

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE results of the excavation of Gezer carried on during the last quarter are of considerable interest. No sensational discovery, it is true, has been made, but a great mass of evidence is being steadily accumulated, thus checking or modifying the provisional conclusions of previous quarters. At Ta'anach a couple of cuneiform tablets have been unearthed, and the writer of one of these was possibly the prince of Gezer mentioned in the Amarna Tablets (p. 98 below). We have yet to discover the tablets which must have been sent to Gezer, and the Committee are anxious to make every effort to enable Mr. Macalister to make a thorough examination of the tell. The special donations to the excavation comprise a legacy of £50 19s. 1d. from the late Rev. Hon. R. T. C. Mathieson; George Mathieson, Esq., £10; Rev. H. E. Dixon, £5; and S. Vaughan Morgan, Esq., £5.

A great amount of labour has been spent in clearing the large pool to the south of the rock-cut high place, and the evidence now appears to show that this construction, which must have served as a reservoir for the town, dates from the Maccabean period. Among the objects found in the course of clearing it may be mentioned a Hebrew jar handle with the stamp "Memshath"; it is the only object which—following the generally accepted theory of the age of these stamps—is pre-Maccabean. This, therefore, is a find of some value for the determining of their date. Among other interesting objects should be noticed the flint arrowhead with barbs, the curious drain-pipe made up of fragments of jars, the Astarte plaque (p. 15), the first example of an *adult* human sacrifice (a woman who appears to have been a martyr to rheumatism), and the remarkable imitation of a human head especially noteworthy for its prognathism.

On the necessary suspension of spade-work at Gezer, owing to the winter rains, Mr. Macalister will avail himself of a cordial invitation kindly extended to him by Professor Flinders Petrie, and will proceed to Cairo, with a view of not only studying the carefully-arranged objects in the museum there, but also of spending a week or two at the excavations now being conducted by Professor Petrie at Sakkâra. This visit will not only afford Mr. Macalister some rest and change at a season when the Egyptian climate is at its best, but will enable him to make most careful comparison of the characteristics of the numerous Egyptian objects found by himself at Gezer with the carefully assorted and dated collection in the Cairo Museum. Inasmuch as the progress of the Gezer excavations has more and more confirmed the continued connection of that site with Egypt, Mr. Macalister's visit seems particularly opportune.

The St. Louis Exhibition.—The general arrangement of the Exhibition at St. Louis is now in an advanced stage. The British Commissioner, Colonel Watson, R.E., is a member of our own Executive Committee, and therefore familiar with all the work, some of the results of which we shall exhibit. The Fund has, for many years, received much valuable help from America, both by the subscriptions of members and by the contributions of valued information and suggestions by American scholars. The Committee therefore propose to send as complete an illustration of what the Fund has achieved, and is still achieving, as is compatible with such moderate outlay as they think to be justified—a complete set of the maps, from the original 1-inch survey to the last photo relief map; the large and small Raised Maps; all the publications of the Fund, including the "Palestine Pilgrims' Text," ten volumes; also careful casts of the "Hittite Inscriptions" and the "Siloam Aqueduct Inscription," and a Plan of Jerusalem, with the latest discoveries marked thereon. A special feature of the collection will be the illustration of the work *now in progress* at Gezer. This will consist of a large-scale plan (10 feet by 7 feet) of the site being excavated, with the remains of the various epochs distinguished by different tints; a selection of casts of the objects found; and a splendid series of large photographs (24 inches by 17 inches) showing the actual work going on. It is only on seeing these last that the stranger can have any idea of the vast size and extent of the operations which Dr. Macalister is so ably directing.

The Executive Committee have addressed a circular letter to the several societies of different nationalities, calling attention to the great mischief now being wrought in Palestine by the illicit opening and rifling of tombs, all over the country, by the native villagers. This practice, which has been developed by the demand for antiquities, and the great increase in the number of tourists, is causing the rapid obliteration of valuable historical evidence; for the objects found are sold to travellers, and, it is to be feared, to museums, with false accounts of their provenance, it being unsafe to betray their real source. The letter advocates some joint action as to this, and at the same time invites consultation as to the possibility of mutual arrangement regarding areas of exploration for the different societies, with a view to co-ordination of effort in organised research.

Mr. Phené Spiers, whose account of the Great Mosque of Damascus appeared in the *Quarterly Statement*, 1897, pp. 282 *sqq.*, contributes to the present number a critical discussion of the ruins of the temple excavated by the Germans at Baalbec. He proposes some interesting explanations of the halls and exedrae, and investigates the date and origin of the leading architectural features. Readers are also indebted to Professor W. Max Müller, of Philadelphia, one of the greatest Egyptologists of the day, for a valuable paper on the Egyptian monument of Tell esh-Shihâb, discovered by Professor George Adam Smith in 1901. His well-known *Asien und Europa* is the standard work upon Palestine in the light of Egyptological discoveries, and the monument in question is naturally valuable evidence for the study of a subject which he has made so peculiarly his own.

For some years past, four Samaritan manuscripts have been preserved in the offices of the Fund. Although of no antiquity, they are not without their interest, and, for the sake of students of Samaritan literature in particular, it was deemed advisable to publish a short general account of their contents. Mr. Cowley, sub-librarian of the Bodleian, Oxford, an eminent Samaritan scholar, has kindly written a description of these manuscripts (pp. 67 *sqq.*), and the specimens of liturgical compositions (one reaching back to the fourth century of this era) which he has translated will be read with interest by others than specialists.

“The so-called lower pool of Siloam, which for so many years has been a receptacle for sewage, and is such a source of annoyance to all visitors to the Old Pool, has recently been purchased by the Greek ecclesiastical authorities, who have surrounded it with a good wall, have to a large extent cleared it out, and are proposing to make it the site of a convent.”—From *Home Words*.

We regret to learn that there is an outbreak of what is reported to be cholera* at Bethlehem, which has consequently been very strictly isolated. Prompt measures have been taken, and there is every reason to hope that the disease may be stamped out before it becomes epidemic. Fever has been unusually prevalent this year.

In the October number of *Biblia*, Professor W. M. Müller has a communication respecting the two German societies—the Orientgesellschaft and the Vorderasiatische Gesellschaft. The former is a wealthy institution, as it has the aid of the German Emperor and the Court, and its excavations are carried on for the Berlin Museums. The latter was founded by a number of scholars, and, being without official aid, is compelled to limit its sphere of operations according to its means. It has sent Dr. Hugo Winckler to be present at the excavations now carried on at Sidon, and this scholar's report, it is expected, will soon be published. It is interesting to learn that he has discovered a lengthy Aramaic inscription in a well near Sidon. Professor Müller's letter concludes with the hope that readers will join the society, and thus contribute to its funds. We wish the Vorderasiatische Gesellschaft every success.

The Tomb of Phillip d'Aubigny.—At the Annual General Meeting, held last June, it was mentioned by Sir Charles Wilson that the slab tomb of Phillip d'Aubigny had been broken a few months previously. On inquiry as to its present state, we have heard from Mr. Hanauer, who says:—“The injury sustained was a crack across the slab, just below the point of the shield—otherwise all is perfect.” As the inscription is well above the head of the shield, it would therefore not have been damaged.

Phillip d'Aubigny was the tutor of Henry III, King of England, and Governor of Jersey and the Channel Islands. The tomb is in the forecourt of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and near the entrance. It was discovered under a stone bench, when that was

removed in 1867, and the identity of the personage was established, from the chronicle of Matthew Paris, by a young French student, M. Julien Havet. Phillip d'Aubigny was buried here in 1236.—(Clermont-Ganneau, *Arch. Res. Pal.*, p. 106.)

We learn from *Home Words* that the German Palestinian Archæological Institute at Jerusalem was opened on Sunday, November 15th. A large and representative gathering assembled at the invitation of the director, Professor Gustav Dalman, who made a short speech on the objects and aims of the new undertaking. Professor Löhr gave an address on the famous controversy, "Babel and Bible," and a telegram with good wishes from the Emperor was received with much enthusiasm. Professor Dalman is forming a museum containing specimens of every kind of utensil used by the bedouin and fellahin, with models of tents, oil-presses, and other larger objects. The programme comprises lectures on the customs of the fellahin and on modern Arabic (especially the native songs) by Professor Dalman, and on the geography of Palestine by Professor Löhr. All those who are interested in the welfare of Palestine cannot but wish this Institute success and prosperity, and we must congratulate it on having at its head so distinguished an Orientalist. Would that this country could establish a similar institute!

It may be well to mention that plans and photographs alluded to in the reports from Jerusalem and elsewhere cannot all be published, but they are preserved in the office of the Fund, where they may be seen by subscribers. Those sent by Mr. Macalister illustrating the excavations at Gezer which are not reproduced in his quarterly report are held over for the final memoir.

A number of lectures are to be delivered in Scotland and the provinces on the Fund's excavations at Gezer, and it is hoped that where arrangements have not yet been made, subscribers and those interested in the work will communicate through the Local Secretary.

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., 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 September 22nd to December 21st, 1903, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £689 17s. 4d. ; from Lectures, £5 10s. ; from sales of publications, &c., £123 9s. ; total, £818 16s. 4d. The expenditure was, during the same period, £786 18s. 9d. On December 22nd the balance in the Bank was £276 7s. 10d.

Subscribers who have not yet paid their contributions for this year will much facilitate the Committee's efforts by sending their subscriptions, the outgoings on the excavations at Gezer being just now a heavy drain on their funds.

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 1903 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 Acting Secretary has been engaged upon the preparation of a small photo-relief map of Palestine, on a scale of 10 miles to the inch. It has been made from the large raised map published in 1893, and contains all the principal biblical sites and their altitudes. All the chief topographical features are faithfully reproduced, and students of the Bible will find it an indispensable guide. Fuller particulars may be had on application to the office, where advance proofs may be seen.

Subscribers and others may be reminded that the new Raised Map of Palestine, constructed from the Surveys of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and other sources, by the Acting Secretary, is ready. It is on the scale of $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the inch, and measures 3' 6" x 2' 6". It has already been used with great success by Professors of Old Testament history, and by teachers in Sunday Schools, and may be especially recommended for large classes of students. Further particulars may be had on application.

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.

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 :—

“La Question de l'Écriture linéaire dans la Méditerranée primitive”
 (“Revue Archéologique,” 1903), by R. Weill. From the Author.

“Deux Hypogées Macédo-Sidonien à Beit-Djibrin” (“Comptes Rendus
 de l'Acad. d. Inscr. et Belles-Lettres,” 1902), by R. P. Lagrange.
 From the Author.

“Al-Mashrik : Revue Catholique Orientale Bimensuelle.”

“Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale.” Tome V, Livraisons 24–25. From the
 Author, Professor Clermont-Ganneau, M.I. *Sommaire* :—§ 56. Fiches
 et Notules : Nouvelle inscription phénicienne de Sidon, &c. § 57. Deux
 statues phéniciennes à inscriptions. § 58. Nouvelle inscription grecque
 du pays de Tyr. § 59. Fiches et Notules : Echmoun de Sidon et
 Melkart de Tyr, &c. § 60. Le *di' hūās* et Dimas le mauvais-larron.
 § 61. Les Bohémonds princes d'Antioche, successeurs de Renaud de
 Châtillon, d'après les sources arabes.

See further “Foreign Publications,” pp. 96–98 below.

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

Whilst desiring to give publicity to proposed identifications
 and other theories advanced by officers of the Fund and con-
 tributors 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.

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.

Abstracts of papers read before the British Association Meeting at
 Belfast, 1902. (Section E.)

Signature _____

Witnesses { _____

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