

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE ANNUAL General Meeting was held on Wednesday, July 6th, 1904, at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, W., when the Chair was taken by His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, K.G., F.R.S.

THE HON. SECRETARY.—I have to report that since the last *Quarterly Statement* was issued, 38 names have been added to the List of Subscribers, and that we have lost 23 in addition to the deaths of members announced in the Annual Report.

THE CHAIRMAN.—I will ask Lord Amherst of Hackney to be good enough to move the first resolution.

LORD AMHERST.—My Lord, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—I have been asked to propose the first resolution, and this honour has been conferred upon me as being one of the old representatives of the General Committee. Time has passed very rapidly, and I can hardly believe, looking back, that it was as early as April, 1865, that we held our first meeting to raise funds for the exploration of the Holy Land and for a general survey of the country. Since that time there has been issued a large series of publications connected with the work that has been done. I am glad to say that the work has received general approval, and that we are continually receiving more funds to go on with it. But times have changed very much since 1865. The country was at that time open, and anybody who was willing to undertake work such as our Fund has done could do so. A *firman* was much more easily obtained then. I had one myself, and I thought that at some later date, as I could not devote much time to it then, I should perhaps be able to use it. But, alas! when the time came there was another Sultan who was not so friendly to exploration as his predecessors, and I was unable privately to obtain one. But as a public body we have from time to time obtained *firmans*, and we have one now for the excavation of Gezer, which will, I am sorry to say, expire in some 12 or 14 months' time. We would like to make a special appeal to our supporters, and ask them to circulate it as much as possible amongst their friends, in order that we might raise sufficient funds to make the best use possible of the *firman* that is now in our possession.

You will see in the Annual Report, and it will be explained to you during the course of this meeting, how much has already been done at Gezer, and what valuable information we have obtained. At the same time, there is plenty of room for more work there, and there are plenty of inviting mounds and sites for excavation. I must ask you to earnestly consider that we have this privilege and that it may be very difficult to obtain it again. It is sure to be surrounded with innumerable difficulties, and it might even be refused. Whilst we have the opportunity, I hope we shall be able to raise sufficient funds to make the greatest use possible of the short time allotted to us. The Fund has recently received an extension of the permit to dig at Gezer—one year from the 14th June, and an allowance of two months for the time lost by the cholera epidemic. The work at Gezer will have to be finally closed on the 14th August, 1905, and it is desirable to explore as much of the mound as is possible before that date. We are able to spend £1,200 a year on the excavations, or £1,400 for the 14 months, but if the exploration of the mound is to be complete an additional expenditure of £1,000 is necessary, and this can only be raised by special donations. The total sum required is £2,400. The other Societies receive large grants from Government funds, but the Palestine Exploration Fund has to depend upon annual subscriptions and donations. The majority of subscribers pay 10s. 6d. a year, for which they receive the *Quarterly Statement*. I have no doubt that that is all they feel they can afford, but at the same time, after the payment for the *Quarterly Statement*, their subscription contributes only between 3s. and 4s. a year to the work of excavation. I hope this appeal will meet with a ready response. It will certainly be our last chance, and I trust that from time to time we shall receive enough to make the full use of the extension that is given us of our *firman*. The resolution that I have the honour to propose is:—

“That the Report and Accounts already printed and in the hands of subscribers be taken as read, and be received and adopted, and that this meeting pledges itself to make every effort to raise the additional funds required to enable Mr. Macalister to complete the exploration of Gezer.”

Viscount SIDMOUTH.—My Lord Duke, I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution which has been proposed by Lord

Amherst of Hackney. I hope that all will endeavour to enlist subscribers for this most desirable object. Those who have not read the Reports sent out by the Society have no idea how intensely interesting they are. They carry you back to Bible history. And, with reference to this particular mound at Gezer which the Society is so intent upon excavating, I think I am right in saying that it contains the remains of six or seven different cities. It goes back to a period before the Israelite occupation and before the Canaanite occupation, and all the publications show how intimately connected the work of the Fund is with Bible history throughout the whole of its operations. I know how difficult it is to get people to subscribe and to interest themselves in work of this character. I tried myself some time ago in Devonshire. The meeting was well attended, but there was no satisfactory response. So I think it is best for those interested and who hear what Sir Charles Wilson is about to tell us, to spread that knowledge among their friends and induce them to subscribe whilst they have time, because, as you hear from the Report, only a short time remains to us of the present *firmam*. I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

DR. GINSBURG.—My Lord, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—The resolution that I have to propose is:—

“That the following gentlemen be added to the General Committee of the Fund:—The Bishop of London, Sir R. Hamilton Lang, K.C.M.G., Cecil H. Smith, Esq., LL.D., Stanley A. Cook, Esq., M.A., Ormonde M. Dalton, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.”

These gentlemen are too well known for me to make any comment about them, and I hope that the resolution will be properly seconded and heartily accepted.

CANON DALTON.—I have much pleasure in seconding that resolution.

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

CANON TRISTRAM.—My Lord, the resolution I have to propose is the following:—

“That the Executive Committee be re-elected.”

I suppose I have been asked to propose this resolution as the oldest member of the Committee, and, though I venture to propose it, I

have this apology to make, that I am really not on the Executive Committee, because I am very seldom able to attend its meetings. I think the list of those names, consisting of so many men who have distinguished themselves in Palestine Exploration work, in research generally, and in literature at home, is a guarantee that so long as they are the Committee the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund will be carried on successfully, thoroughly, and accurately. I have great pleasure in moving the re-election of the Executive Committee.

Dr. ROGERS.—I have very great pleasure in seconding the proposal.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—Now I will ask Sir Charles Wilson to be good enough to give us the lecture which he has promised.

Sir CHARLES WILSON.—During a short visit to Palestine last March, it was forcibly brought home to me that the time had passed when the Palestine Exploration Fund was almost alone in its efforts to compel the reluctant soil to reveal its secrets. An era of activity has set in, which cannot but be welcome to those who have at heart the objects for which the Fund was founded; and I trust that you will allow me to express, in the name of the General Committee, a very cordial wish for the success of every earnest effort to throw light upon the history, manners, and customs of the races and peoples that from time to time have occupied the Holy Land. I am not alone in thinking that during the next 15 or 20 years important discoveries illustrative of the Bible will be made, and I hope that a large share of them may be obtained by the parent Society, stirred to fresh exertion by the friendly rivalry of kindred societies in foreign lands. On the threshold of this new era it will not be amiss to refer to what is being done by others than ourselves.

On March 10th, 1902, Dr. Sellin,¹ supported by grants from the Vienna Academy of Sciences and the Austrian Ministry of Education, and by private subscriptions, opened trenches on the site of "Taanach by the waters of Megiddo." The results he obtained during 1902 and 1903 have recently been published by

¹ Dr. Sellin has not only sent a copy of his report for the Fund, but has kindly placed at my disposal several photographs for reproduction on the screen.

the Vienna Academy,¹ and he is now again at Taanach with additional funds and every prospect of continued success.

France, which at one time took such a leading part in Palestine exploration, has become somewhat indifferent. She is now chiefly represented by the excellent *École Biblique de St. Étienne* at Jerusalem, which, under the direction of P. Lagrange, publishes the well-known *Revue Biblique*, holds conferences, and sends out small parties for archaeological research. Early this year a party visited Eboda, in the Negeb, or south country, where they found many new Nabatæan inscriptions, the sanctuary of the deified King Obodas, and a number of early Christian inscriptions accurately dated from the era of Eleutheropolis, and combined with the old calendar, called "the calendar of the Arabs." P. Germer-Durand, to whom so much of our knowledge of Roman roads in Palestine is due, aided by a small grant from the French Academy, has recovered 60 new mile-stones between Rabbath Ammon and Bostra, with inscriptions that give the names of a series of governors of the Roman province of Arabia. One of these is dedicated to the Palmyrene "Emperor," Vaballathus Athenodorus, son of Zenobia, with the complete imperial formula. Another rich harvest of inscriptions has been gleaned by MM. Dussaud and Macler in the country south-east of Damascus.

Germany has been actively engaged in exploration in which the German Emperor takes a keen personal interest. The *Orientalgesellschaft*, which in 1902 had a sum of £12,500 placed at its disposal, has been excavating in Assyria, Babylonia, and Egypt, and at Jerash (Gerasa), and has assisted the German Palestine Society in its excavations at Tell Mutsellim (Megiddo). It has also sent out reconnoitring parties to travel through the country and select the most favourable sites for excavation. The *Vorderasiatische Gesellschaft* has assisted in the excavations at Sidon. The *Palestina Verein*, which last year was given a grant of £13,000 from German and Prussian Government funds, is excavating at Megiddo. And the *Evangelical Archaeological Institute* of Jerusalem, founded in 1902 by the united Protestant State churches of Germany under the auspices of the Emperor, is now at work. Its main object is the scientific investigation of the history, geography, and folk-lore of Palestine, and the instruction of young pastors who are sent out every year with bursaries from the German churches. Its president, Dr. Dalman,

¹ See below, pp. 388 sqq.

resides at Jerusalem in a house next to that of the British Consul, and here the Institute, with its lecture hall, museum, and library is housed.

The German excavations at Baalbek have been discussed in the *Quarterly Statement* by Dr. Bliss and Mr. Phenè Spiers. They have disclosed many interesting features in connection with the temples and the large church, but have thrown no light upon any period earlier than the Roman, to which the temples belong. At Megiddo, where the excavations are being conducted by Dr. Schumacher, the most important discoveries are:—A very early building surrounded by a ditch and wall, with masonry similar to some at Troy which Dr. Dörpfeld dated about 2000 B.C.; near the building an altar of rude, unhewn blocks of stone erected over a pit, which contained a dish for the reception of the blood; close to the altar another pit, surrounded by blocks of basalt, and containing the remains—bones of animals and ashes—of burnt offerings; immediately south of the altar a chamber, perhaps a treasury, roofed with unhewn blocks of limestone, which project one beyond the other so as to form a rude arch not unlike arches at Mycenæ and in the chambers of the Pyramids; a seal on which is a well engraved lion with the inscription, “To Shama, the servant of Jeroboam”—possibly the seal of an officer of the warlike King of Israel, Jeroboam II (782–743 B.C.); a Babylonian cylinder with cuneiform inscription; inscribed Hebrew pottery; rows of monoliths, *masséboth*, upon some of which there are said to be ancient Hebrew letters; and infant and adult burials in connection with “high places” and foundation rites. The publication of the results will commence next January. In 1903–04 the first students arrived at the Institute in Jerusalem, and attended two courses of lectures given by Professors Dalman and Löhr. Excursions were made to Northern Palestine and Petra.

For many years the large funds which the Russian Palestine Society has at its disposal have been devoted, for the most part, to the support of schools in Palestine in which Russian is taught. No important work has been undertaken by the Society since the excavations in the ground east of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Spain, in the person of one of her Consuls in Palestine, has been excavating at Samaria, where two fine sarcophagi of the Roman period have been brought to light.

Turkey has continued the excavations in the temple of Eshmun at Sidon, where more Phœnician inscriptions have been found.

The American School of Archæology at Jerusalem has continued its useful activity. During the 12 months for which he was appointed, the late director, Professor Paton, travelled in the Haurân to visit all the holy places possible and gather the local religious beliefs. He next visited Southern Lebanon to study the institutions and customs of the modern Druses, and then went to Northern Lebanon, where Dr. Spoer, the Fellow of the School, made a special study of the ancient temple at Beit Meri. Lectures were delivered at Jerusalem, excursions were made from that place, tombs which yielded interesting finds were opened in Phœnicia, and excavations were made outside Jerusalem to throw light on the course of the old city wall. In July, 1903, a friend of the University of Chicago offered a substantial sum of money to be available annually for five years for excavation and exploration in Bible Lands. This led to the foundation of the Oriental Exploration Fund which is already at work at *Bismaya* in Babylonia, and will eventually, it is hoped, take up some work in Palestine. Dr. Bliss, with a grant from another fund, has also returned to work in the Holy Land.

In connection with this outbreak of activity I may mention that Mr. Crace, our Honorary Secretary, has been in communication with the kindred Societies in foreign countries with the view of stopping illicit digging and of preventing competition in the selection of sites to excavate. The replies have been sympathetic, but thus far the correspondence has led to no practical result. Another point to be considered is the destruction of ancient monuments. At Jerash (Gerasa), for instance, the Circassians are reported to have blown up important ruins with gunpowder to obtain building stones, and drums of columns to be hollowed out as drinking troughs. The preservation of historic monuments is eminently a matter for joint action, and I would suggest that the Societies interested be invited to join us in a friendly representation to the Porte on the subject.

In March last I was able to visit Gezer, and was struck by the strategical importance of its position—on the crest of a hill-feature, not far from the great road, over the coast plain, from Egypt to the north, and within easy reach of two of the principal approaches to Jerusalem. The extent of the ruins of Gezer can only be fully realised when the mound is viewed from the slope of a neighbouring hill. And it is only when standing in the midst

of the deep trenches and huge banks of rubbish thrown out of them that the heavy nature of the task upon which Mr. Macalister is engaged can be fully appreciated. The rubbish is so compact that it stands without support in the trenches, and unlined tunnels can be driven through it. Difficulties and delays, however, frequently arise from the fact that the walls of all ages are built of unhewn or roughly tooled boulders, set in mud and packed with small stones, and that, except in rare cases, the builders of a late period did not use the walls of their predecessors as foundations. The result is that the house walls of the different periods cross each other in an annoying manner, and that the buildings of each period, after having been excavated, planned, and photographed, have to be removed before the buildings beneath them can be examined. This entails the carriage of all the boulders to the surface by men—a costly labour but not without a certain interest. Nearly every boulder is of the size and weight that a man, with his hands clasped beneath it, can carry on his back; and this, possibly, was the method employed by the Canaanite ancestors of the present villagers when they carried up stones to build their first walls on the hill. Considering the costly and troublesome nature of this work, the amount of rubbish which Mr. Macalister has turned over for the sum which the Fund has been able to place at his disposal is really remarkable. I am glad to be able to report that the excavations are not only being carried out economically but in a thoroughly efficient and business-like manner. In all these respects, I think, the work of the Fund compares favourably with that of Austria at Taanach, and Germany at Megiddo. I attribute this happy result in great measure to the admirable way in which the working parties have been organised, and to the excellent relations that have been established with the fellahîn. I had an opportunity of seeing the men and their female assistants at work, and of witnessing the implicit confidence placed by all in the impartiality and justice of Mr. Macalister. He seemed to me to be in the position of a strict but kindly master who had succeeded in winning the trust and devotion of those he employed. I must add that he has received every support from Suraya Effendi, the Turkish Commissioner; and that he is fortunate in having a very competent foreman in the person of Yusif, who acted in the same capacity during Dr. Bliss's excavations at *Tell Zakariya*, &c.

The archæological value of the excavations cannot well be exaggerated; and when the results obtained at Gezer, Taanach, and Megiddo have been finally classified and compared, we shall know much more than we do at present of the history, religion, and culture of the people who occupied Palestine prior to the time when Israel passed over Jordan, and during the existence of the kingdoms of Judah and Israel. Thus far the Gezer excavations have disclosed

lower state of civilisation than I had expected to find. Few cut stones have been found, and there is no trace of the use of mortar in the masonry. The oldest walls consist of uncoursed masonry, in which the larger stones are undressed field boulders. In the latest walls the stones are laid in courses, but they are only roughly hammer-dressed. There are no regular streets, there is little more than a maze of blind alleys, and the whole plan is similar to that of a modern hill village in Palestine through which no line of traffic runs. No house seems to have been better than another, and no building has yet been discovered that could be identified as the residence of the *melek* or "king" of Gezer, or of a Gezerite more wealthy than his fellows. The pottery and small objects unearthed, with certain notable exceptions, tell the same story; but surprises are so common in Palestine that it is unwise to theorise on the results of partial exploration. At Taanach Dr. Sellin has found houses of the same character; but he has also uncovered some more important buildings—a result, perhaps, due to the fact that the site was not occupied after the Captivity until a Roman settlement was founded at the foot of the hill. A curious feature at Gezer is that, except in the tombs, no trace has yet been found of the Byzantine and Crusading periods.

The débris at Gezer may be regarded as representing four epochs in the history of the place, and to each of the first three two cities may be assigned.

1. The *Pre-historic* Epoch (dated by Mr. Macalister about 3000–2000 B.C.).—Additional light has been thrown upon the neolithic cave-dwellers of this period, whose existence was first made known by the excavations. A rude prognathous head, the earliest example of modelling yet found in the mound, may represent, perhaps, the general type of these people. Evidence has accumulated to show that their settlement was surrounded by an earth rampart; that their domestic animals were the sheep, cow, pig, and goat; that a rock-surface pitted with cup-marks was their place of sacrifice;

and that the cup-marks of the neolithic people, and the *masséboth* or standing stones of the Semites, both of which were connected with religious rites, are mutually exclusive.

2. The *Early Semitic* or Canaanite Epoch (about 2000–1000 B.C.).—The *tell* continues to be prolific in small objects belonging to this period, and the harvest of scarabs and other evidence of Egyptian influence is undiminished. Amongst the finds have been vessels of thick, coarse pottery, used for melting bronze for casting; amulets; fragments of gold leaf; and scarabs of the Hyksos period, fourteenth and sixteenth dynasties, including a fine one, in gold setting, of Khyan, "the great king whose remains are found from Crete to Baghdad," and of Amenhotep III and his wife Thyi, of the period of the Tell Amarna tablets. Dr. Blanckenhorn, well known for his papers on Palestinian geology, has examined the monoliths of the "high place," and states that all but one are of local stone. The exception is that with a groove over one face which Mr. Macalister has happily suggested may have been cut to prevent the rope from slipping when the block was dragged to Gezer either from some sacred locality or from the temple of a conquered foe. The suggestion illustrates 2 Sam. xvii, 13, and an obscure phrase in King Mesha's inscription on the Moabite stone. The erection of standing stones, the *masséboth*, or "pillars" of the Bible, in groups, or, sometimes, singly at the thresholds of houses, is common to Gezer, Taanach, and Megiddo, and the very large number of representations of Ashtoreth unearthed at the three places points to a widespread worship of that goddess. The figures are of various types,—one interesting for distinctively Egyptian features that are usually absent. Of human sacrifice in connection with foundation rites more evidence has been obtained, including the skeleton of a woman of advanced age. Several granaries full of burnt grain have been found, one containing over a ton of corn, and another the charred skeleton of a man. One of the gates of the Canaanite city proves to have been built over the earth rampart of the cave-dwellers, and to have been closed by a wall of the Hebrew period built outside it.

Professor Macalister's opinion that "among the work-people on the *tell* and the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages both facial and other characters closely correspond to those of the Amorites," gives an additional interest to the photographs and measurements of the fellahîn, and to the series of papers which Mr. Macalister

and Dr. Masterman are preparing on the modern inhabitants of Palestine.

3. *Late Semitic Epoch* (about 1400-600 B.C.).—The historical references point to a connection of three peoples with the Gezer of this period—Hebrews, Canaanites, and Philistines. With our present knowledge it is impossible to say, in many cases, to which of the three an antiquity belongs; but the general tendency of the excavations is to indicate that the Hebrews who settled amongst the Canaanites at Gezer, learnt their ways, manners, and customs and followed them as their own. There is evidence in the Bible that this occurred in certain places in Palestine, and the tendency is illustrated by the adoption of Arab dress and manners by some of the modern Jews. Specimens of old Hebrew writing have been found on weights, and potters' stamps, but the most interesting discovery has been that of an Assyrian contract-tablet which refers to the sale of an estate with houses and slaves at a time when Manasseh was King of Judah. The tablet was found in a comparatively late stratum, contemporary with the Jewish monarchy, in the trench on the Western Hill nearest to the highest point. It was extracted by the foreman, Yusif, from untouched soil in the trench, and its date, 649 B.C., accords with that of the associated debris. Mr. Macalister, although he does not read cuneiform, saw at once that the tablet could not belong to the Tell el-Amarna series, and that it must be assigned to the time of the Hebrew monarchy. His first thought was that it might be a Hebrew document written in cuneiform. The fact that the scribe does not appear to have known who had been elected eponym for the year seems to indicate a local transaction, and this is by no means unlikely. Gezer was one of those strongholds that the Assyrians must have held to protect their line of communications with Egypt. It was almost certainly taken by Sennacherib, though not mentioned in the annals of his reign, as they have come down to us; and it must have been in Assyrian hands when Esarhaddon invaded Egypt. The place where the tablet was found suggests the idea that it may be a record of some transaction due to the presence of a small garrison in a castle on the highest point of the mound. Unfortunately, this part of the hill is occupied by a cemetery and cannot be excavated. Notes on this interesting discovery by Professor Pinches, Dr. Sayce, Mr. Johns, and Professor Petrie will be found in the July *Quarterly Statement*.

Dr. Sayce seems to think it possible that the tablet was not actually found at Gezer, but may have been obtained by an Arab workman at Jerusalem, and placed where it was found, presumably with the hope of a pecuniary reward. This view seems to me untenable. It involves the belief that an ignorant Arab labourer obtained a fractured tablet—contemporary with the Jewish Monarch, dated in a manner, only known, I believe, in one other instance, and wanting those parts where the place-name occurred—and buried it amidst the débris to which it properly belonged. I do not think a fraud of that nature possible under the system established by Mr. Macalister, or that it could have been carried out without the knowledge of his foreman, who, during his long service with the Fund, has shown himself as trustworthy as he is capable.

4. *Post-Exilic* Epoch (about 600–100 B.C.).—Amongst the most recent finds assigned to this period are lead weights and vessels; a curious little inscribed votive altar (described in *Quarterly Statement*, 1903, p. 314); baths; and a remarkable reservoir more than 50 feet deep, quarried in the rock, coated with cement, and provided with rock-hewn steps. The reservoir would hold about 4,000,000 gallons, but the way in which it was filled is unknown. It is possibly a relic of the time of the Maccabean wars.

Mr. Macalister is now carrying out a systematic examination of the cemeteries round the mound—the first scientific exploration of a cemetery in Palestine. The tombs thus far examined belong either to the post-exilic period or to early Christian times. They have all been rifled, but some rich gleanings have been made. Amongst these are a signet ring of bronze with the head (bearded) of Christ which, judging from a coin found with it, and from the type of the head, would be early fourth century. Another seal, found in an adjacent tomb, has a female head—perhaps that of the Virgin Mary.

These interesting excavations which have told us so much may tell us still more if we can only complete them. We have now 14 months in which we can work, but to do all we wish in them a sum of £1,000 is required in addition to the annual subscriptions. I would appeal to those who have so generously supported the Fund in the past to help once more, and not allow it to be said that we were obliged to leave a large portion of Gezer unexplored because we could not raise £1,000.

The CHAIRMAN.—Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am sure I shall only be expressing your feelings if I convey our most hearty thanks and keen appreciation of the lecture which Sir Charles Wilson has so kindly given to us. It has been interesting in every way, and it has been illustrated by some photographs which give us an extraordinarily vivid idea of the work which is being carried on now at Gezer, and will, I hope, go to do something to enhance the force of the remarks made by Lord Amherst and Sir Charles Wilson upon the earnest necessity for strong assistance. I do not know that I can say anything in support of their appeal to the public for additional funds for the prosecution of this object. I am sure you will all feel that, as the time is short, and as perhaps a similar opportunity may not occur again of undertaking this work, it is of the utmost importance that the Committee should be furnished with funds to enable it to carry on its work in the most thorough manner possible. It is extremely satisfactory to hear from Sir Charles that these works are being carried on in a thorough and proper manner, because I am quite sure of this, that nothing is more disastrous than perfunctory or ill carried out excavations of any description, particularly as, in a case like this, so much has been destroyed that unless a thorough record is kept of everything and the work pursued systematically and upon an intelligent system, it is inevitable that much may be lost that can never be regained. On the other hand, while it is being pursued in the manner we have heard described, we have, I trust, a complete and perfect record of all the relics of the past. It is not for me, with my small knowledge of the subject, to express an opinion, perhaps, but I must say that of recent years I know of no discoveries which this Fund has been engaged in which have been more interesting than those now before us at Gezer. They seem to me to be revealing to us states of society of which perhaps we hitherto had only a very inadequate idea. They remind us that, although in certain forms, perhaps, heathenism was not altogether wanting in points which command our admiration in some sense, there are other forms of heathenism which are only a travesty, a libel upon every proper idea of deity, or a caricature of all we hold high and noble. That seems to have been the character of the heathenism of the early Canaanites in Palestine, and perhaps helps us to understand something of the denunciation with which the habits and the worship of those nations is spoken of in Scripture. However, it is not for me to dilate upon a subject which I cannot

speaking about with any real knowledge. Moreover, I was reminded when I came here that we were not to be more than an hour and a quarter about our business, and therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, I will ask you to let me conclude with once more expressing your and my high appreciation of the lecture which has been given us by Sir Charles Wilson, and of our sense of the value of what he has told us and of the photographs he has shown us. And, in conclusion, once more let me impress upon you, and ask you to impress upon your friends, the absolute necessity of putting the Committee in a position to pursue these excavations without delay to a successful termination.

SIR WILLIAM CHARLEY, K.C., K.C.M.G.—I have much pleasure in moving :—

“That this meeting desires to express its thanks to Mr. R. A. Stewart Macalister for his zealous and diligent conduct of the excavations, and his care in noting and reporting the results; also to Mr. Hanauer, Dr. Masterman, and others resident in Palestine, or visitors who have contributed the results of their local observations for publication by the Fund.

“This meeting also desires to thank the several local Hon. Secretaries for their assistance in making known the work of the Fund, and particularly Professor Theodore Wright, our able and zealous Hon. Gen. Secretary for the United States, who has for so many years been an enthusiastic worker for the interests of the Palestine Exploration Fund.”

Our vote of thanks is chiefly to Mr. Macalister, for his zealous and diligent conduct of the excavations. The difficulties which he has encountered have been alluded to by Sir Charles Wilson. He says, the nature of the relations between the different deposits often form a complicated and delicate problem. He has had to modify in the course of his excavations some of the conclusions he had previously arrived at. He has done so with very great care, and he has given us the materials from which we can form a sound judgment ourselves. He discovered the crematorium used by the first inhabitants of Gezer, and he has actually discovered the chimney through which the smoke went. He has also shown us that the system of cremation was altered by those who subsequently occupied Gezer, and they resorted to inter-mural interment, a great

number of skeletons having been found by Professor Macalister. Allusion has been made by Sir Charles Wilson to infant sacrifice. I need not say more about that, which is a remarkable and unpleasant discovery. You have had an illustration of the very jar in which the skeleton of one of the infants was found. Traces of Egyptian occupation are numerous. These have been alluded to by Sir Charles Wilson, and I find that Professor Flinders Petrie, who is a great expert, says that some of these date from 2,000 to 5,000 years before Christ. We read a great deal in the Bible about the mixture of the worship of the true God and false worship, and certainly Mr. Macalister himself was greatly struck with the fact of finding the name of Jehovah in the Greek form on a heathen altar. The resolution also speaks of Mr. Hanauer and Dr. Masterman and others. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Hanauer at Jerusalem some years ago, and he has contributed some valuable papers, and so also has Dr. Masterman. We have also to thank the local Hon. Secretaries. We cannot do without them, as it is through them the funds are expected to come in. I must also allude to Professor Theodore Wright. It is difficult to say which of the great English-speaking nations takes the greatest interest in the Bible and biblical research, the United States or England. Both are most zealous, and the United States certainly do not come after us in their love of the Bible.

General Sir CHARLES WARREN.—My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have very great pleasure in seconding this resolution, because I have a keen sense of the excellent work that is being now carried out. I have followed with great interest the accounts given us of the work that has been done at Gezer, and I feel that we have in Mr. Stewart Macalister a most competent and zealous officer and one who should be supported in every way. At the present time you have the power to do the work, and what we want now is for you to give the Palestine Exploration Fund the sinews of war by which the work may be carried out. It is just 34 years since I spoke to you first with regard to the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and it has been carried on continuously ever since, and I can assure you, as far as I am aware, that it has never been carried on better than at the present time. I have the greatest pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Sir CHARLES WILSON.—Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is my pleasant duty to propose a very cordial vote of thanks to the Royal Institution for allowing us the use of their theatre this afternoon. We have always met with the greatest kindness from the Institution whenever we have asked for the loan of their theatre, and I do not think we could have a more agreeable place for our Annual Meeting. I may also add that we owe much to the courtesy of the Duke of Northumberland, who is the President.

The HON. SECRETARY.—I have much pleasure in seconding this motion. We all feel greatly indebted to the Royal Institution for the loan of their theatre, and the success of this meeting is largely due to the courtesy extended to us.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Lord AMHERST.—I have been asked to propose one more resolution, which I am sure you will have anticipated, and, if you will allow me, I should like to say one or two words that occurred to me on hearing the description of the work at Gezer. It was mentioned that other Funds had taken up work in Palestine, or were about to do so, and we shall all welcome such co-workers. You will recollect that cuneiform tablets were found at Tell el-Amarna. Their date was about 1400–1300 B.C., and they showed, I think, that the communications between Mesopotamia and Egypt were in the same cuneiform writing that we have found at Gezer. And more, a great many letters were discovered that had passed between the princes of Syria and Palestine and the ruler of Egypt. The part of Tell el-Amarna in which they were found is about the size of this table. When the Fund excavated at Lachish only one tablet, belonging to the Tell el-Amarna series, and bearing the name of Zimrida, was found. These tablets are deposited, no doubt, over a great part of the country, and we hope we may be fortunate enough to find some of them. At any rate, we shall do our best. The resolution I have to propose I know will meet with your appreciation. It is:—"That this meeting presents its hearty thanks to his Grace the Duke of Northumberland for presiding over this gathering." He is always ready to come forward and promote the objects of such a Society as ours.

F. D. MOCATTA, Esq.—I am much honoured in being asked to second the vote of thanks which Lord Amherst of Hackney

has proposed to you; the only difference being that, with all the appreciation I have of the valuable services rendered by his Grace, I have not those extraordinary qualifications of learning that Lord Amherst possesses. I am very pleased to find that the Fund is working so well, and that it has gone so thoroughly into the depths of Palestine exploration, and we are very much pleased at having the Duke of Northumberland as our Chairman to-day. I beg to second the vote of thanks.

The resolution was carried with acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN.—Well, gentlemen, I thank you for the very kind way in which this vote of thanks has been proposed and received. I can assure you it has been a very great pleasure to me to take part in the proceedings to-day, and I shall be still more grateful if I can look back upon my taking the chair as being the means of still further supporting the work. Also, as President of the Royal Institution, I have to say, on behalf of that Institution, that we are most happy to receive this Annual Meeting here and help to promote whatever we can of historical and scientific research, although it may not be exactly on the lines of the chief work of this Institution.

The proceedings then terminated.
