

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 Ninth Quarterly Report throws interesting light upon the burial-customs of the old Gezerites. The Crematorium of the Troglodytes and the secondary interments that it contained revealed to us the methods of sepulture among the Pre-Semitic and Earliest Semitic occupants of the site. We now follow up this discovery with tombs of the Canaanite and Maccabean periods, and an unlooked-for but extensive Early Christian cemetery, dating about the beginning of the fourth century A.D. This last series, Mr. Macalister writes, no doubt belongs to the early settlers on the site of the modern village, for, as has several times been remarked in previous Reports, no remains so late are to be found in the débris of the *tell* itself. It may therefore be claimed for the excavation of Gezer, that for the first time in the course of Palestinian exploration the burial customs of every age of a city's history have been determined. It cannot be said, however, that the burial customs of the various races that inhabited Palestine have been completely systematised. Mr. Macalister not infrequently points out contrasts between observations made at Gezer and others made at Jerusalem and at Beit Jibrin—the two districts with the tombs of which he happens to be most familiar, and

these differences show that it would be unsafe to argue from Gezerite burial customs to those of any other part of the country.

The necessity for devoting a certain amount of time to the tombs was an urgent one. Tomb robbery has been and still is rampant everywhere. Tomb robbers, as Mr. Macalister observes, have flourished in the past and in our own generation a new element has been introduced which renders it all the more necessary to examine scientifically the cemeteries belonging to the mounds before the modern dealers or their agents can despoil them. Not the least serious part of this state of affairs lies in the absurd prices that the travellers—to say nothing of museums, which are in this respect just as grave offenders—are willing to pay. This puts an obstacle in the way of research, because it makes it necessary for a legitimate excavator to offer larger *bakhshish* as a reward for the objects found in excavation, and so adds considerably to the already very heavy expenses of such work. It is a melancholy fact that the man who will readily pay £10 to a dealer for what is, comparatively speaking, rubbish (if not actually a ridiculous forgery), rarely sees his way to subscribe 10*d.* in aid of an attempt to elucidate the history of the land of which he is so desirous for “souvenirs.”

Apropos of the above, Mr. Macalister utters a protest against the miserable mania for iridescent glass, which more than anything else is tempting the natives of Palestine to destroy the ancient tombs:—“I believe that a vendor can hardly find a market for a vase, be its shape never so unusual or graceful, unless its surface be coloured like the scum on a stagnant pool that contains decaying organic matter—an effect produced by the decomposition of the chemical constituents of the glass. On the other hand, if he be the happy possessor of a vase, perhaps inferior in every other respect, but highly coloured, he may often expect anything up to £10 or £12 for it, if not more. The reason for this absurdity is partly, no doubt, the beauty of the play of colours, which may be at once acknowledged (though to an archæologist it is a regrettable excrescence, for nothing was farther from the mind of the artist than this polychromatic accretion); but principally owing to a widespread delusion, entertained even by some who do not regard the iridescence as a ‘lost art,’ that the effect cannot be imitated by

modern forgers, and that therefore its presence is a sure evidence of the genuineness of the vessel displaying it. I need only say that I have seen a fragment of a whisky bottle, bearing stamped upon it the initials of a well-known American firm of distillers, which showed most delicate iridescence: the effect of contact with the sewage-laden soil of Silwân, where one of my friends picked it up. That this craze is of comparatively recent growth is shown by a story I have heard to the effect that about 20 years ago the fellahin of Abû Shûsheh broke into a tomb expecting gold. None was found, but a large number of vessels in glass were ranged around the walls—so many, indeed, that they christened the tomb *el-hammârah*, that is, 'the tavern.' Actuated by the childish spite which is a leading character of these villagers, they broke all the glass in their disappointment. Were such a discovery made now, it would be recognised as being at least as valuable as any deposit of gold likely to occur in a Palestinian tomb. I ought to add that I had the tomb pointed out to me, and reopened it in hopes of finding and refitting the fragments of glass, but only one small vase was forthcoming."

When the excavation of Gezer is over there will be much to do in the way of systematising the great harvest of results that has accrued during the work. Dr. Sellin's report (*see* 388 below) shows that there are several points of similarity between the ancient culture of Gezer and Taanach, and, with this and other material, the archæological history of Palestine will stand out far clearer than ever it did before. One among many features of interest which will not fail to attract more notice is the cave described in the *Quarterly Statement* for January, 1903, which reminds one of the "chasm" at the temple of Hierapolis, referred to in the *De Dea Syria*, attributed to Lucian. Mr. W. Clarkson Wallis has also written to point out certain analogies with the Sakhra rock at Jerusalem, and the classical reader himself will readily supply parallels from Pausanias and elsewhere. Lack of space precludes further remarks upon the subject in the present number.

We regret, too, that, through want of space, we have been compelled to hold over the conclusion of the article on "Personal Names," by Messrs. Macalister and Masterman, also the commencement of a

series of papers on the "Bedouin of the Sinaitic Peninsula," by Mr. W. E. Jennings-Bramley, and one of the unpublished reports by the late Dr. Schick, "A Discussion of the Birthplace of St. John the Baptist."

The special donations to the expenses of the Excavation of Gezer comprise the following:—His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, K.G., £20; Rev. G. Greenwood, £10 10s. 0d.; Henry S. Noblett, Esq., £10; E. S. Morphew, Esq., £5 5s. 0d.; General A. C. Cooke, C.B., £5; Rev. J. Hewitson, £5; smaller amounts, £22 8s. 6d., in all £78 3s. 6d.; bringing the total up to £759 11s. 2d.

Professor Flinders Petrie writes pointing out that on Plate VI, fig. 22 (p. 226, line 35) of the July *Quarterly Statement*, the inscription reads *Men khefer Ra Sotep en Amen*, "approved of Amen." Page 227: These scarabs need not show "the intensity of the Egyptian domination," but may show that Egyptian motives were most popular when Syrians had power over Egypt under the Hyksos. *Ib.*, No scarab of Khyan has been found at Knossos but an alabaster lid of a jar.

On the 1st August Mr. Dickson, His Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, on his return from a visit to Bethlehem with Admiral Domville, noticed that digging and building were going on in a field by the roadside near "Rachel's Tomb." On proceeding to the spot he found that about a dozen large sections of the stone syphon that formed part of the ancient high-level aqueduct from "Solomon's Pools" to Jerusalem had been unearthed and were lying about in their original position, only detached from one another. The next day the remains were visited by the Rev. J. E. Hanauer, who discovered two small inscriptions partly covered with cement. Photographs and squeezes were taken of the inscriptions and the stone tubes of the syphon, but unfortunately the squeezes have been so much damaged in transit to England as to be useless. Some previous inscriptions found on the syphon are described by M. Clermont-Ganneau in *Quarterly Statement*, 1901, p. 119.

Mr. A. J. Kenward has communicated the following information respecting his successful attempt to find water near the railway

station at Jerusalem. The depth of the boring is 131 feet 8 inches, and water was reached at about 106 feet. After passing about 11 feet of red clay and rounded stones, the boring passed through beds of white and yellowish limestone, separated by thin layers of red and yellow clay, and occasionally a few pebbles and fine glass sand. The water at first stood in a 20-foot column but this has decreased during the dry season. When the water is pumped up, the bottom of the bore fills with pebbles and sand, which have to be cleared out.

Our readers will find in the July number of *The Reliquary* a pleasantly-written and well-illustrated article on the ossuaries found in tombs in Palestine, by Miss Gladys Dickson, who discovered the important "Nicanor" inscription (*Quarterly Statement*, 1903, p. 326).

Professor Sellin, who is now again at work at Taanach, has been fortunate enough to discover another cuneiform tablet partly well preserved and partly weathered. In the inscription some person is commanded to bring something from the city of Megiddo. The date is approximately that of the tablets found at Taanach last year.

The observations made at Jaffa by the Rev. J. Jamal show that the rainfall at that place from the 30th October, 1903, to the 30th April, 1904, amounted to a little more than 15½ inches, being considerably less than the amount during the preceding winter season (*Quarterly Statement*, October, 1903, p. 280). In 44 days there fell as follows :—

1 day in October (on the 30th), 1903	...	0·12 inches.
7 days in November, 1903	2·09 "
8 " December, 1903	2·47 "
16 " January, 1904...	4·89 "
4 " February, 1904	1·03 "
7 " March, 1904	4·08 "
1 day in April (on the 30th), 1904	0·96 "
44		<hr/> 15·64

The Rev. J. E. Hanauer writes from Jerusalem that the Church of St. John (Greek) in the south-west corner of the Muristan, now

stands isolated, as all the rubbish outside the east end has been cleared away. A fair-sized modern window has been inserted at the east end, where the irregularity of the courses in the masonry, and the varying sizes of the stones, show that there have been several repairs or reconstructions at different periods.

The large tree at the north-west corner of the Muristan, which was a prominent feature, has been cut down.

Macridy Bey, of the Imperial Ottoman Museum at Constantinople, has been at Jerusalem to report on the feasibility of removing the fine Orpheus mosaic to the museum.

The German Empress has recently purchased a large plot of land on the ridge of Olivet, between Sir John Gray Hill's house and the elevation known as *Viri Galilæi*, for the purpose of building a hospice, convalescent home, and chapel for the benefit of visitors to, and residents in, Jerusalem.

The French are erecting a large building on the "Mount of Offence," just above Siloam.

The Assumptionist Fathers of Notre Dame de France have recently erected a colossal statue of the Madonna on the roof of their buildings on the site of Tancred's camp. A smaller statue of Christ has for several years occupied a conspicuous place in a niche in the same building, and by the road side. These are the first statues erected at Jerusalem in full view of the Moslem population since Crusading times. At Bethlehem there is a large statue on the roof of one of the Latin convents.

Four hundred and seventy-two kilomètres of the Damascus-Mecca Railway is now open for traffic.

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 publish the work in a short time.

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 eighty pages.

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 June 18th to September 19th, 1904, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £189 15s. 8d.; from sales of publications, &c., £82 6s. 11d.; total, £272 2s. 7d. The expenditure during the same period was £503 14s. 6d. On September 19th the balance in the bank was £100 16s. 0d.

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 Acting Secretary has now completed 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" 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.

A complete set of the *Quarterly Statements*, 1869-1904, 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:—

"Die Provincia Arabia."—R. E. Brünnow.

"Tell Ta'anek Bericht über eine . . . Ausgrabung in Palästina, nebst einem Anhang von Dr. Fr. Hrozný, Die Keilschrifttexte von Ta'anek."
—Dr. Ernst Sellin.

"Bulln. de Corresp. Hellénique for 1903."—École Française d'Athènes.

See "Foreign Publications," p. 397 *sq.*, 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.*

It is with deep regret we learn at the moment of going to press that Thomas Chaplin, M.D., formerly of Jerusalem, and for many years a member of the Executive Committee, died at St. Leonards-on-Sea on September 20th, in his seventy-fourth year.