

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

WITH this number we print the thirteenth and last of the Quarterly Reports of the Excavation of Gezer, which has been carried on by the Fund through Mr. R. A. Stewart Macalister. The firman has expired, and the Executive Committee have decided to apply for a new "permit," to come into force next summer, so that Mr. Macalister may take a much-needed holiday in the meantime. It should be remembered that the Palestine Exploration Fund is at a distinct disadvantage when compared with its more fortunate co-workers which enjoy a government subsidy or generous private support. The expense of excavating Gezer has been exceptionally heavy, but the results have been proportionately rich, and it has been the aim of the Committee throughout to set before the readers of the *Quarterly Statement* as full an account as possible of the work which has been done. Intelligent opinion has everywhere appreciated the great value of the excavations, and has acknowledged the thoroughness and scientific ability with which Mr. Macalister has accomplished his task. One has only to read the account of the Annual Meeting (pp. 282-308 below) to gain some idea of the present work of the Fund, and the Committee would impress upon subscribers and their friends the necessity of redoubled efforts to increase the funds.

The special donations during the quarter to the expenses of the Excavation of Gezer comprise:—Charles H. Goschen, Esq., £10 10s.; Sir John Gray Hill, £5 5s.; E. B. Morphew, Esq., £5 5s.; George Mathieson, Esq., £5; Executors of the late Miss Nessie Brown, £5; smaller amounts, £5 15s. 6d.; bringing the total up to £1,098 18s. 3d.

As already mentioned, it is not proposed to attack a new site next year; Gezer [has not yet yielded all its harvest, and it is

highly desirable that our efforts should not cease until more of this rich site has been laid bare. The "surprises" of the last quarter are discussed at length by Mr. Macalister in his Report. It is singular that for the *first* time he has come to unmistakable traces of foreign—perhaps Philistine influence; the question is *sub judice*—only renewed excavation can solve the question. Is it worth while to try and recover the secrets of the past? If the Bible is anything to us, surely we should welcome everything that throws light upon it. Discoveries, remarkable and unexpected, have been made at Gezer, but it is only now that Philistine influence has apparently been traced. Like the fragments of Assyrian tablets, the "find" is an earnest of what may be expected, and it rests with those who are sincerely interested in the land where the books of the Bible took their birth, to furnish the necessary financial help that the history of Gezer may be unfolded to us in all its entirety.

Readers of the *Quarterly* will have noticed that our Chairman of Committee, Sir Charles Wilson, was prevented by illness from being present at the Annual General Meeting in July. His illness proved to be so serious that he is only now convalescent; but all who value the work of the Fund, which he has so ably guided for so many years, will rejoice to know that he is now progressing satisfactorily towards recovery, and is again able to take interest in the work, and by correspondence to assist the Committee with his wide knowledge and experience.

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.

Professor Petrie writes to point out that the Egyptian scarab of the charioteer figured in *Quarterly Statement*, July, p. 189, No. 13, is of Rameses II, a well-known type; and that the conical seal bearing a winged horse (p. 191, No. 11) is a usual Naukratite type, probably of the sixth or fifth century B.C.

A tomb containing ossuaries with Greek and Hebrew inscriptions was recently found on land belonging to the German-Syrian Orphanage. The tomb is situated about 1,000 yards north-west of the buildings on the plantation now called Abraham's Vineyard, and belonging to the Society for the Relief of Persecuted Jews. From the report in the *Bole aus Zion* for May, and from the photographs which are sold for the benefit of the Orphanage, it appears that the inscriptions, which are in Greek and Hebrew, name Papias and Salome, Ammia and Hanin, all of Scythopolis. The Hebrew, however, gives the old name of the place, Bešân (בשן), and omits Salome.

Some 15 or 16 years ago, the Franciscans, whilst removing the earth and ruins on their property just south of the chapel of the Flagellation and adjoining that of the Sisters of Zion, found the apse of an ancient chapel, the floor of which was apparently an extension northwards of the same old pavement to be seen under the Sisters' building. The chapel has now been rebuilt, and a small convent has been erected in connection with it. Dr. Schick reported upon the discoveries at the time (*Quarterly Statement*, 1889, pp. 172 *sqq.*), and the Rev. J. E. Hanauer sends photographs illustrating two curious limestone pedestals, a circular font found in the ruins, the ancient floor, and an artificially dressed rock-platform just outside the northern end of the new chapel. He sends also further details of the 'Awairiyeh (*see Quarterly Statement*, 1892, pp. 115 *sqq.*; 1901, p. 397), to which we hope to return in another number.

Our esteemed correspondent also writes that the old ruins situated in the *Via Dolorosa*, between the Ecce Homo Chapel and the Austrian Hospice, are being pulled down in order that the Greeks, to whom they belong, may erect new buildings. Two shafts were sunk on the line of the street wall to find rock for foundations. The first was eight paces south of the chapel (south-east corner), and the other ten paces further south. In both the massive old pavement, apparently the same as that under the Sisters of Zion Convent, was struck at a depth of 8 to 9 feet below the surface. In the more northerly shaft it is said that rock was first struck at 13 feet, but it suddenly sunk to a depth of 38 feet in the same shaft; whilst in the other it was about 42 feet below the

surface. The rock-scarp seen in the Ecce Homo Chapel is visible here and there at the back of the ruins, and stretches away towards the Austrian Hospice. Two Corinthian pillars have been found; on the circular lower part of one was the inscription **IVIOS** cut in large letters.

It appears from *Home Words* that Jerusalem and district has been suffering severely from a bad epidemic of scarlet fever, one of the worst of its kind. The mortality amongst the children, especially the Jewish, was very heavy. Unfortunately, the ordinary diseases common to the country, malarial fever, &c., were as numerous as ever. The epidemic was of a specially malignant type, and constantly assumed most virulent symptoms, sometimes causing death within 48 hours. A hopeful sign was the extreme willingness of all the people to carry out "scientific" instructions with regard to isolation, sanitation, and disinfection. This is especially encouraging, when it is remembered that the Medical Mission labours among a people who have yielded a "stronger and more ready assent to the traditions of their remote ancestors than to the evidence of their own senses."

At the sitting of the French Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-lettres, June 30th, M. Heuzey reported the discovery of certain antiquities made in the region of Acre and Mount Carmel. One was of a stone door from a sepulchral chamber, which was covered by a geometrical decoration not unlike that found upon Jewish ossuaries. Among the ornamentations was a candlestick with *nine* branches, which has been found in the Jaulân, and can scarcely be due (as was here suggested) to a mistake on the part of the sculptor. Further, a lintel of a sepulchral grotto, possibly of the Byzantine period, was found, bearing the name of Namôsas, son of Mandêmos.

The Committee desire to call attention again to the latest publication of the Fund, *The Painted Tombs of Marissa*, whose contents appeal as much to all lovers of art as to the archæologist (*see* July, p. 178). The *Athenæum*, in a lengthy review (June 10th), points out that the paintings "are valuable, not only from their historical interest, but also as showing the extremely composite character of later Phœnician art, and as an example of the way in which an

essentially Semitic people picked up the customs, even in such matters as burials, of the different nations among whom they were cast." After a *résumé* of the contents, the review concludes:—"All these should be studied in the volume itself, which proves to be the most interesting and important that the Society, beloved by Walter Besant and other scholars, has issued for some time." Professor Petrie, in the *Manchester Guardian* (June 5th), speaks of the book as "an excellent piece of work of interest to the historian and the zoologist as well as to the antiquary The plates here published are on the excellent system of photographs, worked over with the hand copies and colouring to complete them. As there are 14 large coloured plates and eight photographs, no one can complain of the price." Observing the similarity of the animals with names written over them to the mosaic of Palestrina near Rome, he suggests that both were copied from one common source—a work of reference; a kind of illustrated edition of Aristotle's Natural History. The writer in the *Yorkshire Post* (July 5th) states that the book is "undoubtedly a very considerable addition to knowledge," and the drawings are so finely reproduced that "the stay-at-home archæologist may now study in his armchair tombs the like of which have never before been seen in Palestine." An American journal, the *World Magazine*, June 11th, gives characteristic reproductions of the plates, pointing out the human interest, as also the scientific value, of the paintings. It is gratifying to find that many other journals (*Christian World, Morning Post, &c., &c.*) agree with the preceding in expressing their high opinion of the value of the *Painted Tombs of Marissa*.

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 June 21st to September 20th, 1905, was—from legacy left by the late Mr. F. D. Mocatta, £100; from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £202 16s. 9d.; from sales of publications, &c., £94 1s. 8d.; from Lectures, £2 2s. 0d.; making in all, £399 0s. 5d. The expenditure during the same period was £535 12s. 3d. On September 20th the balance in the bank was £266 6s. 7d.

The Committee desire gratefully to acknowledge the generous contribution of £50 which Dr. Merrill has been making to the Fund by instalments during the last twelve months.

Subscribers who have not yet paid, will greatly facilitate the Committee's efforts by sending their subscriptions in early, and thus save the expense of sending out reminders, the outgoings on the excavations at Gezer having been 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.

Plaster casts of the fragments of two cuneiform tablets found during the excavations at Gezer can now be had, price 1s. 6d. each. The text and transliteration will be found in *Quarterly Statements*, July, 1904 and 1905.

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" 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. On view at the office of the Fund; further particulars may be had on application.

In order to make up complete sets of the *Quarterly Statement*, the Committee will be very glad to receive any back numbers which subscribers do not wish to preserve.

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, consisting of the "Survey of Eastern Palestine" (Colonel Conder); "Archaeological Researches in Palestine," in two volumes (Clermont-Ganneau); "Flora and Fauna of Sinai, Petra, and the Wady 'Arabah" (Hart), 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 :—

NEA ΣΙΩΝ, May-June, 1905, a Greek journal devoted to Palestinian subjects.

"Al-Mashrik: Revue Catholique Orientale Bimensuelle." Among the articles may be mentioned "La faune historique ou les animaux disparus du Liban," by P. H. Lammens, S.J.; "Proverbes vulgaires sur les mois et les saisons," by Mag. A. Gemayel; &c.

"Jérusalem," Publication Mensuelle Illustrée, contains "Le Cénacle d'après les témoignages du i^{er} au viii^e siècle"; "Le Hiéromoine Russe Barsanuphe (1456 and 1461-62)"; "Le conflit Turko-Arabe"; &c.

"Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale," by M. Clermont-Ganneau. Tome VII, Livraisons 1-3.—§ 1. Epigraphie palmyrénienne. § 2. Noms propres phéniciens abrégés. § 3. Le Livre de la Création et de l'Histoire.

J. F. Peters: "The Nippur Library," Journal of the American Oriental Society, 1905.

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.*