

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund was held at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, W., on Friday, July 14th, 1905, at 3 p.m., His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury presiding.

THE CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Crace has some mention to make of some absentees.

MR. J. D. CRACE (Hon. Secretary).—I am sorry to say that the first of the letters which I have to read of regret for non-attendance is one from Sir Charles Wilson, our Chairman. He is unavoidably prevented by illness from being present, and trusts that this Annual Meeting may be the means of increasing the interest taken in the work of the Fund.

The other letters that I have in my hand from those who regret being unable to attend are from the Rev. Canon Cheyne, D.D., The Precincts, Rochester; the Rev. H. Montagu Butler, D.D., Master of Trinity College, Cambridge; the Bishop of Winchester; Dr. James Hastings; the Bishop of Oxford; the Right Rev. S. W. Allen, Bishop of Shrewsbury; Bishop Blyth, of Jerusalem; and the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

THE CHAIRMAN.—I have to call on one whom we all want to hear on this as on a great many other subjects, Dr. George Adam Smith.

DR. GEORGE ADAM SMITH.—Your Grace, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am honoured with the duty of moving the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts, and this I formally do. And I have been asked in addition to make some remarks upon the subject of the work of the Fund in general, especially as it has developed during the past year. In the time at my disposal it is possible only to touch upon three or four outstanding points, points that have come up in the course of Mr. Macalister's excavations during the year in Gezer, and perhaps to remark how they have a bearing upon the subject of Israelite archæology and the history of Israel's religion in general. Eleven years ago, in writing of the progress of research in Palestine, I remarked that the exploration of Western Palestine, in which our

Society has taken so predominant a share, was almost exhausted so far as it referred to the surface, but that there was a great future for it underground. We had then run—so to speak—most of the questions to earth, and it only remained to dig them up. Now this has been the distinctive work of the last decade. The triumphs of archæology in Palestine during the last decade have been principally the triumphs of excavation. Not that wider geographical work of a very important nature has been neglected. In fact, we have had some very remarkable additions made to our knowledge of the geography of Palestine within the last two years. The triangulation of Eastern Palestine, which was so splendidly begun by Colonel Conder a number of years ago and carried over Moab, has been extended to the north by Dr. Schumacher; while during the last year we have seen published Professor Brünnow's map of Moab and the country to the south, in which, with less fulness necessarily, and less detail than either Dr. Schumacher or Colonel Conder, he has carried the triangulation to a good distance southward. And we are all expecting, looking eagerly forward, to the publication of the map of the Viennese professor, Alois Musil, who has spent a large time among the Arab tribes of Moab and Edom, and, I understand, is about to publish complete maps of both of those countries. But still, in spite of all these geographical additions, the distinct feature of the work of the last 10 years has been excavation. And that, of course, is so vast a work, so very vast a work, that we of the Palestine Exploration Society must welcome the presence in it, the taking part in it, of a large number of allies. Last year Sir Charles Wilson reminded us very forcibly at the Annual Meeting that we were no longer alone in Palestine research, but had a great number of friendly competitors. Now, anyone who has revisited Palestine within the last year or two must have been struck with this as one of the most distinctive features of the progress of life there—the large number of societies like our own at work in different parts of the country and in different branches of archæology and geography. There is, first of all, the German Palestine Society, working under Dr. Schumacher, at Megiddo, where recently a series of vaulted tombs about the date 2000 B.C. have been discovered, and where a number of those infant burials, of which Mr. Macalister has discovered so many in Gezer, have also been laid bare. Besides that, an Austrian expedition, furnished by funds from Austria, has been working at Tell

Taanach, as we all know, under Professor Sellin, who, having found seven cuneiform inscriptions, proposes to proceed to Dothan and excavate there. Then we have the German Orient Gesellschaft, working on the synagogues of Galilee; we have the excavations at Baalbec; we have the archaeological schools of Germany and America at work in Jerusalem, and doing practical work in them; and then, besides that, we have the very valuable work, principally on the surface of the country and chiefly concerned with inscriptions, of the Dominican and Redemptorist Fathers in Jerusalem. No more valuable work has been done for a long time on the surface in the Holy Land.

Now, of course, we, the pioneer Society, welcome all these allies in this vast work of excavation and of further geographical exploration. Their appearance must be a very great stimulus to ourselves. And I do feel that, having come up behind us in this way, and achieving the very fine work that they have achieved within the last few years, they ought to be both a warning and an example to us to go forward with more zeal, more energy, and with more support from the public of Great Britain than we have hitherto enjoyed. (Hear, hear.)

I also feel, my lord, that the very generous gift of the German Emperor to the German Palestine Society of £1,200, ought to be an example to the many rich men in this country, who could easily spare the same amount for work even more important than that to which the German Emperor has devoted his gift. But still, with all these Societies operating in Palestine, I am certain, both as an eye-witness of the work and a reader of the reports, that there is no bigger and no better work being done in Palestine at the present day than is being done by our distinguished representative in Gezer, Mr. Macalister. I wish, as an eye-witness of Mr. Macalister's excavations, to bear most emphatic testimony, such as only an eye-witness can bear, first of all to their very great extent, and then to the admirable methods, both of research and, what is not least important, of managing the workmen. Then take Mr. Macalister's reports. They give proofs of his large and varied archaeological equipment, of his undogmatic temper, of his versatility and suggestion, of his cautious and exhaustive reasoning, and of the richness of results to which all his energy and his ability within the last few years have led. This Society has been served by a very remarkable succession of gentlemen in Palestine in years past; but I am

persuaded there has been none who have done better or greater work than Mr. Macalister has done and is doing at the present time in Gezer. Whether we look at the fields of his investigation—and these range from the remains of neolithic man through the Canaanite, Israelite, and Greek periods, with their close connections with Egypt and Assyria—or whether we look at the capacity of the investigator himself, we are justified, I feel, in demanding and expecting from our countrymen a very much larger financial support than they have ever yet been moved to bestow upon us.

And now may I call your attention to three or four of the large prospects opened up by the Gezer work beyond Gezer itself, and the duties which it has consequently placed upon the members of this Society? First of all, in the summer of last year, the earlier part of the annual work now under our review, Mr. Macalister opened up a very remarkable series of tombs—Canaanite, late Semitic, Maccabæan, and Christian. Through this series his explorations have exhibited a definite and significant progress of religious customs in connection with burial. As we are aware, in a very rude and primitive age these customs seem to have involved a great deal of sacrifice by fire, and we know that at that time human sacrifices in connection with these and other customs were very far from uncommon. Now, at an early point of time these sacrifices by fire seem to have been partly replaced by a deposition of lamps, indicating a softening and elevation of manners and ideas; and in that and other directions Mr. Macalister has furnished very interesting illustrations to us of the progress of religious feeling and of religious ideas even outside burial. One point in connection with the lamps—though it is aside from this question of religious progress—I would like to touch upon. One of the lamps discovered by Mr. Macalister bears the inscription, taken from the Septuagint, of the 27th Psalm, "The Lord is my light." Now, it is a remarkable fact that among the Greek, or early Christian inscriptions in Palestine, those taken from the Septuagint of the Old Testament very far outnumber those that have been taken from the New Testament itself. Professor Harnack calls attention to the fact that in the early Christian Church a much larger use was made of the Greek Old Testament than of the New. He does not appeal to inscriptions in Palestine in evidence of his thesis, but he might have done so. I have examined hundreds of Christian Greek inscriptions in the Hauran, and these quite bear out what Professor

Harnack asserts, that in the early Church a very much larger use was made of the Greek Old Testament than of the New.

The second point that I wanted to touch upon—time forbids me enlarging upon any of these—is this. In the autumn of last year Mr. Macalister fixed the probable size of Gezer—of the city of Gezer—between 1500 B.C. and 100 B.C. The city wall, for the existence of which between these dates he has given very good proofs, measures about 4,500 feet in all. That is a little more than a third of the present wall of Jerusalem. The bearing of this fact upon important historical and topographical questions is very evident. It helps us to realise to a great degree the size of other cities in Palestine during the Israelite period; and, above all, it helps us towards the solution of a problem which has divided Palestinian scholars, namely, as to what was the size of the Jebusite Jerusalem and as to what was the size of Jerusalem under David. Now, a good many have come recently—to whom I express my adherence—a good many have come recently to believe that the Jebusite Jerusalem and David's Jerusalem were confined to Ophel, the slope of the Eastern Jerusalem hill. They have been met by the objection that this was far too small a site for a city of the size and importance of Jerusalem at that time. But now we find Gezer, which certainly, from its position on a great trade route and its connections with Egypt, must have been quite as large as the Jerusalem of that time, though not of Jerusalem under Solomon and the later kings; and we find it within a wall 4,500 feet long, while you can bound Ophel by a wall from 3,800 to a little over 4,000 feet long, thus proving at least the possibility of the confinement of the Jebusite and of David's Jerusalem to that site upon the eastern hill.

The third point is this: Mr. Macalister has wisely warned us of the havoc introduced into sites which have long lain undisturbed, first by the rifling of them for antiquities in order to meet the ignorant and very reckless demand of the great annual invasions of tourists, and second by the increase of a native population who have taken to building, and for their building draw upon the present ruins. I would like to emphasise this warning by Mr. Macalister, and the duty it conveys to us of hastening our work of excavation as speedily as possible, from my own experience in Moab last year. There is an immense increase there of the Circassian population brought in by the Turks with the view of

meeting the Bedouin and of cultivating the land. They are building as the Bedouin did not build, and they are pulling—as everybody knows who has visited there—they are pulling large tracts of ruins to pieces. The railway planned right down towards the Gulf of Akabah from Damascus, the Turkish Railway, has been opened as far as opposite the south end of the Dead Sea. When I was there last year the railway was bringing new settlers, keen to build and use the old ruins. There is a great extension, besides, of the Christian population, which since the time of the Crusades has been shut up within the walls of Kerak, upon the ruined and abandoned cities to the north of Kerak. But above all that, there is going on, as it has gone on from the earliest times in Palestine, the gradual transference of the nomadic population from a pastoral and a tent-dwelling state to an agricultural, and a state of dwelling in towns. In the little valley in which the caves of 'Arak el-Emir stand I found half a dozen houses just built. I said to the occupier of one of them, "How long have you been here?" "Ever since," he said, "I found my eyes; ever since I found my mind." I said, "Did you always live in a house?" "No," he said, "I have not always lived in a house, but my father laid it upon me that I should leave the tent and dwell in a house and so better cultivate this land than out of tents, as we have long cultivated it." It was a pure Arab tribe that this man belonged to. I said, "How do you live?" He said, "In the winter in the house, in the summer in tents." There is the process. There you catch an instance of what has always been going on—the transference from the nomadic and pastoral state to the agricultural and the settled state. But this involves the use of old ruins and their destruction, and the destruction of opportunities of finding out about the past history of Israel, opportunities that never will come back to us unless we take advantage of them now.

The last point upon which I desire to touch is this: Mr. Macalister's researches are not more illustrative in anything than in the exhibition they afford of the primitive religious customs which Israel encountered upon their entry into Palestine, and which persisted in the form of idolatry and the moral abominations that usually accompanied this up to the very end of the history of Israel upon the land. He has shown us upon this single site the Canaanite idolatry in all its forms, in all its consequences upon life, and, as we can guess, its consequences upon character; and he has shown us

besides how constant were the pressure and example of Egypt upon this part of the land at least, and how frequent were the pressure and example of another great heathen power—Assyria—and how, finally, Hellenism came in and added to these other heathen forces one more within the compass of that small territory on which Israel was settled. We realise, then, through work like Mr. Macalister's, what the purer religion of Israel had to contend with through all the centuries. I may say that we realise to a large extent *for the first time* what it had to fight with, what it had to struggle against all that time. Now, my lord, we have been told that Monotheism was the natural offspring of desert scenery and of desert life. But it was not in the desert that Israel's Monotheism developed and grew strong and reached its pure forms. It was in this land of Palestine, of which Gezer, with its many centuries and its many forms of idolatry, is so typical an instance. When we contemplate all these systems—specimens of which Mr. Macalister's work brings home to us—when we contemplate these systems, we are surely the more amazed at the survival, under their pressure and against their cruelty, of so much higher a spiritual and an ethical religion. Surely it is only a divine purpose, it is only the inspiration of the Most High which has been the cause. That at least seems to me to be the most notable lesson that one may learn after a study of the discoveries of the last 10 or 11 years. While we look at the things seen, which Mr. Macalister and Professor Sellin and Dr. Schumacher and other workers have opened up to our eyes—while we look at these things that are seen, surely we are more able to appreciate than ever we have been, the clear vision which the prophets of Israel had of the things that are unseen, and all their valour and persistence in pushing the consideration of these upon their countrymen. Surely we understand more than ever we did why Ezra and Nehemiah were so eager and zealous to raise the fence of the Law against the heathenism which was bearing in upon Israel from all sides, and which overcame all other Semitic religions. And surely, last of all, as Mr. Macalister by his most recent discoveries has enabled us still more to do, we can recognise and appreciate the valour of the Maccabees who fought against the last tide of heathenism, and brought Israel through it pure, constant, and with her Law untouched—that Israel out of which Christ Our Lord was born, and out of which our religion has grown. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN.—The resolution moved by Dr. George Adam Smith is that the Report and Accounts, already printed and in the hands of the subscribers, be received and adopted. That will be seconded, I am glad to say, by my friend Dr. Horton.

Rev. R. F. HORTON, M.A., D.D.—Your Grace, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Perhaps I may be allowed in seconding this Report to express our great delight in seeing Professor George Adam Smith restored to health again. For in all exploration, both theological and geographical, Professor George Adam Smith is a very valuable asset indeed to this country and to our better thought. I should like to second this adoption of the Report; but, at the same time, I feel a great hesitation in even occupying two minutes of the meeting, because the mover of the Report is a great expert; and I am thankful to say that we have present with us this afternoon another expert, not of this particular country, but of excavations and explorations—Professor Flinders Petrie. (Applause.) And when we can secure the presence of such experts, our wisdom obviously is to make them talk as long as they can, and to encourage them to believe that we shall listen for ever. An expert is like every other excavator—his best treasures are underneath; and the first few paragraphs of his speech very seldom indicate the treasures that are underlying. An expert should have an hour and a half for every speech, and the person who is not an expert should take a very few minutes indeed. But there is one word I should like to say arising out of the appeal that Professor George Adam Smith has made to the English public on this question. I think that the demand for money to carry out the excavations, such as those at Gezer, should not be addressed merely to crowned heads. (Laughter.) Because I feel that crowned heads are so few, and their responsibilities, I suppose, are great. The appeal for funds, it seems to me, for such a work as this should be made to the widest possible public in this country. (Hear, hear.) And in view of the results of the explorations at Gezer, I think there is a very legitimate appeal to the interest—not only to the archaeological but to the religious interest of this country. In reading the reports of Mr. Macalister's work I always feel that if this were known—let us say, known to the ordinary members of Christian Churches—there would be an immense response to the appeal for carrying out the work further. What I want to suggest

in seconding this resolution, if I may, is that the Palestine Exploration Fund should endeavour to appeal to the country at large by the method which has proved wonderfully successful in other directions, the method of an exhibition—an exhibition which would present as clearly as possible the results of the explorations at Gezer. I am told that if, in any provincial town, for example, there is an exhibition of things connected with Palestine, you cannot possibly make room enough for the numbers of people who wish to see it. And they are willing to pay a large entrance fee, and to pay extra fees inside for all the special exhibitions. Now it is to that larger public and that wider and deeper interest in the work of the Fund that I should urge us to appeal, rather than to a few wealthy and generous men. I think we must all feel that the brilliant and vivid insight that Professor George Adam Smith has given into the work at Gezer just touches a point which is of value to the religion that we profess. We all, of course, remember that Dean Stanley spoke of Palestine as the Fifth Gospel; and we have given an immense amount of careful and minute and critical and textual study to the other four. Has not the time come when we should give the same amount of careful study to the fifth? And as we have been reminded this afternoon, the peculiarity of the Fifth Gospel is that its pages, through antiquity, adhere together, and they require to be very carefully separated by excavations before the fulness of their message can be apprehended. To get at the secret of a place like Gezer is to suggest "What would it be if we could get at the secret of some of those other towns of the Holy Land which are more immediately connected with our own Christian faith?" There must be, underneath some of those towns, records and indications which would perhaps be as startling and would be much more valuable than that terrible discovery of the little child who was immolated at the foundations of a Canaanite town. I long to see Jericho explored; I long to see Jerusalem itself explored; and I believe our own country would thoroughly apprehend the value of such an exploration now that the results at Gezer are sufficiently secured and tabulated to present a good object-lesson of what could be done. I venture, therefore, in seconding the adoption of the Report, modestly to propose that something in the way of an exhibition should be given, first in London and then in the provinces, which would awaken the country to the importance of the work that this Fund has undertaken.

This resolution having been carried, the Chairman called upon Canon Dalton to move the second resolution.

CANON DALTON.—The resolution which has been entrusted to my hands will occupy only a very few minutes. It is that the following gentlemen be added to the General Committee of the Fund. I may say that the gentlemen whose names I am about to read to you have intimated to us that they will be very happy indeed to serve if you see fit to elect them: The Right Rev. Samuel Webster Allen, R.C., Bishop of Shrewsbury; the Rev. Thomas George Bonney, LL.D., F.R.S.; Professor Geo. Buchanan Gray, Mansfield College, Oxford; the Most Rev. John Healy, D.D., Archbishop of Tuam; the Rev. Claude Hermann Walter Johns, Queens' College, Cambridge; the Rev. Father Lagrange, of the "École Biblique," Jerusalem; Edwin Pears, Esq., LL.B., Pera, Constantinople; the Rev. William Sanday, D.D., Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity, Canon of Christ Church, Oxford; the Rev. Chas. Anderson Scott, St. John's, Kensington; the Rev. Chas. Taylor, D.D., Master of St. John's College, Cambridge. I beg to propose that those names be added to those of our General Committee.

The Rev. ARTHUR CARR seconded, and the resolution was carried.

MR. J. D. CRACE.—I have to mention the loss by death of the following members since the last Annual Meeting:—Bishop of Carlisle, Sir William Charley, K.C., Dr. Thomas Chaplin, the Earl of Northbrook, Admiral Sir Erasmus Ommanney, Frederick David Mocatta, Dr. Edward Atkinson, Peter Mackinnon, General A. C. Cooke, C.B., R.E., Colonel Sir John Farquharson, K.C.B., R.E., Sir William Muir, K.C.S.I.

LORD SIDMOUTH proposed, and Dr. GINSBURG seconded, the re-election of the Committee.

MR. J. D. CRACE proposed that Professor George Buchanan Gray be invited to serve on the executive Committee. This was carried.

MR. J. D. CRACE.—With your Grace's permission, I propose to take upon myself to omit reading the paper which Sir Charles Wilson had prepared, for this reason: that in the eloquent address which Dr. George Adam Smith has made to the audience he has so thoroughly gone over the ground which Sir Charles Wilson has

touched upon, that I feel it would be taking up unnecessarily the time of the meeting and of your Grace to go again over the same items; but what I think will probably help the meeting to understand better those remarks will be the short series of views which I propose to show upon the screen.¹

(A series of 18 views was here thrown upon the screen.)

Mr. J. D. CRACE.—No. 1 represents on the map the position of Gezer, just on a spur of the hills to the west of Jerusalem. The other places touched upon were Taanach up here at the end of the Carmel range, and Megiddo, which is a little to the left.

No. 2 shows the site which is being dealt with. The long hill with a dip represents the position of the High Place.

No. 3 is the plan of the site as now excavated showing the city walls, the South and the North Gates, and the Maccabæan Castle, which Mr. Macalister supposes to be the remains of the house built by Simon.

No. 4 shows the work in progress, and one object of this and the two or three following views is to show what a very extensive work it is, and the way in which it is performed. The workpeople, men and women, have to carry the earth removed in small baskets from the site to the bank.

No. 5 is another view which gives you some idea of what the foundations look like when they are uncovered. In the foreground are the sherds of pottery preserved for examination. There is not a thing of the kind turned up in the excavation but what is examined by Mr. Macalister before it is dealt with.

No. 6 shows the great stones of the High Place, which, in fact, was the place of worship probably of more than one form of religion during many ages, and which was found after removing the earth to the full depth of the stones.

No. 7 is one of the jars in which the remains of the infants were found buried under the pavement of the High Place.

No. 8 shows jars for food deposited with the buried infants.

No. 9 shows one of the foundation burials, the remains of an infant in the jar, and bowls placed on the top.

No. 10 is a similar jar broken to display the remains of the infant; you see the bones of the infant in the jar just as it was found in the site.

¹ Sir Charles Wilson's Address is printed below on p. 305.

No. 11 shows what Dr. George Adam Smith referred to, the succeeding form of burial, when human sacrifice was done away with for the ceremonial of foundations; they then substituted burial lamps and bowls. Apparently, the lamp represented in some sort the idea of human life, and the bowl represented the deposit for food which seems to have been common to so many forms of heathen burial.

No. 12 represents the fragment of the first of the two tablets that was found on the site of Gezer, and which was a contract tablet for the sale of property. One interesting feature about it is, that one of the same witnesses is found to have attested the second tablet, which was found only two or three months ago. The first was found more than a year ago, and very near was found the second fragment bearing the same witness's name; also the vendor of the land has a Hebrew name; so that you have the combination of the Hebrew selling the property, and the Assyrian script used in the dealing, and the fact that the Assyrian writing and language were in use in the time of Manasseh, which was the date of both tablets, also the interesting fact that the Assyrian language was in use there as evidencing the Assyrian domination; and further, was used for legal documents, and I suppose then occupied somewhat the same position that Norman French did in England after the Conquest.

No. 13 shows a bath-house—one of the rooms in the bath-house attached to the palace of Simon. You see the actual baths placed here. There are several chambers, and a heating chamber below. (See Fig. 1.)

No. 14 is another portion of the same building, with one of the baths to the left. The hole in the lower centre represents a part of the heating flue of the furnace.

No. 15 represents a portion of a gateway—the inner gateway. It is apparently the principal entrance to the palace or castle. (See Fig. 2.)

No. 16 gives one some sort of idea of the vast undertaking that the excavation of a city of this kind really is. People see what appear to them large sums spent upon excavation, possibly without realising the enormous amount of labour or the great extent to which they are carried on; and this shows the foundations of the houses as they are uncovered. It, of course, requires considerable practice and experience to know where to look for anything beyond the mere traces of foundations.

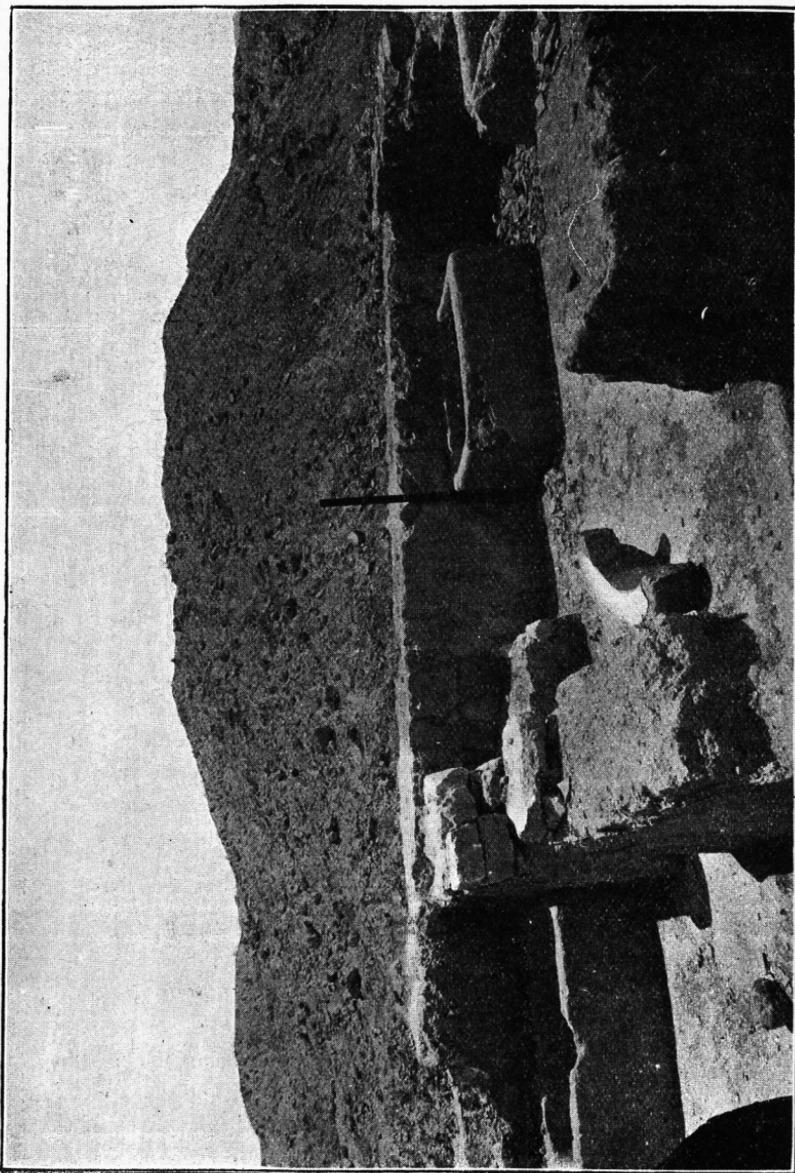


FIG. 1.—BATHS AND BATH CHAMBERS AT GEZER.

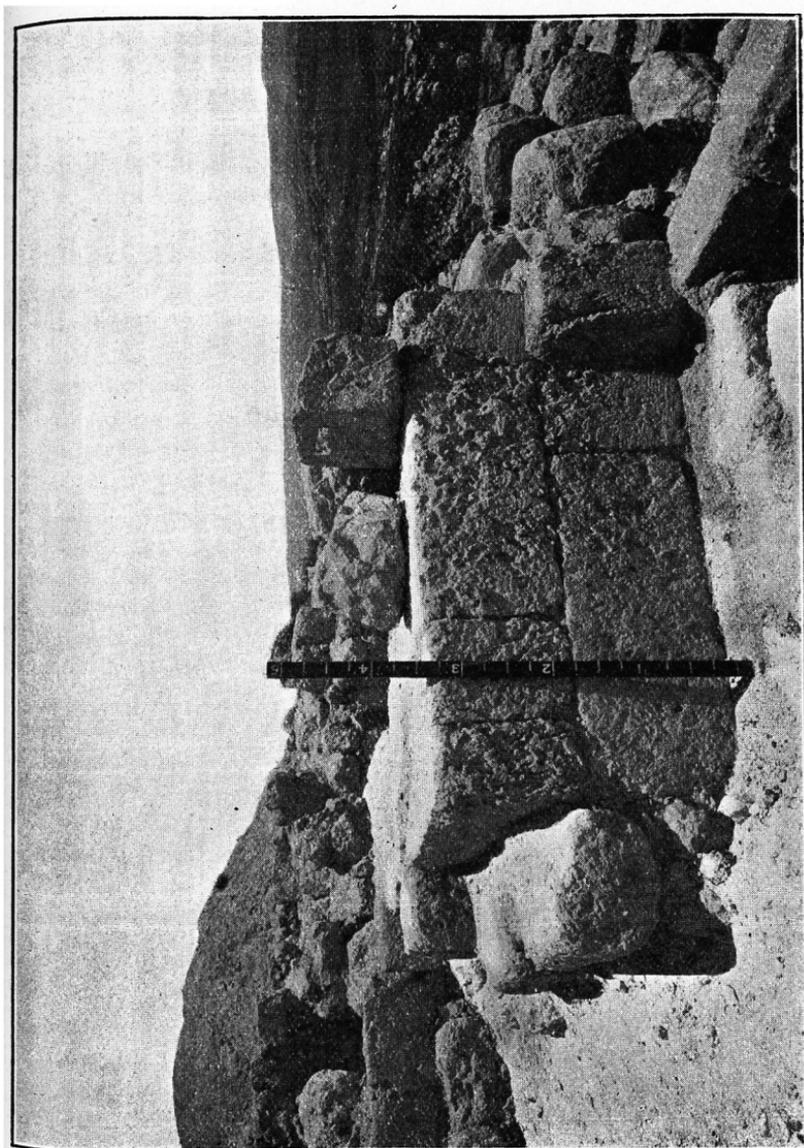


FIG. 2.—A PORTION OF THE INNER GATEWAY AT GEZER.

No. 17 is another view, looking south right through the great trench which has been cut at this part of the hill showing the foundations of the various houses, and looking away into the country beyond.

No. 18 is a portion of the town wall and the gateway. These portions of masonry in the centre represent the passageway of the gatehouse, and the few loose stones here are apparently the sill of the town gate. That completes the series. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN.—I understand that I am asked to say a few words now to follow what we have listened to. Dr. Horton has given you the best possible reason why my speech is not required, because he said, with absolute truth, that our business and our desire upon these occasions is to make experts speak, and to listen to what they have to tell us, or—as has just happened—to show us. But I should be sorry not to say a single word about what seems to me to be the real bigness and importance of the work that we are trying to do, or about its place in the whole scheme of our modern understanding of ancient things, sacred and secular. I do not think England has quite done justice during the last half century to the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund. I disclaim entirely the attribute of an expert in these matters, but I have not been entirely ignorant of what was being done. It fell to me during two prolonged Eastern expeditions or residences to become intimately acquainted more than 30 years ago with the earlier stages of the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund. It happened to me first to be concerned to some extent in some of the initial investigations which took place in the direction of Petra and in Petra itself—a region which, I believe, has not been very thoroughly explored even yet; and I for one am waiting with anxiety for the production of the further information which we are promised about that profoundly interesting district. But more important than that, I spent a whole spring a few years later in Jerusalem, and at that time became acquainted with all that the workers of the Fund were doing in the region round it. And after what we have just been looking at in those pictures, I am impressed immensely with the truth of what was said so well by Professor George Adam Smith with regard to the need for our doing this work now if ever. If we regret the fact that we are in danger, by the incursion of ignorant and unlearned people, of losing treasures which might

otherwise be preserved for us or our successors to investigate, let us remember with thankfulness the other side—what a blessed thing it is that they have been covered up till now. Imagine if some of those things had, by nature or the act of man, been uncovered a hundred years ago! Where should we have been to-day? It is the fact of the burying of them, and their remaining buried until the time when, in the providence of God, people were raised up to explain them to the world—it is to that we owe no small part of the possibilities which are now ours, of re-picturing things which seemed a few years ago to have passed beyond the reach of such possibilities altogether. I said that what I have just looked at brought that remarkably home to me. I remember in one of the long rides that I was taking at that time near Jerusalem, sometimes in the company of the then Lieutenant Conder, one ride which included Gezer. And the contrast between what we see to-day and what was visible then upon that mound—which we saw the outline of in one of these photographs—makes one feel how grand a thing it is that the exploration has been delayed till now. But having got it, let us make the most of it. Let us take care that funds are, by hook or by crook, forthcoming which shall prevent this thing being either inadequately done as we take it in hand, or our being too late to do it at all. As immigrants go into those regions and erect houses upon the old ground, the need is obviously becoming greater every day that we should move while there is yet time, and understand all that we are allowed to understand about what can now be brought to light. The expression of Dean Stanley was quoted, I think by Dr. Horton, that the Holy Land, the land of Palestine, is a fifth Gospel. But we need not only Gospels, but Gospellers. The land was there all the while, but this Gospel was not of much use until we came to our own time. And I should imagine that literary history will tell us that during the century that has last passed there have been three great Gospellers—there has been the gospel of the American Dr. Robinson, the gospel of Arthur Stanley, and last, but certainly not least, the gospel of George Adam Smith. (Applause). Those Gospellers have found and interpreted something that was no doubt in our possession, but the value of which was neither understood nor publicly and generally available. It is now made available, and it is by the very kind of effort which this Fund exists to set forth that the possibility of making those Gospels tell what they ought to tell for the world's

good, for the religious and secular information of students of all sorts—it is for that reason that we have a right, I think, to appeal to all whom we can have any influence over to see that our funds do not languish, and that the work is able to be prosecuted with all the energy that it deserves. The contrast between the kind of times I speak of, 30 years ago, when those regions were more or less familiar to me, and the facts to-day, with all the many agencies that are now at work, has, to my mind, its element of peril as well as its element of gain. The energy of explorers has before now been a perilous thing in the story of exploration; and, although we are happy in knowing the reverent enthusiasm which is being displayed by many other bodies besides our own in this work, I shall be glad to feel that we are pushing forward strongly and well, and that the work is being done now at a time when, as I believe, it is done quite as well as it is ever likely to be done in the years that lie ahead. I suppose we should say of any bit of the world that had so ancient a history, that it was a grand thing that we should bring to light what lies below the surface. But such work is infinitely more urgent and infinitely more necessary when we are dealing with the land upon whose history so much has turned in the centuries that have passed since then. We want to anticipate alike the ravages of those who use ruins as their quarry, and the incursion of those who may build over places which we ultimately want to get at. I suppose it is true to say that the exploration of Jerusalem has been hampered to a great degree by the increase of modern buildings over bits of land which could have been more readily examined several years ago. But that peril is not confined to Jerusalem, and for all those regions the cry of urgency is legitimately a loud one; because, if one contemplates such a continuance, or even possibly such an excess, of immigration into Palestine as the next 10 years may see over the last 20 years, one finds that the perils, whichever way one looks at them, are certainly not inconsiderable. All those reasons seem to me to multiply upon us the urgency of setting ourselves to this task with redoubled vigour. There is no real reason why, in the nature of things, our efforts should at any particular time be confined to one particular place, however important. We are not obliged to be entirely done with one place before we begin upon another, provided we have the money and the men. The money and the men ought to be forthcoming for a work so important to the whole.

interests of sacred and secular knowledge ; and I cannot but believe that, if people were better awake to what has been done of late, what is capable of being done now, and what will be impossible to do a few years hence, we should find some of the difficulties that at present beset us disappear. I agree with Dr. Horton that we must not confine ourselves to appealing to crowned heads. The German work seems to have depended to no inconsiderable degree upon the help which it received in that way. If one looks at the balance-sheet of the German Fund, one finds that the general subscriptions are very insignificant in amount, and that it really has been by the help that came from the crowned head that the work was mainly carried forward. In England I am quite sure that we can without very much difficulty increase, to a degree that would put us outside the region of bewilderment or difficulty in our work, the funds that are at our disposal, without being dependent upon great gifts from crowned heads or central authorities. I am not sure that I should be quite as sanguine as my friend Dr. Horton about the results of Exhibitions, much as I believe in them for many indirect purposes. I have an experience which does not exactly correspond with his as to the financial results sometimes, and I think the matter needs to be looked into somewhat carefully before we trust to that particular mode as a direct means of raising money to a large extent ; but that indirectly that means would be productive of good I have not the smallest doubt. Therefore I, for one, should encourage with all my might any endeavour that should be strenuously taken in hand to set forward Exhibitions which would bring home to the least thoughtful the facts that are coming to the knowledge of those of us who look into them to-day. I believe that to be both possible and desirable, and I hope that Dr. Horton's suggestion will bear fruit. I believe I am right in saying that the great Exhibition last year at St. Louis was of extreme use on the other side of the Atlantic in bringing to the knowledge of many people facts of which they had been absolutely unaware ; and I am quite sure that this Fund and those who represent it ought to be loud in recognition of the courtesy and vigour combined which were shown by the authorities, who took pains to make clear to everybody who desired to learn the real significance of what, I am told, was a wonderful sight—the exhibition as part of the great St. Louis Exhibition last year. The British Commissioner, Colonel Watson, I know has been connected

with this Fund, and naturally, to everybody's gain, took immense pains to make our part in that great Exhibition a worthy one; but I suppose that it was to Professor Wright that thanks were mainly due, for the immense trouble he took in devoting a whole month of his time exclusively to personal attendance at the Exhibition, and giving explanations to visitors; and I should be sorry if we did not recognise that to-day, and express the feeling of thankfulness that we have towards him. I shall not detain you more, and I do not think that I need try to say more than again to express my hope that this meeting will be a centre from which information and enthusiasm about this work will go forward. I mean, if this meeting, composed as it is of people who come from various homes, will undertake that each individual now in the hall becomes a centre for spreading knowledge about the matter, then I have no fear at all about the results that will ultimately follow. It is in that kind of way that gatherings such as our annual meetings ought to be prolific of general good throughout the whole community. That they can do so I am certain; that they will do so on this particular occasion I do not desire for a moment to doubt.

Professor FLINDERS PETRIE.—Your Grace, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—It is a great pleasure to me as a former worker for this Society to move that this meeting should, in the name of the Society, give our most cordial thanks to Mr. Stewart Macalister for the zealous and efficient way in which he has conducted the excavations. He has the essential idea of recording and drawing everything that he finds, so that it will be possible for others to work over and utilise all his materials in connection with other discoveries in the future. You will not know, perhaps for a generation to come, what all are the results that may be brought to light in the future from such a complete record as he is now making; and the toil in tent and trench should be cheered by the assurance that this work will be fully published for study. An old friend of mine used to say that the people who really did new things were like the edge of a knife, a very minute part of the whole, but the part which made it possible for the back to follow. (Laughter.) And the moral of that is that the edge cannot work unless it has the support of a stiff backing behind it. While the keen edge of your Society at Gezer is in the wearisome, tedious, and often disheartening work of making out results from tons of earth handled by dozens of

ignorant natives, it is the duty of those at home to form the strong backing which shall push him forward in such work, and so enable us to follow on to the fresh ideas which we all want and need to understand. There are millions of pounds spent yearly on work based on the Bible, and surely it is worth a thousandth part of that to better understand these documents on which this work rests. Mr. Macalister has done his best very well indeed; and I hope you will recognise it by meeting his whole-hearted work in the same spirit. I therefore beg to move that the thanks of this meeting be presented to Mr. Stewart Macalister for the indefatigable energy, the care, the tact, and the exactitude with which he has conducted his excavations at Gezer, and the ability and perseverance which he has brought to bear on the work.

The CHAIRMAN.—This resolution will be seconded by Dr. Masterman. I must apologise to the meeting for being obliged to go now. In 25 minutes I have to make a speech in Parliament, and I must, I am sorry to say, ask the Treasurer to take my place, and miss the remainder of the subject to-day.

The Chair having been taken by Mr. Walter Morrison,

Dr. MASTERMAN.—Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—My only excuse for appearing before you this afternoon in response to the invitation is that, to some extent, I represent the many English and Foreign residents living in Jerusalem who are so deeply interested in, and who so deeply feel the importance of, this work. I feel quite sure that if those of you could do as I and many of us residents in Palestine have done—go yourselves to see the work that is going on at Gezer, your interest would not be lessened, but would last the rest of your life. It has been my great privilege to be down at these excavations—I am afraid to say how many—certainly some dozens of times; and I have watched the progress of the work from the time when the *tell* that they are now excavating was a grass-covered hill with only a house and a few graves on it up to the time when a few months ago I left Palestine; and to my mind there is nothing so romantic in the whole of Palestine as the watching of the progress of that wonderful work. I feel I must mention one little incident. I well remember a certain afternoon when I was down there with Professor Macalister and Mr. Macalister, and we were walking over that *tell*, and we came in the course of our wanderings upon a huge stone with a pit

beside it. And I recall how these two, both of them experts on the subject, were discussing whether it was possible that stone could really be one of the great monoliths which were the objects of worship to the early Semites; and I remember how we followed the outline of the ground from place to place, and there, sure enough, a few yards away was another stone appearing above the ground a few inches, and then a few yards further on there was another, and again another, and when I very sadly the next morning had to go away I was waiting with the greatest impatience to hear what was the result of excavating that spot. The result you see before you in that wonderful High Place which has been one of the most wonderful discoveries that has been made in Palestine during the whole existence of the Palestine Exploration Fund. It is not for me here to dwell, as experts have done, on the flood of light which is thrown upon the whole religion that surrounded the Children of Israel; but I feel also that it is not only the thrilling interest of the thing that should appeal to you. I do indeed add my words to those that Professor George Adam Smith said about the extreme urgency of the need. I can assure you that those who live in Palestine who are interested in these things are constantly deeply grieved to see the destruction that is going on all around us. Let me mention one little incident. A few years ago the Fund were excavating at *Tell Sandahannah*, and they excavated a great deal of a Greek town there, and were proceeding with the work when the firman expired. No sooner had the explorers removed their camp than down swooped the natives, who had learnt from our own methods how to excavate; and they set to work and rifled every grave that they could reach within I do not know how many acres of ground. And among the graves was one of the most extraordinary tombs ever discovered, one on which the Fund has now published a monograph.¹ In that tomb were the most marvellous paintings, things, as far as I know, almost unique of their kind in Palestine; and yet, although it so happened that skilled men who knew how to appreciate these things appeared on the scene only a few days after that place had first been discovered, the natives, with their love of destruction, had come down and had wiped out every human face in the paintings on the wall. I can assure you that with my knowledge of

¹ *Painted Tombs at Marissa*. By the Rev. J. P. Peters, Ph.D., D.D., and Hermann Thiersch, Ph.D.

Palestine, if that tomb had been left unprotected for a few months more, there would have been nothing worth recording at all. And so it is with countless other things. No sooner is a thing found than, unless the right man is on the spot, it is utterly destroyed, or made useless for scientific purposes. And then again we do, I think, as Englishmen, and as the great Society which has been the pioneer Society in this work, need to look to our laurels. For the other Societies we have heard of are going ahead with all the enthusiasm of youth, and sometimes it looks as if we were almost dropping behind. It was one of the most extraordinary things to me on a recent visit to Berlin to find there, in the New "Kaiser Frederick Museum," laying at its full length—I do not know how many feet long—an enormous palace which had been transferred the whole way from *Mushetta*, away in the desert, east of the Jordan. I had last seen that palace after travelling some two or three days into the east of the Jordan on purpose to see it. It was one of the greatest works of art of the kind; and there, now, regardless of expense, the German Society has transferred the whole palace bodily to Berlin. That is a great, though perhaps rather a questionable, act; but, at any rate, the antiquarian remains of Palestine are fast being examined in different ways by different Societies, and our opportunities are year by year becoming less.

It is my great pleasure to have to second a vote of thanks to my friend, Mr. Macalister; and I do so because we all of us so greatly appreciate him and his work. If there is one thing for which we feel he is unusually adapted for the work, it is his own personality, his own wonderful dealing with the natives, his workmen, whose hearts he has won on all sides, and his own extraordinarily successful dealing in the difficulties that he has had to contend with with the Turkish Government. The Turkish Government have given him a confidence which I think they have never given to any other explorer. They are very suspicious of explorers that they will not be straightforward to them; and I know that many have tried to persuade Mr. Macalister at times to quietly annex articles, which, of course, would be greatest folly. If he did so he would lose the confidence of the Turks. He has the utmost confidence both of the Turkish officers and of the natives; and if I may be permitted to say so, there is one feature of his work which I think everyone who has visited it will agree with, and that is its thoroughness, its tremendous thoroughness. It is his ambition to

turn over every foot of ground upon the site of Gezer—every foot of ground that has ever been included in the city; and I am sure all of us rejoice in the decision of the Committee that instead of turning to new fields, this *tell* is first to be absolutely examined from the top to the bottom. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN.—Gentlemen, you have heard the resolution, that the best thanks of this meeting be presented to Mr. Stewart Macalister for the indefatigable energy, the care, tact, and exactitude with which he has conducted his excavations at Gezer, and the ability and perseverance which he has brought to bear on the work; and I would add one word. Some of us have felt it is rather warm to-day. I can assure you that the warmth in London is nothing to what it is at this present moment at Gezer; and those who have had to do with Orientals will know it is very much harder work to bargain and wrangle in hot weather than in weather of a temperate kind.

This resolution having been carried,

The CHAIRMAN.—It now devolves upon me to move that the best thanks of the Society be given to the managers of the Royal Institution for the loan of the Lecture Theatre. We are very grateful to this famous Institution, which is famous in the history of science, for the hospitality which they are always ready to extend to us, and thereby acknowledging that we, too, are a scientific Society. For we do our work scientifically, as the managers of this Institution know; though the experts we chiefly have to consult may be archæologists and scholars and linguists, still all science is brought to bear more or less upon the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund. We have taken up the geology; we have taken up the botany of the country; and we require sometimes the assistance of chemists, and sometimes the assistance of astronomers.

Mr. J. D. CRACE.—I shall be very pleased to second that. I think we are very greatly indebted to the Royal Institution for the loan of this theatre.

The resolution was carried.

Canon DALTON proposed a resolution of thanks to his Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury for having taken the chair.

The Rev. GEORGE ADAM SMITH seconded, and the resolution was carried. The proceedings then terminated.

THE PROGRESS OF EXCAVATIONS IN PALESTINE.

*Address by Major-General Sir Charles Wilson, K.C.B., F.R.S.,
Chairman of the Executive Committee.*

During the last 12 months the excavations so ably carried out for the Fund at Gezer by Mr. Macalister have made steady progress. Professor Dr. Sellin, of Vienna, has completed his exploration of the ruins of Taanach. Dr. Schumacher has continued his work for the German Society for the Exploration of Palestine at *Tell Mutesellim*, Megiddo; and the German "Orient Gesellschaft" is making a complete examination of the ancient synagogues in Galilee.

Excavations are dependent upon money, and in this respect, unfortunately, the Fund is at a disadvantage when compared with its more fortunate German co-workers. The Executive Committee had hoped that the reply to their appeal for additional funds last year would have enabled Mr. Macalister to complete the exploration of Gezer before the expiry of the "permit," but this has not been the case. A very large portion of the mound will remain untouched on the 31st August next, when our trenches will have to be closed. The question of attacking a new site, or of continuing the work at Gezer, was discussed by the Committee, and it was decided to complete the exploration of the old Levitical city. In coming to this conclusion they were guided, in great measure, by the fact that no ancient site in Palestine has yet been completely examined, and by the desirability of ascertaining everything connected with the history of one such site, so far as it can be brought to light by excavation. It is only in this manner that a satisfactory basis can be obtained for a reconstruction of the pre-Israelite, Israelite, and Post-Exilic history of Palestine. The results obtained at Gezer have been so encouraging, and the most interesting discoveries have been made at such unexpected places, that the Committee feel that every possible portion of the mound should be turned over before the site is abandoned. Professor Paton, late Director of the American School of Oriental Research at Jerusalem, writes:—"No other exploration in Palestine has been so successful as this, and it is greatly to be hoped that the Fund will not stop until the mound is completely investigated." And others have expressed a similar opinion. The Committee have consequently requested the Foreign Office to apply for a new "permit" to excavate at Gezer, and to ask that it may come into force next summer, so as to allow

Mr. Macalister to take a much-needed holiday. During his stay in this country Mr. Macalister will bring out a popular work upon the excavations, with the special object of drawing attention to the remarkable manner in which the results he has obtained illustrate the Bible narrative. The work has been commenced, and when ready it will be published by the Fund without delay.

Mr. Macalister, it may be remembered, classified the remains at Gezer as Neolithic, or pre-Historic, Canaanite or Amorite, pre-Exilic Israelite, and post-Exilic, and it will be convenient to follow that classification in drawing attention to recent discoveries. Little has been added to our knowledge of the cave-dwellers of the Neolithic period; but the Canaanites, so intimately connected with the early history of the Hebrews in Palestine, are rapidly becoming for us people of flesh and blood. Vases and other decorative work in metal, stone, and pottery, clearly mark their type of culture and civilisation; and Gezer, Taanach, and Megiddo have supplied many accurate data with regard to their religion. As Dr. Sellin has well observed, we now realise, as we never did before, that the Bible pictures the Canaanites and their religion in a manner that is historically correct. The naturalistic and superstitious character of their religion is made obvious, and we can understand thoroughly the life and death struggle in which the Hebrew prophets engaged in warring against this religion. No bridge could have spanned the gulf between the two creeds. A certain external similarity between the Hebrew religion and that of the people who were ethnologically akin to them, there certainly was, but in appropriating these common forms, the Hebrews gave them a new and different spirit. Nothing is clearer or more interesting than the evidence supplied by the Gezer excavations of the gradual growth—slow at first, with many lapses—and eventual triumph of the purer religion. After the Hebrew conquest the “High Place” gradually falls out of favour, and the sacrifice of infants and adults in connection with foundation rites slowly gives way to the lamp and bowl deposits.

The wealth and culture of the Canaanites is becoming more and more apparent. The inscribed tablets found at Taanach show that in the Esdraelon district the petty kings used the Babylonian language and script in their letters to each other and in the transaction of business. In one of the letters the King or Governor of Megiddo orders Ištarwašar of Taanach to send to Megiddo on the day of reception “thy brothers, with their carts, a horse, thy

tribute, and presents, and all prisoners who are with thee." At Taanach Professor Sellin was fortunate enough to find the untouched remains of a Canaanite lady surrounded by those of five children from about four to sixteen years of age, with jewels, rings, and other ornaments. The household furniture was also untouched, and included jars for provisions, and a little bronze statue of Astarte.

Great difficulty has been experienced in dating many of the "finds," but two important discoveries at Megiddo and Gezer promise to supply interesting data. At the former place Dr. Schumacher has found some untouched tombs, partly vaulted with undressed stones, and containing well-preserved pottery, bronze implements, scarabs, and cylinders. The tombs are supposed to date from about B.C. 2000, but no description of their contents has yet been published. At Gezer, Mr. Macalister is still examining an untouched rock-hewn chamber, from which he has already obtained quantities of early pottery, vases of alabaster, bronze implements, and many scarabs, one of which appears to be of the time of Usertesen III (now read as Senusert III), say about 2500 B.C. The find is one of exceptional richness and importance, and Mr. Macalister proposes to describe it in a monograph with coloured plates. Some of the scarabs are of great beauty, and nearly all of them are mounted in gold.

In the strata of rubbish which represent the Hebrew period at Gezer, Mr. Macalister has found a fragment of another Assyrian contract tablet. It is dated two years later than the one found last year, and is witnessed by one of the same witnesses, as well as by a man bearing a Hebrew name, Natan-iau (Nethaniah). This seems to show a common knowledge of the Assyrian script and language as late as the reign of Manasseh. The excavations supply additional evidence of the continuance of infant and adult sacrifice during the Hebrew period (*cf.* Exod. xxii, 29; Josh. vi, 26; 1 Kings xvi, 34), and of the general decline in art as Hebrew influence increased. At Megiddo the remains of a castle built with large drafted stones has been found, and will be fully uncovered this year. It belongs to the Hebrew period, but whether it is Solomonic or of the times of the kings of Israel is at present uncertain.

The most interesting feature of the post-Exilic strata at Gezer is the house or palace of Simon Maccabæus, of which a full description has been given in the *Quarterly Statements* of the past year.

Unfortunately, the palace had been completely looted, and nothing of special interest was found in it; but the complete excavation of a palatial building of that period, with its baths, offices, and drains, is in itself of great importance. There are several novel features, which will be fully treated in Mr. Macalister's final report.

To the Christian period belong the synagogues which are being excavated in Galilee by the German Oriental Society. The excavation of the synagogue at Tell Hâm, which was partially excavated by the Fund in 1865-66, is nearly completed, and has disclosed some interesting features, such as "a double staircase and platform in front of the synagogue." At the foot of the staircase is an old basaltic pavement, apparently of the original street. It would appear that many of the bases of columns uncovered in 1865-66 have since been carried away for building material. The other synagogues are now being taken up.

The various archaeological schools at Jerusalem have also been doing good work. The Dominicans of the "École Biblique" have published an interesting and valuable memoir on their exploration of Eboda, 'Abdeh.' The German Institute, under Professor Dr. Dalman, with Professor Riedel as assistant, has held well-attended classes, and public lectures of great interest have been delivered. The students made a tour through Gilead to Bâniâs, returning by Kadesh, Tell Mutesellim, and Samaria, and wrote papers, which will appear in the journal of the German Palestine Society. The American School, under Professor Schmidt, have made a successful excursion into the Negeb, but no details have yet been received. These schools cannot fail to turn out some proportion of young men with the training and enthusiasm requisite for efficient research in this land so full of history, so full of difficult problems, and so dear to religion. The Palestine Exploration Fund has for 40 years paved the way for inquirers. Experience goes to show that it is to patient research below the surface that we must look for a more complete knowledge of the Holy Land.
