

THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

WE regret to record the death of Alexander Stuart Murray, LL.D., F.S.A., who was for many years a Member of the General Committee of the Fund. He had been keeper of Greek and Roman antiquities at the British Museum since 1889, and was elected to our General Committee at the Annual Meeting in 1890. He was the author of several important contributions to classical archæology, and was always ready to place at the services of the Fund his great knowledge of Greek epigraphy. Only a few weeks ago he most kindly allowed himself to be consulted with reference to an obscure Greek inscription in the forthcoming account of the Tombs at Marissa. He died on March 5th, at the age of 63 years.

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Mr. R. A. S. Macalister wrote from Ramleh, February 12th, that he was about to make a start again on the Gezer excavations on his return from Egypt, where he had spent some time with Dr. Petrie. On his return to Jerusalem he found that "in addition to the complex system of caves under the east end of St. Anne's Church had been found a curious little chamber with mosaic floor and a wall plastered and painted in wash, but with no special patterns." Père Cré invited him to see it, with permission to publish an account. Père Vincent is writing a notice of it for the *Revue Biblique*.

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The rainy season and other causes reduced last quarter's work at Gezer to little more than six weeks' digging. Good use has been made of the time, however, and a large trench was opened out as a preliminary. Mr. Macalister's brief summary of the

whole work so far accomplished gives the main results in chronological order corresponding to the various occupations of the mound. Each stratum has its archæological characteristics, and by these means we may read the history of Gezer from the palæolithic age down to Byzantine times. There are, of course, many lacunæ, and many details are still necessarily obscure, but the mound has only yielded a fraction of its secrets, and, naturally, the more the funds the more men can be employed, the faster the work will proceed, and the larger will be the proportion of the mound excavated.

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The special donations to the excavations comprise the following:—Mrs. William Caleb Loring, 100 dollars; Lady Lee Anderson, Mrs. Duckett, Rev. Arthur Carr, and Walter Morrison, Esq., £10 each; and smaller amounts, bringing the total up to £596 5s. 8d. The legacy of £50 19s. 1d. referred to in the January *Quarterly Statement* (p. 1) was the gift of the late Hon. the Rev. R. T. C. Middleton. Owing to a regrettable slip of the pen the surname appeared incorrectly as Mathieson.

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The chairman, Sir Charles Wilson, is paying a short visit to Palestine to inspect the excavations of the Fund at Gezer. It is hoped that he will be able to visit other sites at which excavation is now in progress under the auspices of other societies.

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Our valued correspondent, the Rev. J. E. Hanauer, has left Jerusalem for Cairo for a short rest. Through the friendly help of Dean Butcher, Brugsch Bey has kindly permitted him to have free access to the Museum, an act of courtesy which will facilitate his studies and research.

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We quote the following interesting paragraph from the *Times* of February 23rd:—

“Mr. John Dickson (British Consul in Palestine) and Mrs. Dickson were presented with testimonials and an illuminated address on the 6th inst. at the British Consulate in Jerusalem. The Bishop in Jerusalem (Dr. Popham Blyth) presided, and in a brief address emphasised the high regard in which Mr. Dickson was universally held and the gratitude which British subjects in the district felt

towards him. Mr. Dickson had recently decided to remain in Jerusalem, declining an offer of promotion with a great increase of salary. The Hon. Selah Merrill, United States Consul, spoke of Mr. Dickson's position among his colleagues as a most enviable one, since they all regarded him as a man of the highest honour, of great discretion, and of the strictest impartiality. Dr. Merrill then read the address, which was signed by 109 contributors. Mr. Dickson feelingly responded. He was particularly glad that his friend of many years, Dr. Merrill, had been asked to make the presentation, and for that expression of the good will of the English residents in Jerusalem and Palestine he and his wife were more than thankful. The address with the accompanying names was beautifully engrossed and illuminated by Miss Elinor Blyth, daughter of the Bishop. The gifts consisted of a solid silver tea service and salver, with a samavar, a gold watch-chain for Mr. Dickson, and a long gold chain for Mrs. Dickson. The committee consisted of Bishop Popham Blyth, the Rev. J. R. Longley Hall, secretary C.M.S. Palestine Mission, the Rev. J. Carnegie Brown, head of the London Jews' Society Mission, Mr. R. A. Stewart Macalister, director of excavations, Palestine Exploration Fund, and the Hon. Selah Merrill."

This recognition of one who has always taken the greatest interest in the work of the Fund is particularly gratifying, and our readers will scarcely need reminding that it is to Mr. Dickson's daughter that they are indebted for the discovery of the Tomb of Micanor, which, with its inscription, was one of the most useful "finds" in Palestinian archæology and epigraphy of the past year (*see Quarterly Statement*, 1903, pp. 93, 125-131, 326-332).

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A copy of *Altneuland*, the new monthly periodical of the Zionist commission has reached us. It contains much interesting and practical information for settlers in Palestine, together with scientific papers, such as that by Dr. Max Jungmann on "Malaria." We learn that Dr. Dagobert Schönfeld, of Jena, has recently completed a journey through the Sinaitic Peninsula, from Cairo to Hebron. His object has been to study the topography of the Serbâl district, and the route *viâ* Petra and Kadesh-Barnea to Palestine. It is anticipated that the account of his tour will contain important material bearing upon the problems of Sinai and the Wilderness of Wanderings.

In the January number of *Biblia*, Professor Theodore Wright, the American Secretary of the Fund, draws attention to what is becoming a serious question in Palestine. The selling of valuable objects to travellers is increasing, and the readiness with which these pay the large sums which are demanded must result in more strenuous efforts of the natives to obtain such objects by digging for them, by breaking off pieces of sculptured stone, or by stealing them from authorised explorers. If travellers ceased to buy and bring away objects which no one had a right to sell the natives would soon cease their practices. "Already a definite effort to remedy this evil has begun, especially to stop illicit digging," says Dr. Wright, "and there is reason to believe that, by the prompt imposition of severe penalties, the Government of Turkey will grant a favourable co-operation."

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In the same number of *Biblia* we read some particulars of the manuscript treasures which Professor Von Soden of Berlin acquired from Damascus. Among them are Latin letters of Baldwin, King of Jerusalem, and a large collection of Hebrew, Samaritan, Armenian, and Coptic writings. Syriac literature is abundantly represented, "some of the works being palimpsests with Arabic underwritings." (Probably the reverse is meant—Syriac originals covered with Arabic.) Finally, various Greek writings, ecclesiastic and secular (viz., portions of Homer), portions of the Septuagint and New Testament have been found, all in majuscule writing.

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Reports from Palestine show that the rainfall this season has been very scanty, and that of February in Jerusalem has been most unusual. The total for the month was but 1·3 inches against 5·11 inches, which is the mean; indeed, only in 1870 and 1891 were there lower falls. It is to be hoped that in March the mean of the last 41 years—4 inches—will be reached.

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The Annual Meeting will probably be held late in June, and subscribers who desire tickets of admission should send in their names and addresses to the Acting Secretary in advance.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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., 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.

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The income of the Society from December 21st, 1903, to March 16th, 1904, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £568 11s. 10d.; from lectures, including donations, £49 10s. 3d.; from sales of publications, &c., £128 16s. 9d.; total, £746 18s. 10d. The expenditure during the same period was £591 18s. 10d. On March 17th the balance in the Bank was £431 9s. 2d.

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.

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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.

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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 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.

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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  $6\frac{1}{4}$  miles to the inch, and measures  $3' 6'' \times 2' 6''$ . 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.

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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:—

“Sinaï, Ma'ân, Pétra, sur les traces d'Israël et chez les Nabatéens,” avec une lettre-préface du Marquis de Vogüé, de l'Académie Française.

From the Authoress, Mme. Sargentou-Galichon.

“Al-Mashrik : Revue Catholique Orientale Bimensuelle.”

“Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale.” Tome VI, Livraisons 1-5. From the Author, Professor Clermont-Ganneau, M.I. *Sommaire*:—§ 1. Deux chartes des Croisés dans des archives arabes. § 2. Inscription grecque de Palmyre. Wadd., No. 2,572. § 3. Saïda et ses environs d'après Édrisi. § 4. Une nouvelle dédicace du sanctuaire de Baal Marcod. § 5. Lepcis et Leptis Magna, nouvelles inscriptions. § 6. “Meskin” et lépreux. § 7. Monogrammes byzantins sur tessères de plomb. § 8. Platanos de Phénicie. § 9. Inscription égypto-phénicienne de Byblos (Plate II). § 10. Jupiter Helopolitanus (Plate I).

See further “Foreign Publications,” pp. 177 *sqq.*, 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 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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FORM OF BEQUEST TO THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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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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