

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Committee desire to appeal very earnestly to subscribers and their friends to assist them in completing the Excavations of Gezer thoroughly. The extension of time now granted by the Sultan would make this possible; but only if the force of workpeople can be increased, for which more money is necessary. *Special donations* are invited. An additional £1,000 is required.

The results of the last quarter's excavation of Gezer have been extremely satisfactory. The history of the place is gradually being revealed in increasing clearness, and soon all that will be required will be definite chronological indications to determine with precision the age of the various strata. And there is now hope that even these will not be wanting. We refer, of course, to the cuneiform tablet of the year 649 B.C., which was found "in a comparatively late stratum" contemporary with the Hebrew monarchy. This in itself is valuable evidence, and we are reconciled to the circumstance that the tablet throws no light on Gezer, and that its fragments do not even mention the town. What has to be said about the tablet by the discoverer and by the three greatest Assyriological scholars in this country will be read below (pp. 229 *sqq.*). But if this is the most striking "find," there have been many other gains of hardly less interest. Expert geological examination has proved that one of the pillars in the "High Place" is not of local stone, and Mr. Macalister at once inferred that the curious groove which he had previously noticed in it was to prevent the rope from slipping over it when it was dragged from its original home. This

at once illustrates a Biblical passage, and possibly explains a doubtful phrase in the inscription of the Moabite king Mesha. Further, the discovery of more of the city walls has made their chronology more intelligible, and it is reasonably deduced that the inner wall dates back to about 2000 B.C. and the period of the Troglodytes, perhaps even as far back as the fourth millennium. Finally, we must not omit to mention two interesting specimens of old Hebrew writing: an inscribed weight and a potter's stamp, and among the numerous Egyptian objects the scarab of Khyan of the Hyksos dynasty, and of Amenophis III and Thii of the period of the Amarna Tablets.

These discoveries, it is well to remember, were made just when the firman was on the point of expiring. It will easily be imagined, therefore, with what satisfaction the Committee learned, through Mr. Dickson, the British Consul at Jerusalem, that the Turkish authorities had courteously extended the permit for one year. To have stopped the work at this juncture would have been mortifying and disastrous to the highest degree. Students of archæology, of folk-lore, of ancient religion, students of the Bible, alike have profited by the work that has been carried on with such striking success during the last two years. Indeed, one can scarcely over-estimate the gains to Biblical knowledge that have accrued, and surprising though the results have been they are scarcely so surprising as the general lack of practical interest taken in the excavation. The Fund is greatly indebted to those whose special donations have enabled the work to be carried out thoroughly hitherto, but five-sixths of the mound remain, and if the excavation is to be effected as exhaustively as time permits there must be a substantial increase in the number of subscribers or in the extent of their subscriptions. Additional labourers can be hired if there are funds with which to hire them, and, looking back upon the success which has attended the labours of the last two years, the Committee feel themselves entitled to make a renewed appeal for more funds. The cost entailed in making known every three months the progress of the excavation with full details and numerous illustrations and plans is a heavy one, and leaves but a small margin in the case of the smaller subscriptions. To those to whom the Old Testament is merely a book—nothing more—there is nothing to say. The appeal is made to those who would

understand the Book they read, who believe that to comprehend the writings of the old prophets and teachers of ancient Israel, they must know more of the land and people in the midst of which the records took their birth. This country has prided itself on the great part it has taken in making known the Bible. The Palestine Exploration Fund, the pioneer society, led the way in the systematic study of Palestinian geography and research, and one must refuse to believe that practical interest in an enterprise which has *proved its value* will subside.

The special donations to the excavation comprise the following :— A legacy of £30 from the Executors of the late Miss Arabella Sarah Deacon; Sir Robert Puller, Col. H. J. Hope-Edwards, and James Hilton, Esq., £10 each; James Melrose, Esq., £8; Rev. Thomas Crawford, F. D. Mocatta, Esq., and S. Melville Bergheim, Esq., £5 each; smaller amounts, £2 2s.; in all, £85 2s.—bringing the total up to £681 7s. 8d.

It has come to the knowledge of the Committee that antiquities are being sold in Jerusalem and elsewhere as coming from the excavations at Abû Shusheh. In every case where it has been possible to test this, the nature of the object has shown the statement to be false, intended obviously to give a fictitious value or interest to the object sold. Those engaged in the illicit antiquity trade seldom, if ever, give true information as to the source of the objects in which they deal.

Mr. Macalister has transferred for the present his working force from the excavation of the ancient town to the adjoining necropolis, feeling that it is necessary to investigate the tombs while the work is under his control; for the systematic tomb robbery by natives working surreptitiously now results in the total loss of all historic evidences. Objects found in this way are sold to dealers, who dare not name their correct source to the travellers who greedily buy them with fictitious attributions. In this way all their value is lost. Mr. Macalister finds that a large proportion of these tombs have already been thus searched by natives, but not always exhaustively. In one tomb he has found a bronze signet ring, upon which is engraved a representation of the head (bearded) of our Lord. From a coin found in the same

tomb and the type of the head, the date would appear to be early fourth century. In another tomb he has found a seal with a female head, possibly that of the Virgin Mary. The tombs opened belong either to a Maccabean or to an early Christian period.

Sir Charles Wilson visited Gezer in March last, and found the excavations being carried out by Mr. Macalister in a very thorough and efficient manner. He proposes to give some of his impressions on the work done at the Annual Meeting on July 6th.

Dr. Merrill, United States Consul at Jerusalem, writes that the villagers of *Silwán* (Siloam) have recently discovered an ancient drain about 500 feet south of the "Fountain of the Virgin" in the Kidron Valley. The drain runs in a north-westerly direction, and may possibly be a continuation of that found by Sir C. Warren, in the Tyropœon Valley, beneath the south-west angle of the Haram Area. Dr. Merrill examined the drain and measured a continuous length of 630 feet. A full description of the discovery will appear in the next *Quarterly Statement*.

Mr. Hanauer reports that an artesian boring has been made in a garden south of the German settlement, about $1\frac{2}{3}$ mile south west of the Jaffa Gate, close to the railway station. Water was found about 100 feet down. We hope to receive shortly a fuller account, with details of the strata, &c., and other interesting particulars.

Dr. Baroody, of Beirût, to whom we are indebted for the facsimile of the "Lion Seal" (p. 288), has also sent us a photograph and a short description of a Samaritan MS. of the Pentateuch, which would appear to be the oldest of its kind. A short account of this interesting discovery will appear in the next number.

The monograph on *The Marissa Tombs* is now well advanced in the press. The proofs have received the final corrections of the authors, and the plates in illustration are so nearly finished that the Committee hope to be able to show them at the Annual General Meeting on July 6th. The circumstances under which the original photographs were taken—in subterranean darkness—have made

their reproduction a work of unusual difficulty and care. The complete volume will conform in size and type with the other quarto publications of the Palestine Exploration Fund. There will be numerous full-page illustrations, many of them coloured, besides blocks with the text. The latter extends to about ninety pages.

Through the kindness of Dr. Sellin the Fund has received an early copy of the report which he has prepared on his excavations on the site of "Taanach by the waters of Megiddo." The report will be more fully reviewed in the next number. It will suffice here to mention that his discoveries in many cases, such as infant sacrifices and foundation sacrifices, confirm those made, almost simultaneously, by Mr. Macalister at Gezer. No trace of the Neolithic race, so much in evidence at Gezer, has been found at Taanach; but, on the other hand, the Semitic people, Amorites or Canaanites, at the two places seem to have reached an identical stage of civilisation. No evidence of a continuous Hebrew occupation has come to light at Taanach, which remained Canaanite until its destruction in the eighth century B.C. The cuneiform tablets discovered had apparently belonged to a small library kept in a terra-cotta box of which fragments were found—a custom throwing light on Jer. xxxii, 14.

The ruins of the palace, or khân, at Mashetta, near the Haj road east of Jordan, which were first brought to notice by Canon Tristram, were presented some time ago by the Sultan to the German Emperor. In September, 1903, a thin veneer of stone, with the beautiful sculpture attached to it, was cut off the face of the masonry by Dr. Schumacher, who conveyed the slabs by rail to Beirût and shipped them thence to Berlin. It is understood that, in ordering the practical destruction of this remarkable and unique monument, the Emperor acted upon the advice of several eminent German Orientalists and archæologists. It was at first intended to make plaster casts only, but a consideration of the danger to which the building would be exposed during the construction of the railway to Mecca, and a desire to rescue it from unscientific destruction, led to a change in the original intention. In consequence, it is alleged, of the requirements of the Ottoman law, which forbids the export of antiquities, only two-thirds of the sculpture was carried away.

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A new colony of the German Temple Society, which bears the name *Hamidiéh-Wilhelma*, in honour of the Sultan and the German Emperor, has been established about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east of *Yehûdiéh*—a village where the tomb of Judah is shown. The colony shows every sign of becoming as prosperous as the other settlements of the Society.

In June last year the German Emperor made a grant of £1,300, partly from German and partly from Prussian State funds, in aid of the excavations of the German Palestine Society, at *Tell Mutseïlim* (Megiddo). Trenches were opened in the autumn of 1903 under the direction of Dr. Benzinger, and they were continued during the spring of the present year by Dr. Schumacher. Important discoveries have been made, and a report upon them will appear in the first number of the Journal of the Society for 1905.

Those who have traversed the long and rugged path which till lately was the only route between Jerusalem and Nablûs, will be glad to know that the new carriage road is now ready as far as Sinjil. The new railway from Damascus to Mecca is advancing rapidly, and a correspondent in "Home Notes" (Jerusalem) supplies some interesting particulars of its progress. The line is now complete for 200 kilometres, and extends south of Ammân. In the course of a journey between Ammân and Damascus it was striking to notice the extraordinary increase in the Circassian population during the last 10 years. In Ammân itself it must have more than tripled itself. Moreover, this increase is being maintained, and, in addition to numbers of newly-finished houses in parts where formerly not a house was visible, there are now crowds of immigrants living temporarily in tents. The slopes behind the railway station at Ammân were thickly dotted with the tents of the soldiers, for it is a military line, constructed by military engineers and soldiers. The carriage in which the writer travelled, and apparently also the rolling stock of the line generally, had been made in Germany, and it was labelled "Made at Elsenach, South Germany."

The construction of the Haifa-Damascus Railway is being pushed forward with great vigour. The line is now open to the Jordan bridge, *Jisr el-Mujâmia'*, and thence there is a carriage road for the

transport of material to the hot springs in the Yarmûk Valley below Gadara. The bridge over the Yarmûk is ready for the iron girders, and work is being pushed forward in the valley of the Yarmûk. It is expected that the line will be completed to *Mezerib* in a year's time. The seven German engineers have left and the work is now entirely in Turkish hands.

The Sunday School Convention was held for the first time in Jerusalem last May. The Delegates, about 1,300 in number, came chiefly from the United States. Those who represented Great Britain were only about 350 in number. Most of the meetings were held in a huge tent hired for the occasion and fitted to seat about 2,000 people. It was pitched on the old camping ground of the German Crusaders, between the traditional Godfrey's tree and the great road leading from the Bâbel-Zahireh northwards. Special arrangements were made by Mr. R. A. S. Macalister to show parties of the Convention over the excavation works, and to explain to them personally the various features of interest.

Dr. Torrance writes from Tiberias on May 23rd: "We have had an exceedingly cool year so far. Yesterday was the first really hot day, 105° in the shade. The peasants are busy with the barley harvest, and the prospects in this district are fair, although the rainfall has been below the average. Locusts are very destructive in the Hieromax (Yarmûk) Valley, and in the Jordan Valley south of the lake. The Tiberias district is suffering a little, but not much."

Dr. Torrance is negotiating for the purchase of Magdala and the southern half of the Plain of Gennesareth for industrial work in connection with the United Free Church of Scotland Sea of Galilee Mission.

One of the Jewish colonists has applied for a monopoly of steam transport on the Sea of Galilee for the next 50 years.

The London Jews' Society's hospital in Şafed was to be opened on May 31st.

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 are in 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 17th, 1904, to June 18th, 1904, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies and a legacy of £30, £383 18s. 2d.; from lectures, including donations, £41 10s. 9d.; from sales of publications, &c., £65 18s. 3d.; total, £491 7s. 2d. The expenditure during the same period was £590 8s. 5d. On June 18th the balance in the bank was £332 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 is published 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:—W. H. Bramwell, Esq., Bow, Durham; the Rev. Isaac Rooney, in place of the Rev. F. W. Cox, deceased, South Australia; the Rev. W. T. Reeder, Bradford Vicarage, Taunton, in succession to the Rev. C. W. Raban, resigned.

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 the map 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 $6\frac{1}{4}$ 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.

A complete set of the *Quarterly Statements*, 1869-1903, containing the early letters, with an Index, 1869-1892, bound in the Palestine Exploration

Fund cases, can be had. Price on application to the Acting Secretary, 38, Conduit Street, W.

Subscribers of one guinea and upwards 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 acknowledge with thanks the following:—

"Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale." Tome VI, Livraisons 6-12. From the Author, Professor Clermont-Ganneau, M.I. *Sommaire*:—§ 11. Le chrisme constantinien selon Mas'oudi. § 12. Une nouvelle chronique samaritaine. § 13. L'inscription israélite de l'aqueduc de Siloé. § 14. *Fiches et notes*. § 15. Le calendrier dit "des Arabes" à l'époque grecque. § 16. La Peregrinatio dite de sainte Sylvie. § 17. La diaconesse Sophie, nouvelle Phabé. § 18. Papyrus et ostraka araméens d'Éléphantine. § 19. La nouvelle inscription phénicienne du Temple d'Echmoun à Sidon. § 20. Sur diverses inscriptions de Palestine publiées par M. Dalman. § 21. Objets épigraphiques de la collection Ustinow. § 22. Nouvelles inscriptions de Palestine.

See further "Foreign Publications," pp. 282 *sqq.*, below.

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.

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.

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.
