

ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

THE Forty-first Annual General Meeting of the above Fund was held at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, London, W., on Wednesday, June 13th, 1906, when General Sir Charles Warren, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., F.R.S., presided and was supported by the following Members of the General Committee:—Lord Eustace Cecil; Col. Sir Charles M. Watson; Rev. Dr. Rogers; Rev. W. J. Stracey-Clitherow; Professor A. Macalister; Rev. Arthur Carr; Mr. J. D. Crace; Mr. Joseph Pollard; Mr. Herbert Bentwich; Mr. Herbert Birch, &c.

There was a large attendance of the public.

The CHAIRMAN.—My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I will commence the proceedings this afternoon by asking the Secretary to read the names of those Members who have not been able to attend and who have sent letters of regret.

The SECRETARY.—The following Members of the General Committee have written expressing their regret at not being able to attend this afternoon:—Rev. Canon Cheyne, D.D.; Dr. A. Löwy; Mr. Walter Morrison, The Treasurer; Professor George Adam Smith, D.D.; Rev. Professor A. F. Kirkpatrick, D.D.; Rev. H. Montagu Butler, D.D.; Professor G. Buchanan Gray, M.A.; Mr. James Melrose.

The CHAIRMAN.—The first resolution before us this afternoon, which I will move and which will be seconded by the Secretary, is:—

That the Report and Accounts already printed and circulated be taken as read, approved and adopted.

The SECRETARY.—I beg formally to second the resolution. The Report and Accounts have been in the hands of the subscribers since April, so they will have had plenty of time to find fault with them.¹

¹ The Report and Treasurer's Statement, with list of subscriptions for the year 1905, appeared as a separate pamphlet issued with the April number of the *Quarterly Statement*.

I may say we are fortunate in having as our Treasurer—I say it as he is absent to-day—we are fortunate in having a gentleman who has not only very frequently come to our aid in a moment of difficulty, but is an expert in matters of account and accustomed to deal with business on a very much larger scale than ours. He is most exact in the examination of every item of expenditure, and I think you may feel confident that the money which you subscribe is applied to the purposes for which you are good enough to give it.

The resolution was then put to the Meeting and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—The second resolution is to be moved by Sir Charles Watson and seconded by Professor Macalister, that the gentlemen whose names follow be added to the General Committee: The Rev. Professor A. R. S. Kennedy, D.D. of the University of Edinburgh; The Rev. P. A. Gordon Clark; The Rev. William Ewing; Wilson Lloyd Fox, Esq.; Colonel R. C. Hellard, R.E., Director-General of the Ordnance Survey; Archibald C. Dickie, Esq.

Sir CHARLES WATSON.—Sir Charles Warren, My Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—I have much pleasure in rising to propose this resolution. I daresay many who are in this room—at least all who are subscribers—know the constitution of our Society, that the affairs of the Society are managed by a General Committee, of which we have the honour to have His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury as President, and that they delegate their powers to an Executive Committee; but the attempt has always been to place upon the General Committee as many gentlemen as we could obtain who take a real interest in the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund. Of course it is not necessary for me to say how much information as regards the Bible and Biblical geography has been given by the Explorations conducted by the Fund, but the possibility of proceeding with that work depends to a great extent on interesting people in the work of the Society, and to do that we must have a General Committee who will work for the good of the Society and induce new subscribers to join; that, of course, is the very life-blood of our existence. Old subscribers die off, and we lose their subscriptions; a very few withdraw, but it is always necessary every year to get a considerable number of additional subscribers in order to carry on the work. This year three of the gentlemen whom it is proposed to add to the General Committee

have been for some years local Hon. Secretaries of the Society, and have done much in the way of getting subscriptions and interesting people in the work, and it is, therefore, a very proper thing that their names should be added to the General Committee. Colonel Hellard is now Director-General of the Ordnance Survey. From the very earliest days of the Society the Department of the Ordnance Survey have always afforded the greatest help to the Palestine Exploration Fund. I need hardly refer to the late General Sir Charles Wilson, of whom Sir Charles Warren will speak later, who, when Director-General, gave us the greatest possible assistance. Colonel Farquharson and Colonel Johnston, who succeeded him, did likewise. Now Colonel Johnston has retired and been succeeded by Colonel Hellard, and it is proposed that his name should be added to the list of the General Committee. The last name which is proposed for addition is that of Mr. Archibald Dickie. Many of you will recognise his name as the able assistant of Dr. Bliss in his explorations at Jerusalem and other parts of Palestine. We owe a great deal to Mr. Dickie for the good work he has done, and I am sure you will all agree that he is a very suitable person to be added to the General Committee. I beg to move that these gentlemen be added to the General Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund.

Professor MACALISTER.—I beg leave to second this resolution. After the statement that the Chairman of our Executive has made, there is no need for me to do anything but formally second the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN then put the resolution to the Meeting, and it was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—The Committee regret to record the loss by death of the following Members of the General Committee since the last Annual Meeting, viz.:—Major General Sir Charles W. Wilson, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, Mr. Charles J. Heywood, President W. R. Harper, of the University of Chicago, Rev. Canon Tristram, F.R.S., D.D., M.A., Rev. Cunningham Geikie, D.D., Bishop Bickersteth (late of Exeter). As our oldest Members pass away one by one, it is always painful to record their loss, the loss of our friends who have worked with us and have done so much to keep up the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund. But on

this occasion we have to record the loss of two Members who have been with us almost from the beginning up to the time of their death. The first Member, Sir Charles Wilson, one of our best friends, and who continuously worked in this good cause, started really before the Society was formed, for he went out on the Ordnance Survey of Jerusalem, and did some work there which Miss Burdett-Coutts financed; and he really may be called the father of the excavations at Jerusalem, for he commenced, in various places, the shafts which were afterwards added to and continued in many directions. Then he was selected, when the Fund commenced its operations, to go out to Palestine and ascertain what was to be done, and he and Captain Samuel Anderson went out together and traversed the whole country, making observations, and decided that the best place to commence excavations was at Jerusalem, and that is how the excavations at Jerusalem were started. After that he was engaged in Sinai, and he was constantly connected with the Palestine Exploration Fund subsequently in one way or another. He was Editor of the Pilgrims' Text Society, and as Director of the Ordnance Survey he assisted very much, and he was also Chairman of the Executive Committee, so that we may say that Sir Charles Wilson really formed part and parcel of the Palestine Exploration Fund during forty-one years. And there are no doubt many here—at any rate there are many throughout the country who feel his loss, not only as a friend, but as one who has helped them in matters with regard to Biblical study. I may say that his book that has now been published on Golgotha is one which is of most intense interest, and has brought together all the facts that can be obtained upon the subject. Then we have also our dear old friend, Canon Tristram, whose loss we have to record. He took another field in the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and all those who are interested in the birds and beasts of Palestine know well his writings, and how kindly he wrote. The natives of Palestine also knew him, for he used to go among them in the different parts by the name of *abu dahn* ("father of the beard"). We may say, really, that he was the father of the zoological branch of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and we have deeply to deplore his loss, because he has been throughout a most consistent friend and supporter.

But as we lose our friends on the Committee, we find that there are ever ready others fully qualified to be added, and on this

occasion the resolution is going to be moved that Mr. Archibald Dickie be elected to the Executive Committee; he was employed with Dr. Bliss, of whose services you all know so well and of whom Sir Charles Watson has already spoken. It will therefore be proposed by Lord Eustace Cecil, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Rogers that the Executive be re-elected and that Mr. Archibald Dickie be added to the number.

Lord EUSTACE CECIL.—Sir Charles Warren, Ladies and Gentlemen,—When I entered the room I had no intention of making any lengthy discourse on the matter, but I could not refuse to propose, as an old Member of the Executive Committee, the re-appointment of gentlemen to whom we owe so much. We know they are all men of ability and illustrious in the particular knowledge we have come to-day to give our sanction to; and we are all aware that they have used their endeavours to bring this Society to the flourishing state in which it is. I always think a Company is best appreciated and best known by its Directors, and I think this Society may be said to be appreciated and known by the gentlemen who manage it and compose the Executive Committee. I have very great pleasure indeed, as a very old Member of the Society and as a Member of the General Committee myself in former days, in proposing the re-election of the gentlemen in question—I have not a list, but they are very well known—also the name of Mr. Archibald Dickie whom I believe to be very well worthy of the honour I hope you will confer upon him by making him a Member of the Committee.

Rev. Dr. ROGERS.—I have very great pleasure and very great confidence in seconding the resolution which has just been moved.

The CHAIRMAN then put the resolution to the Meeting and declared it carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—We shall have the pleasure this afternoon of receiving an address on the Excavations of Palestine from Mr. R. A. Stewart Macalister. It is hardly necessary for me to introduce him to you, because most of you, if you have not actually heard him speak, know of the excellent work he has been carrying out in Palestine, but as a matter of form I will now introduce Mr. Macalister to you.

Mr. MACALISTER.—At a moment when we are eagerly awaiting the answer to our application for a new permit for exploration

in Palestine, it is natural to look back over the work that has been recently accomplished, and to look forward for a little in the endeavour to forecast the probable nature of our future discoveries.

Let me first hastily remind you of some of the principal discoveries made during the past three years at Gezer, with the aid of the slides which will be thrown on the screen. You may remember that four large pits were dug in the mound, the positions of which are as shown in the slide now exhibited. This is prepared from a photograph taken during the last week of the campaign. An area equal at least to the amount dug was perforce left unexamined, the time allowed by the permit being insufficient to dig up the whole mound; and of course what these uncut parts of the mound may cover no man can tell.

Let me illustrate the chances of excavation by briefly describing what was found in these different pits.

The pit to the west contained a most valuable series both of buildings and objects. Among these may be mentioned the south gate of the city wall: the interesting temple, which, as has been thought, seems to have a bearing on the story of the death of Samson; the immense cave, which, with its contents, has been made the subject of a separate monograph (not yet published) that, when printed, will include almost as much material as Professor Petrie's work on Tell el-Hesi; the beautiful XIIth dynasty statuette of "Heqab the taster of the bakery" discussed by Dr. Griffith in the last *Quarterly Statement*; and the two Assyrian contract tablets.

In the northernmost of the two central pits the chief discovery was the great high place, the most complete and extensive place of early Semitic worship yet unearthed on Palestinian soil. Beside this and other important finds on which I cannot dwell now, I must not omit to mention the unique bronze statuette of the Ashtaroth Karnaim or Two-horned Astarte, which for the first time enables us to realise the conception which was formed of this obscure deity by her worshippers.

The southern central pit yielded another discovery of the first importance—the Castle of Simon Maccabæus, identified as such by the curious imprecation scratched on one of the building stones. Over the ruin of part of this castle was a very extraordinary bath-system, quite one of the most remarkable buildings yet found in Palestine.

In the eastern pit the proportion of interesting antiquities was perhaps slightly behind that in the other pits; yet this also contained one 'find' of great importance—I refer to the now famous Troglodyte Crematorium, which was at the time the first pre-Israelite burial place to be found in Palestine. Since then others have been found in Gezer, Megiddo, and Taanach.

In this connexion I must not omit to call to your attention an important section of the work at Gezer—I refer to the investigation of the tombs surrounding the hill: and perhaps I can best illustrate this by shewing one or two photographs, taken principally by magnesium light, of the various types of tomb-chambers. [Lantern slides illustrative of the finds were shewn and explained.]

Let us turn now from the past to the future, and consider what are our prospects of success with a new permit if it please the Imperial Ottoman Government to grant it to us. A site has been chosen—for the moment it is inexpedient formally to publish its locality—in which there is every reason to hope for a successful campaign. Remembering that not only at Gezer, but also at Taanach by the Austrians, and Megiddo by the Germans, important discoveries have been made during the past few years, we may look forward with much more confidence than would have been justified five or six years ago, to large additions to our knowledge of ancient Palestine in the near future. I would call to your recollection the great hoard of cuneiform tablets from Taanach, and the seal with the name of Jeroboam from Megiddo, as encouragements to the pioneer Society to persevere in its researches.

Other work lies before our Society. In the course of some topographical researches on which I have been just now engaged, I have been much impressed by the uncertainty that still broods over many of the identifications of Biblical sites. Since these were proposed, new criteria have come into existence with the advance of our knowledge of Palestinian antiquities. These criteria must now be applied, and we must expect very important revisions to take place which must ultimately greatly further the study of Bible history.

This leads me to the last point I shall mention this afternoon—the bearing of Palestine exploration on Bible study. For it is undoubtedly this aspect of the work which appeals to the majority of its supporters. Some of these may complain that the accumulation of measurements of tombs, of facts about pottery and scarabs,

and other antiquities, such as have been shewn on the screen, may be interesting, but have no definite bearing upon their special interest—the Bible and its message. To these I answer, *You never know* when a fact, apparently of mere archæological interest, may prove full of suggestion for the Bible student. Measurements may lead to important facts on the cubit and objects measured thereby; pottery may lead to important identifications of places; scarabs may illuminate some obscure page by shewing where and when Egyptian influence came in to complicate the course of history, and thus explain references otherwise unintelligible. Who would have expected a basket full of jar handles, stamped with potters' names, to illustrate the Bible? Yet such a collection has smoothed away difficulties in a passage in the Book of Chronicles that has been an enigma to every generation of commentators.

Palestine is *not* poor in antiquities yet, though the ravages of dealers, their agents and their customers are rapidly making it so. It was a sad day for archæology when about fifteen years ago a tomb-robber from the village of Kubab visited Beit Jibrin and awoke the people there to the fact of tombs lying around their village. Had an exploring party attacked the cemetery before then the resulting work would have been one of the most magnificent contributions to archæology ever published. But when the greedy natives were awakened to the treasures around them they neglected their fields for this more lucrative and exciting harvest. During the three months that Dr. Bliss and I were there our short time was completely taken up by the *Tell*; we opened a few tombs, but the results did not happen to be encouraging. Had we hit upon the tomb of Apollophanes, afterwards discovered by the fellahin, and brought to the knowledge of the scientific world by Drs. Thiersch and Peters, we should have found it with its contents intact. As it was, they were sold to dealers for £50 and dispersed, and we shall never know what treasures that magnificent tomb contained. I have been shown a leaden tablet closely written in Greek but so fragmentary as to be unintelligible. The creature who owned it blandly informed me that he had torn it to fragments, and was selling it piecemeal to tourists at 20 francs the scrap, as he could get more for it that way. When such depredations are going on; when wealthy travellers are, in plain English, such fools as to give large sums of money for objects rendered valueless by being torn from their contexts and mutilated thus; when the craze for that detestable rubbish,

iridescent glass, is causing wholesale destruction in almost every important site in the country; it behoves us to be unsparing of energy ourselves, and to welcome every other exploration agency that shall forestall these sordid thieves and receivers.

But while welcoming kindred societies, let us not drop behind them. We have a great record of work in the past; let us look forward, individually and as an association, to a yet greater record in the future. Let each member take his share of the burden of work. Let half-guinea subscribers, who possibly can, be persuaded, for the next two or three years at least, to give a guinea: let those who cannot see their way to do so, try and persuade at least one friend to become a subscriber to the Society. During the last firman the fund put £100 per month at my disposal, which enabled me to employ 80 labourers: and I think I may fairly claim that the results have been worth the expenditure. This time I ask straightforwardly to be entrusted with £200 per month; to be enabled to employ 160 workmen, like my fellow-explorers at Taanach and Megiddo: and I promise that it will not be my fault if the total results be not of doubled value.

The CHAIRMAN.—Ladies and Gentlemen,—It will be my pleasing duty to ask you to convey the thanks of the Meeting to Mr. Macalister, but before doing so I propose, with your indulgence, to say a few words generally upon the work of the Society. Never since the works have been carried on under the Palestine Exploration Fund have they been carried out more satisfactorily or more systematically than they have been recently under Mr. Macalister. And what I should like to point out is, that during the forty-one years we have been working, each officer has improved upon the one going before, by his mistakes and by his successes, so that now the work is being done in the most approved and systematic manner. And I would support and endorse very strongly what Mr. Macalister has been speaking about—getting things in numbers and averages. It is a most important point in collecting little articles of antiquity, very often not knowing what they lead to, to put them together and bring them into the Museum so that they can be compared. We do not know in what way hereafter we may corroborate many matters mentioned in the Bible, and I am so glad Mr. Macalister mentioned that, because I intended to speak about it even before he alluded to

it. I was very much struck the other day in going over some work of Prof. Petrie's in Egypt, who was one of our officers, with the care with which he had got together thousands of weights in some of his studies, and had taken the averages; and they were of the greatest use to me in getting the correct ideas of certain weights I wanted to find out about. It is the same with all these matters, the importance of getting together these small things, having them ready for comparison, and not putting them on one side. It is really most pleasing to find that the same view is being carried out right through the work from the very beginning. I mentioned that in 1865 Sir Charles Wilson proposed that the excavations should be carried out in Jerusalem. They were carried on for three or four years, until the firman ran out, and then the question arose, what was the best work to be carried on? And I was asked my opinion about it. I said, "There is no question about it whatever that what is wanted is a Survey of Palestine, because what is underneath the ground will remain there until it is excavated, while what is on the surface is being carried away day by day." The consequence was, the Palestine Exploration Fund acting by Colonel Conder and Lord Kitchener carried out a work through which so much has been recovered with reference to the Bible. After the Survey was completed, other works were taken up one after another by Prof. Petrie, Dr. Bliss, Dr. Hull, Mr. Macalister and Mr. Dickie, and others I have not time to mention. But the question now arises, for the future what work shall be done? Now the work carried out by Mr. Macalister in Gezer and other places, although much of what is found is of a time anterior to our historical accounts in the Bible, still there are most important side-lights upon that history—I won't go into them now because Mr. Macalister has mentioned them to you in various ways—the points bearing upon Biblical history. One of the matters I should like to point out to you is that as we go on and find out, and as controversy subsides, there is less and less interest on the part of the public in the work we are carrying on. You know as long as there is controversy people get heated about their opinions, and they will back their opinions and give money to see the work carried through, if only to see whether their opinions are correct or not. When controversy is put on one side in the work that is going on there is less interest, and therefore the more we find out and the more work is done, the less outside interest there will be

in the explorations, and I must ask you to remember that in subscribing to the Fund and helping the Fund, that the more we make clear, the less we are likely to get from the general public, because the less interest there will be taken in the matter. Now one point, I think, that is very interesting to us all, and upon which we want a great deal of consideration is that question of infant sacrifice. At present there is a good deal of speculation about it, but we want more investigations in order to get a clearer idea of the subject of worship in the high places and infant sacrifices which are so often mentioned in the Bible, and of which we know comparatively so little. I am sure that the systematic explorations carried out within the last six years have done an immense deal to clear up the curious history of those early pre-Israelite days in Canaan; and a great deal of light has been thrown upon the subject of Jebus, that is the Jerusalem before David and Jericho, by what has been discovered lately, as you have heard from Mr. Macalister. In former days it was not necessary so much to look below the surface, because we thought things would remain, but, as Mr. Macalister mentioned, the fellahin are beginning to pillage the tombs in all directions; so that it is not only on the surface, but below the surface we ought to set to work and do what we can. We ought, if we possibly can, to take up some work which will enable us to examine those places where we think the natives are but too likely to examine the tombs for themselves. There is an immense deal of work to be carried out all over the country; and after what Mr. Macalister said just now about there being new views of things, one feels, although so much has been discovered relating to the Bible, that on many points we have absolutely different views, and that there are places which ought to be examined over again, because we look at matters now in a different light from what we did, and that many points that were not thought about in former days ought to be re-examined. Therefore, I feel that we owe a great deal of gratitude to Mr. Macalister for the way in which he has carried out these excavations and brought so much light, and individually assisted us so much in obtaining a better insight into those disputed points which are mentioned in the early history of the pre-Israelite times. I have great pleasure in proposing a hearty Vote of Thanks to Mr. Macalister for his Address, and for his services in Palestine, which I will ask you to convey to him by acclamation. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN.—The fourth resolution is a Vote of Thanks to the Management of the Royal Institution for the use of their Lecture Theatre, and it is to be proposed by Sir Charles Watson and seconded by the Rev. Arthur Carr.

Sir CHARLES WATSON.—This resolution is one which I am sure we shall pass with cordial gratitude. You can all understand it is not very easy to get a hall for an afternoon meeting where magic lantern slides can be shown. There is often very great difficulty in keeping out the sunlight, but in this room they have such a magnificent scientific arrangement that it makes it as dark as night without the least trouble. The room is very suitable for the purpose, and we owe a debt of gratitude to the Management of the Royal Institution for having been so good as to lend us the room for this occasion.

Rev. ARTHUR CARR.—I have very great pleasure in seconding this resolution. It is of immense assistance to our work to have an admirable room like this lent for the purpose on these occasions.

The CHAIRMAN put the resolution to the Meeting and declared it carried.

The SECRETARY.—There is one other resolution which I am quite sure all of you will agree that we cannot separate without moving and passing, that is a Vote of Thanks to our Chairman for presiding at the Meeting this afternoon. Sir Charles Warren alluded to the work at Jerusalem, but did not mention that we probably know more about the underground Jerusalem from his labours than we do from those of anyone else. It is now so long ago that we are apt to forget to whom we owe these early works of investigation, but none will remain more valuable than the work conducted by Sir Charles Warren himself. I beg to propose that the thanks of the Meeting be cordially given to Sir Charles Warren for presiding this afternoon.

Mr. HERBERT BIRCH.—May I be allowed, sir, to second that. I had the pleasure of being a Member of the General Committee for thirty years, and I have followed the work with deep interest. It is thirty-one years since I camped alongside Colonel Conder, and followed with much interest the map-making. Travelling through Palestine then was much more difficult than it is to-day. Notwith-

standing a strenuous life, the details of the examination of tombs left on my mind an indelible impression that it is in those tombs and in the underground excavations that the most valuable matter will probably be found in the future. I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution was put to the Meeting and carried unanimously.

The proceedings then terminated.

WEIGHTS FOUND IN JERUSALEM.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ANCIENT SYSTEM OF WEIGHTS,
SHOWING THE DERIVATION OF THE STONE WEIGHTS
FOUND IN THE EXCAVATIONS AT JERUSALEM IN 1867-1870,
AT OPHEL, ROBINSON'S ARCH., &c. (*P.E.F.Q.S.*, 1870, p. 336).

By General Sir CHARLES WARREN, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., F.R.S., R.E.

I have many times attempted to come to some conclusion as to these weights, but have always failed to do so until I tested them by Troy grains, and the later Egyptian Kat, weighing about 145·5 grains Troy. I am now able to show, that these weights are measured by grains Troy, and are to be referred to the Troy pound of 5,760 grains Troy (of 12 ounces), and to the old European Commercial pound of 7,200 grains Troy (of 16 Troy ounces), and that these pounds have been raised to their existing weights at some period (uncertain) from the ancient Tower pound (5,400 G.T.), and from the ancient Hon (6,750 G.T.), both of which weights are familiar to us, as they were our standard weights in England; the Hon having been suppressed in 1326 A.D., and the Tower pound in 1527 A.D. In order to show how this has come about, it is necessary to go somewhat into detailed considerations of the early weights and measures.

(1) Our Troy grain has lost about 1 per cent. in weight: so that originally there were 250 Troy grains to a cubic inch of water.