

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund was held on June 13th at the Royal Institution, General Sir Charles Warren, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., F.R.S., in the Chair. There was a large attendance, and the greatest interest was shown in the account of the work which had been accomplished by the Fund. Mr. R. A. S. Macalister gave a summary of the results of his excavations, and added a few timely remarks upon the destructive methods of dealers and their agents, pointing out the serious harm which is being wrought owing to the foolishness of wealthy travellers. A full report of the proceedings will be found below (pages 170-182).

In the *Home Words* (Jerusalem) for May, Dr. Masterman comments upon the remarkable rainfall during the present season. Although up till the middle of last December the district was threatened with a water famine, and actually had had in Jerusalem a total fall of less than an inch, the total fall for the season is up to the present 37.95 inches and will certainly be over 38 inches—the highest fall in a single season since many years. But it is not only the amount of rain which has been noticeable, it is the extraordinarily heavy downpours, accompanied by thunder and lightning, which have made this season, especially the month of April, conspicuous. “At the beginning of the month,” says *Home Words*, “we witnessed with sympathy the discomforts of many travellers, who, caught in the violence of the storm while touring through the land, were obliged either to abandon their tour or to travel for days with soaking tents and dripping clothes.”

The Damascus Railway to Beyrout was actually blocked with snow in the Lebanon, and indeed the last part of April became like a part of boisterous February. Even since then there were at least two storms, of what people sometimes designate "tropical" violence, on Easter Sunday and Monday. This latter storm raged in the Jordan Valley in a manner quite unprecedented, accompanied by a deluge of rain such as has never within living memory fallen there in mid-April.

The rainfall of April, viz., 5, is the highest recorded except that of 1885 which was 6.5. This season's total of rainfall (37.95) and last year (37.3) forms a marked contrast to that of the previous six seasons which had a mean of 23.6 inches. It is evident that there are alternating cycles of plentiful and scanty rainfalls, and that the land is now in the midst of a plentiful cycle.

Dr. Masterman also reports (in *Home Words*) that during last April a party of eight German residents of Jerusalem, accompanied by two boatmen, made a most successful boat expedition on the Dead Sea. They left Barakat, at the N.W. corner of the lake, on April 7th and sailed along the East shore touching at the Wady Zerka Ma'an, Wady Mojib, Ginetri, Wady Kerak and the Leisân. They then crossed to the Western side, visited 'Ain Jidy, the ruined fortress of Masada, Jebel Usdum, and then returned North again. They found abundant evidence of the rise of the level of the water at a recent period, a change which is witnessed at the Northern end by the gradual submergence, and now complete disappearance, of the peninsula of Rejum el-Bahr, as well as other changes. Although rumour reported all kinds of disaster as having befallen these adventurers, the expedition passed off with complete success, and they returned safely to their starting-place on April 19th. The lowest temperature they experienced was 54° F. (at night); the highest (in the shade) 97° F. One of the most interesting discoveries was that of a path up the Wady Zerka to the famous hot springs; also they made their way a long way up the Wady Mojib.

Prof. Bacon and Dr. Cropper have just returned from an expedition E. of the Jordan, the most interesting result of which is their discovery of a good path running for miles along the remains of an

old Roman road, from the hot springs in the Wady Zerka Ma'an to the bridge on the Jordan. This they followed for several hours. It was probably the route by which Herod the Great travelled from Jericho to these springs. This would appear to be by far the best route by which to reach this interesting and romantic place.

"In the month of May," remarks Dr. Masterman, "we have all been rejoicing in unusually pleasant and cool weather. The rainfall has been .99, and that has only twice been exceeded; very often May is the first of the entirely rainless months. The cool breezes also have contributed to make the weather most enjoyable. In Artas and Bethlehem there was, from all accounts, a really terrific hail storm, the hail stones were locally reported to have been each the size of a pigeon's egg, and each hail stone to have had St. George's image pictured on it!"

It is reported that a small passenger steamboat connected with the railway is now launched in the Lake of Galilee. Although not yet running, it will very shortly be in order, and the passengers will be able to go from Semakh (the railway station on the Lake) to Tiberias in the railway company's steamer.

In the Earl of Cromer's Report on the Finances, &c., of Egypt and the Soudan in 1905, it is announced that Mr. Jennings-Bramley has been appointed Commandant and Inspector with full control over the affairs of the Sinaitic Peninsula. Mr. Bramley has a perfect acquaintance with Bedouin Arabic and the customs of the natives, and was sent last year to settle the numerous inter-tribal disputes which had arisen among the restless inhabitants. It is now proposed to carry out various improvements: "a well-equipped and efficient camel corps will be organized; a rest-house will be built at Nekhl; some money will be spent on the purchase of trees and implements for gardening, the construction of sakias, the improvement of the water-supply at Tor, and the construction of a small dam at Khor el-Arish, where it is hoped a large area of land will be capable of being placed under cultivation. A mosque, barracks, and police-station are to be built at Nekhl. There is every reason to hope and believe that by the adoption of these measures a distinct improvement will soon be visible in the condition of the Sinai Peninsula. It is probable that somewhat later

the construction of a telegraph line, and possibly of a road for motor cars, to Nekhl, will be considered." The Blue-book contains a short account of some of the more interesting legal institutions in the Peninsula, to which Mr. Jennings-Bramley refers in his series of contributions to the *Quarterly Statement*.

The old Turkish bath inside St. Stephen's Gate has recently been pulled down, and a new building is in course of erection. It is said to be owned by the Greek Convent. To the old bath the legend was attached that it was built for the benefit of Belkis, queen of Sheba, by Solomon. The story that she had goat's feet, and the sequel, is recounted by Arab writers, and there is an allusion to it in the Koran (Sur. xxvii.). Mr. Hanauer, who sends the above information, points out that on p. 90 in the last number of the *Q.S.* (last paragraph) the accidental omission of the words "and others were" before "found" may lead to the erroneous inference that Solomon's stables were in the cavern to the south of the Triple Gate.

"Golgotha and the Holy Sepulchre," the last work of the late Major-General Sir Charles Wilson, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., F.R.S., D.C.L., LL.D., &c., is now ready. In this work the late Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund has brought together for the first time all the evidence which the most exhaustive research enabled him to collect bearing on the subject of these Holy Sites; and probably no man living had at once so intimate a knowledge of all investigations in the modern Jerusalem, and so complete an acquaintance with what has been written about the Sites from the time of Constantine onwards. The price of the work (demy 8vo) is 6s., by post 6s. 4d., and cheques should be made payable to the order of George Armstrong, Acting Secretary to the Fund, and crossed "Coutts & Co."

Mr. Macalister's work, "Bible Sidelights from the Mounds of Gezer," is now ready. It has been written to show how the results of digging in Palestine should appeal not only to the scientific anthropologist or archæologist but also to the Bible student who has no special interest in these sciences. The book contains a brief synopsis of the work of the Fund from its foundation to the present, and a description of the site of Gezer, and its history. See below, p. 234 *sq.*

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have also published for Dr. Bliss a book entitled "The Development of Palestine Exploration." Its author has the twofold qualification of scholarship and practical experience in Palestine exploration; the results of the latter having been already published in a work that is well known to all students of the subject. In the present volume Dr. Bliss makes no attempt to offer a detailed account of the results of this prolonged research. What he aims at is to tell the wonderful story of the quest as a whole—"the shifting point of view of travellers from age to age; the displacement of the Classic Geographer by the credulous pilgrim; the gradual evolution of the pilgrim into the man of science"—these are some of the prominent subjects with which Dr. Bliss has dealt. The story is one of wider human interest, and does not belong exclusively to archæology or any of the numerous sciences that are its handmaids.

The Committee have gratefully to acknowledge the gift, by the Author, to their Library, of Prof. Flinders Petrie's handsome volume "Researches in Sinai" (John Murray).

A new railway to connect Jenin, Nablûs and Jerusalem is talked about in Palestine. It is urged that this line, by joining the Haifa railway at Afûleh, would be of great assistance to traders, but many anticipate that objections will be raised on aesthetic and sentimental grounds.

It is of interest to record that one of the small raised maps of Palestine, the advertisement of which appears on p. 167 below, has recently been ordered for the Fiji Islands.

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 which were sent by Mr. Macalister illustrating the excavations at Gezer and which were not reproduced in his quarterly report, have been 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, 7*d.* 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 2*s.* 6*d.*

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. See below, pp. 182 *sqq.*

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 2*l.*s.

The income of the Society from March 17th to June 16th, 1906, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £221 12*s.* 4*d.*; from sales of publications, &c., £146 17*s.* 8*d.*; from Lectures, £17 14*s.* 6*d.*; making in all, £386 4*s.* 6*d.* The expenditure during the same period was £409 13*s.* 9*d.* On 16th June the balance in the bank was £377 12*s.* 2*d.*

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 1905 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:—

The Rev. John Arnott, M.A., for Stirling, N.B., in succession to the Rev. W. Ewing, removed to Edinburgh.

J. Langfield Ward, Esq., M.A., for Bath, in succession to General Warren Walker, resigned.

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.

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*, 1869–1905, 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); "Archæological 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 and Justinian's Church, and (4) of the Haram Area as it is at present, have been received at the office of the Fund. The four 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 :—

- "Researches in Sinai," from the author, Prof. W. M. Flinders Petrie.
- "Die Mosaik-karte von Madaba," by P. Palmer (Jerusalem), edited by Prof. Guthe (Leipzig).
- "Al-Mashrik : Revue Catholique Orientale Bimensuelle." Mag. J. Ghanimé writes on the popular proverbs of Bagdad ; Dr. H. Negre on Syrian food, &c., &c.
- "Man's Responsibility, or How and Why the Almighty introduced Evil upon the Earth," from the author, Thomas G. Carson.

NEA ΣΙΩΝ, February–April, 1906.

"Echos d'Orient," March, 1906.

"Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale," by Prof. Clermont-Ganneau. Tome VII, Livraisons 13–15. Sommaire :—§ 24. *Fiches et Notices* : Le dieu Ethaos.—Le "prince héritier" en phénicien et en hébreu.—*Assiēos*.—Le comte Patricius.—Gérard, de l'Ordre de l'Hôpital, évêque de Balanée de Syrie.—Histoire d'Égypte, de Maqrîzi.—Deux projets de croisade des XIII^e–XIV^e siècles. § 25. Le *sirr* sanctifié. § 26. La Province d'Arabie. § 27. Inscription grecque de Esdoûd § 28. L'Expédition américaine dans la Syrie

centrale. § 29. Inscriptions de la Haute-Syrie et de Mésopotamie. § 30. *Fiches et Notules*: Le comte Anthimos, gouverneur d'Arabie.—Inscription byzantine de Sinope.—L'édit d'Agrippa II.—Abdalgas et Olbanès.—Ostrakon araméen Cowley.

See, further, below, "Foreign Publications," pp. 234-238.

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.