrie de Didon; Benè Marzeah; Confréries religieuses carthaginoises; La Cène; La fête phénicienne du Marzeah; Barad ou Deber. § 40. Inscriptions grecques de Sidon et environs. § 41. Les inscriptions phéniciennes du Temple d'Echmoun à Sidon. § 42. Où était l'embouchure du Jourdain à l'époque de Josué (pl. VI). § 43. Monuments palmyréniens. § 44. Inscription grecque de Dora. § 46. Fiches et Notules: L'ère de Tyr; La date de la mosaïque de Nebi Younés; Inscription de Deir Sem'ân; Sahouet (El-Khidhr); Θεὸς Ἀρεμθινός et 'Aramtâ. § 47. Inscriptions grecques du Pont. § 48. Fiches et Notules: La "Terre de Reseph"; Chamim Roumim et Chamim Addirim; Sofsuf et Ménagadem. § 49. Inscription gréco-palmyrénienne d'Égypte.

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.