

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 as thoroughly as possible before the expiration of the extension of time granted by the Sultan. *Special donations* are invited.

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury has kindly consented to take the chair at the Annual General Meeting at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, and has appointed three o'clock on Friday, July 14th. Tickets of admission will be issued to subscribers and their friends on application to the Acting Secretary at the office of the Fund. Major-General Sir Charles Wilson, K.C.B., F.R.S., will explain the progress of the excavations at Gezer, and the meeting will probably also be addressed by Professor George Adam Smith, the Rev. Dr. Horton, Professor Flinders Petrie, Dr. Masterman, and others.

The Twelfth Quarterly Report on the Excavation of Gezer comprises the results of the further excavation of the castle, the discovery of what appears to be an early palace site, and the usual small objects, this time of more than ordinary interest. The palace has been found to contain a large pillared hall, which in all probability was of such a kind as that famous as the scene of Samson's last great exploit at Gaza; and Mr. Macalister, from the architectural details of the building at Gezer, has been able to furnish a very plausible explanation of the manner in which Samson's feat (which has always been a problem) was actually carried out. Another building appears to have had a religious

object; below it were found the remains of foundation sacrifices, and among the débris were several interesting objects, including a figure of the Goddess of Fertility, and a specimen of the rare marriage-scarab of Amen-hotep. In addition to numerous lesser Egyptian objects, a great variety of seals and seal impressions were unearthed, some of them being of very interesting types, whilst others raise important questions. Among the miscellaneous objects are to be reckoned marked weights, the fragment of a beautiful lekythos ornamented in black and red, and a small stone box covered with the quaintest of drawings. Last, but not least, another cuneiform tablet has been found.

The new cuneiform tablet¹ was found near and in the same stratum as that discovered just a year ago. On these grounds Mr. Macalister concluded "that probably it is of much the same date." As a matter of fact, it is of 647 B.C., *i.e.*, only *two years* later than the former fragment, and this, as Dr. Pinches writes, "naturally tells against any suggestion that the fragments were brought to Gezer with the intention of 'salting' the site, for it is exceedingly unlikely that, by mere chance, fragments of so nearly the same date should have fallen, for that purpose, into the hands of the 'salter.' The name of the seller, too, implies that he was a native of the district where the fragment was found. It is the Biblical Nethaniah." Among the witnesses are named Zér-ukin and Nergal-sar-uşur (Neriglissar), which, as Dr. Pinches points out, are distinctly Assyro-Babylonian names, and it is further noteworthy that Natan-iau, who was probably a Jew, had a seal with a lunar emblem upon it. A cast and photographs of the tablet have been sent to the office of the Fund, and a full account of the tablet with the Assyrian text, transliteration and translation are published in the present number.

The special donations during the quarter to the expenses of the Excavation of Gezer comprise the following:—A. Ashley Bevan, Esq., Professor of Arabic, Cambridge, £50; Miss Agnes Bayly, £10 10s.; James Hilton, Esq., £10; The "Origen" Society, Oxford, £5; W. Herbert Phillips, Esq., £5; smaller amounts, £7 5s.: bringing the total up to £1,062 3s. 2d.

¹ See below, pp. 185, 206 *sqq.*, 272.

Subscribers are warned against purchasing from dealers, whether in this country or in Palestine, any antiquities as coming from particular sites which have been excavated by the Fund. All antiquities found in those sites by the officers of the Fund are scrupulously handed over to the Turkish Government, and any found by the illicit digging of natives are, when sold by them to dealers, invariably attributed to sites other than those from which they really come, lest the diggers be discovered and punished.

The Committee, finding that interruption to the work at Gezer is frequently caused by the visits of persons who are neither supporters of the Fund nor have any real interest in the objects of the excavations, have instructed Mr. Macalister to refuse access to the works to persons whose visits seem to be due to idle curiosity, or who cannot give some evidence of a genuine interest in the objects of the Fund.

Visitors to the site require Mr. Macalister's guidance and explanations, which he readily gives to subscribers or authorised visitors. But no one can be allowed to wander over the site at will. Instances have occurred of the workpeople being invited (even by circular) to sell antiquities—a form of dishonesty fatal to the value of the excavations, and exposing the delinquents to severe punishment, for all antiquities found are the property of the Ottoman Government. Apropos of this, we would call attention to the steps which have been taken to make the collection of antiquities belonging to the Turkish Government readily accessible. Professor Sayce's account (*see* "Notes and Queries," pp. 269, 270) of the care which has been taken to arrange the objects scientifically, and testimony of the generous freedom allowed to scholars, combine to make the Museum at Constantinople one of the best in Europe, and its treatment of scholars the most liberal.

The Committee regret to announce the death of Mr. Edward Atkinson, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., Consulting Surgeon of Leeds Infirmary, who died 1st March, 1905, aged 75. He began his professional career as Ship's Surgeon, and served in the Hospital at Scutari as Civil Surgeon when Miss Nightingale was nursing there, and, after that, in the British Hospital at Smyrna. He then spent four years in Jerusalem as Surgeon to the English Hospital and the Prussian Deaconesses' Hospital. He became Surgeon to the Leeds Public

Dispensary in 1864, and 10 years later to the Infirmary. For 20 years, from 1868 to 1888, he acted as Honorary Local Secretary to the Palestine Exploration Fund, and during that time collected about £750 for the Fund.

The Committee have heard with deep regret that Father Vincent, of the Biblical School of St. Stephen at Jerusalem, has been obliged to give up work and take a prolonged rest in France. The learned Dominican, who is a leading authority on questions connected with the topography and archæology of Jerusalem and the Holy Land, is well known from his contributions to the *Revue Biblique*. His communications are remarkable for their accuracy and the keen powers of observation which they display; and his high appreciation of the value of the results obtained by the excavations at Gezer, and of the manner in which the work has been carried out by Mr. Macalister, has more than once been brought to the notice of subscribers to the Fund. The Committee trust that Father Vincent's health will be completely restored, and that he will be able to resume work which he has so much at heart.

Professor Dr. Sellin has closed his excavations at Taanach, and will publish a complete account of them this year. He has kindly forwarded a short summary of his work at the *Tell* last August and September, from which it appears that he discovered seven new cuneiform letters more or less damaged, and the skeleton of a Canaanite lady surrounded by the skeletons of five children from about four to sixteen years of age. A bronze knife, found amongst the remains, seems to point to a tragedy which must have occurred shortly before everything was covered up, for the ornaments of the lady, the large jars for holding provisions, and a little bronze figure of Astarte, fixed in a corner of the room, were found untouched. Amongst the jewels were a gold band for the forehead, eight gold rings—some for the ears, others for the neck—two silver rings, bronze armlets, three small crystal cylinders, five pearls, two scarabs—one of amethyst, the other crystal—&c. The most interesting letter reads as follows:—"To Ištarwašur; Amanhašir, may Adad preserve thee! Send thy brothers with their carts, and send a horse, thy tribute, and presents, and all prisoners who are with thee, to Megiddo on the day of the reception." (See also *Quarterly Statement*, 1904, p. 98.)

Professor Sellin hopes, during his next visit to Palestine, to excavate *Tell Dôthân*, Dothan.

At *Tell Mutesellim* (Megiddo), Dr. Schumacher is understood to have found, at a depth of more than 30 feet below the surface, a series of vaulted tombs which date from about 2000 B.C. The graves contained pottery and Egyptian scarabs in a fine state of preservation.

Excavations are being made by the German Oriental Society in the Synagogue at *Tell Hâm*; and it is proposed to examine all the synagogues in Galilee.

Dr. Torrance writes from Tiberias, under date March 23rd, 1905:—"We are having a splendid rainfall this year. We have up till to-day from the commencement of the rain 22.5 inches, whereas last year (rainy season) we had to corresponding date 11.92 inches, and for the whole season only 12.64 inches. We are expecting a splendid harvest this year, and I have never seen the flowers so profuse. Unfortunately, the peasants in this district have suffered from a severe loss of their cattle through 'cattle plague,' over 60 per cent. having succumbed."

"Railway trains are running regularly thrice weekly from Haifa to the Jordan bridge 'Jisr el-Majamia.' The iron bridge over the Yarmuk is nearing completion, and in about a month we expect the line to be laid to Samakh, at the south end of the lake. The contractors are very busy in the Yarmuk Valley, right on to Tel esh-Shehâb, building bridges, &c., and I believe they are finding the work more difficult than they anticipated. From Damascus, the line is laid as far as Tel esh-Shehâb. Great efforts are being made to finish this line as soon as possible." In a subsequent letter (May 22nd), Dr. Torrance writes that the railway has now reached Samagh.

Among the objects exhibited at St. Louis and now returned are casts of the Siloam and Hamath inscriptions, and a series of very fine enlarged photographs showing various features of the Gezer excavations. They can now be sold, and either series would form a valuable addition to any museum or collection intended to illustrate archæology, whether Biblical or other.

Under the title "Zoological Pictures in 200 B.C.," the *Illustrated London News* of May 13th reviews the Fund's latest publication. "Not every archæological description," it states, "is of such interest to the lay mind as *The Painted Tombs of Marissa*, just issued by the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund," and it proceeds to draw attention to the "remarkable series of reproductions of zoological designs" from which "the book derives its chief fascination." It is well to point out that, although the scholar will find some hard nuts to crack in the inscriptions, and the archæologists, in turn, will find abundant material for the history of Palestine in the second century B.C., the book appeals equally to all lovers of art, and is virtually a unique publication of its kind. The reproductions in the *Illustrated London News* will give our readers some idea of what the coloured plates in the volume are like, and, since the Fund is its own publisher, we may venture to hope that subscribers will help to make the work known to a wider circle.

The volume contains numerous plates, several of which are coloured; these illustrate the tombs, their internal decoration, the painted friezes and the inscriptions. There are, further, 24 figures in the text, consisting of plans and sections, facsimiles of graffiti and inscriptions, &c. The letter-press is the work of the Rev. Dr. Peters, of New York, and Dr. Thiersch, of Munich, both well-known archæologists. The former contributes a general introductory account, whilst the detailed descriptions of the tombs are by both authors, as also are the complete edition of the Greek inscriptions and graffiti, and the discussion of the eras. Dr. Thiersch gives a valuable chapter upon the place of the tombs in the history of art and culture, whilst Dr. Peters concludes the work with an account of the miscellaneous objects which were found in the tombs.

In the April *Quarterly Statement*, p. 128, at the end of the first paragraph, there was a mistake in the statement explaining the difference between the pads of the hyæna and those of the wolf and jackal. The fore-pads of the wolf and jackal are larger than the hind-pads, but the hind-pads of the hyæna are larger than its fore-pads.

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.

The attention of subscribers and others is called to *A Table of the Christian and Mohammedan Eras*, from July 15th, A.D. 622, the date of the Hejira, to A.D. 1900, price by post, 7d. Also to the *Meteorological Observations at Jerusalem*, with tables and diagrams by the late Mr. James Glaisher, F.R.S. Tourists and all desirous of accurate information about the climate of Jerusalem should not fail to send for a copy, price 2s. 6d.

The attention of subscribers is also 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 21st to June 21st, 1905, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £392 6s. 8d.; from sales of publications, &c., £188 8s. 10d.; from Lectures, £1 12s. 0d.; making in all, £582 7s. 6d. The expenditure during the same period was £646 13s. 7d. On June 22nd the balance in the bank was £402 18s. 5d.

Subscribers who have not yet paid will greatly facilitate the Committee's efforts by sending their subscriptions in early, 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 1904 was published with the April number.

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:—J. Langfield Ward, Esq., M.A., for Bath, in place of General Warren Walker; the Rev. Putman Cady, Amsterdam, N.Y.; S. H. Harrison, Esq., F.R.G.S., for Abergele.

Subscribers and others may be reminded that the new Raised Map of Palestine, constructed from the Surveys of the Palestine Exploration Fund 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. On view at the office of the Fund; 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, W.

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, (5) of the Hechel in Solomon's Temple, (6) of the Hechel in Herod's Temple, (7) of the Tabernacle, have been received at the office of the Fund. The seven photographs, with an explanation by Dr. Schick, can be purchased by applying to the Acting 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.” From the Author, Professor M. Clermont-Ganneau. Tome VI, Livraisons 24, 25.—§ 44. *Fiches et Notes*; Inscription grecque du Haurân; La hauteur du mont Thabor; Inscription phénicienne de Khân-el-Khaldé; Cachet phénicien au nom de Phar'och; Sur un passage de l'inscription phénicienne d'Echmuonazar. § 45. Inscription bilingue néo-punique et latine. § 46. Proscynèmes phéniciens et araméens d'Abydos; Additions et corrections; Indexes.

Dr. Lazarus Belléli, *Un Nouvel Apocryphe; Un Monument Douteux; Greek and Italian Dialects as spoken by the Jews in some places of the Balkan Peninsula* (see below, pp. 253-257).

M. René Dussaud, *La Troie Homérique et les récentes Découvertes en Crète* (extract from “Rev. de l'École d'Anthropologie de Paris,” February, 1905).

Mémoires de l'Académie Imp. d. Sciences de St. Pétersbourg, vol. vi, Nos. 5 and 6 ; ein Bruchstück Manichäischer Schrifttums, &c.

"Al-Mashrik : Revue Catholique Orientale Bimensuelle."

NEA ΣΙΩΝ, March-April, 1905, a Greek journal devoted to Palestinian subjects.

"Université Saint-Joseph, Beyrouth ; Faculté Orientale ; prospectus et programme sommaires. Bulletin, 1904-1905."

See, further, "Foreign Publications," pp. 266 *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, see end of the Journal, or 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 do not necessarily sanction or 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.