

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund was held on June 26th at the Royal Institution, the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Winchester in the chair. There was a good attendance, and the greatest interest was taken in the account of the Fund's work. Sir Charles Watson gave a summary of the results of Mr. Macalister's excavations at Gezer, including the most recent discoveries made since the resumption of work. These will be found fully described in the first of the Second Series of Reports, and quite suffice to show that there is every reason to hope for a continued good harvest of solid results. Sir Charles Watson drew the attention of the audience to the fact that the new permit will last for two years, and that this will allow time for the complete excavation of Gezer if only sufficient funds are forthcoming. A full notice of the proceedings is given with this number (pages 175-183). (For the special donations to this Fund received during the past quarter, see below, page 172.)

A very able summary of the several recent excavations in Palestine, and their results as affecting a knowledge of Bible history and a better comprehension of incidents narrated in the Bible, has been written in a paper by Dr. Gurney Masterman, and read at the Victoria Institute on May 13th last. Dr. Masterman is a member of our General Committee, and a valuable contributor to our *Quarterly*. He is now stationed at Şafed. His long residence in Palestine, his intimate knowledge of the natives, his culture, and his earnest study of all that bears upon Palestinian history and recent research, as well as his trained habits of accurate observation, make him a valued coadjutor in a district which is somewhat remote from our present field of operations.

Four beautiful water-colour drawings by the late Henry Harper, who was a member of the Executive Committee for many years, have been presented to the Committee by Mrs. Thornton of Cadogan Gardens. They represent "The so-called Skull Hill," "The interior of the 'Gordon' Tomb," "The Pool of Bethesda," and "A View of Hermon from the hill above Nazareth"; and form a valuable addition to the pictures by the same artist previously presented by Mr. Walter Morrison.

Travellers in Palestine will do well to avoid single pedestrian excursions into unfrequented districts. Although much safer now than it was a few years ago, it must be remembered that until very lately many districts were notoriously unsafe, and the inhabitants given to robbery whenever chance afforded opportunity. We learn from *Home Words* that in January an English traveller, unarmed and ignorant of the language, set out on a walking expedition and lost his way between the north end of the Lake of Galilee and Şafed. He was attacked with stones and robbed by two peasants, and eventually made his way in a very exhausted state to the hospice at Tabagha, and thence under escort to Şafed. By the aid of Dr. Masterman and the British Consular Agent, Mr. L. Miklasiewicz, the exact locality and the thieves were identified.

Subsequently most of the stolen money was recovered by a simple "Oriental" method. Five soldiers and their horses were quartered on the village of the delinquents. As, at the end of four days, no effect was produced, the head man was informed that the number would be increased to fifteen. Immediately the purse and the money were produced upon assurance that there should not be a legal prosecution. The offenders had also to pay all expenses. These villagers have, it appears, been for some time making depositions and robbing defenceless persons. The traveller, as a result of the exposure and anxiety, was laid up in the Mission Hospital at Şafed for ten days with malarial fever.

At Jerusalem on Easter Sunday there was a very large gathering on the Mount of Olives, in order to witness the laying of the foundation-stone of the Sanatorium which is now being erected there under the auspices of their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Germany. The Governor of Jerusalem and the different Consuls and representatives of the various religious com-

munities, Christian, Jewish, and Moslem, in the Holy City, were present at the interesting ceremony, to conduct which the Imperial Delegates, Freiherr von Mirbach, and the Senior Court-Preacher, the very Reverend Dr. Dryander, had been expressly sent from Berlin to Jerusalem.

Dr. Wheeler reports that the quarter ending March 31st was a fairly busy one for the Hospital at Jerusalem: "We had to close the wards during the Passover week, both on account of the feast and for cleaning purposes. The out-patient departments and the home-visiting continued without interruption. We have had a number of interesting cases, several of them from Egypt and Jaffa. The return for the quarter was:—In-patients, 260; out-patients, 3,000; dressings, 3,974; home visits, 1,865; prescriptions, 7,091."

The foundations of the out-patient extension have been laid, and it is hoped that the building will soon be finished.

"Many of our readers," says Dr. Wheeler in *Home Words*, "will be wondering at the 'gap' between our Easter and that of the Greek Church, ours having taken place on 31st March, and the Greek Easter not coming off till the 5th May. It will be of interest, then, to point out that in the Eastern Church, adhering to the old style of the calendar (Julian style), Easter falls this year five weeks after ours, on the day called in the Julian calendar April 22nd, but in ours—the Gregorian—May 5th. It occurred last year, on the same real day, by both calendars, the day reckoned April the 2nd in the east being the same as that called April 1st in the west. The reason of the difference is, that this year our paschal (the calendar, not the actual) full-moon was on March 27th, whereas the Julian style, making the dates thirteen days earlier, has to call the preceding full-moon the paschal one, as being the next after March 21st. England adopted the New Style in 1752."

Whilst digging the foundations of an enlargement of St. George's Church, some very interesting tombs were lately discovered. They belong to the class found in an ancient necropolis described at some length by Professor Clermont-Ganneau in Vol. I of his "Archæological Researches," pp. 248-251.

At the well-known Tell near Ain es-Sultan, near er-Rihâ, an Austrian Society is commencing to excavate the remains of ancient

Jericho ; the director, Prof. Sellin, has already discovered an ancient city wall. At Sebustiyeh Prof. Reissner, on behalf of an American Society, is just commencing the exploration of the great Tell which now contains all that remains of the once famous capital of the kingdom of Israel—Samaria. This is a gigantic task which, to do properly, will need great resources. Gezer, Jericho, and Samaria. Could three more important cities in the whole History of Palestine be brought under the pick and shovel? It may be said with confidence that never have Biblical archæological explorations in this land commenced under more favourable auspices, nor at more helpful sites. While the Austrians look after Jericho, and the Americans Samaria, let us all see to it that, in this friendly international competition, the work of the old Palestine Exploration—which may be called English and American—does not languish for want of funds.

The authorities have taken in hand the construction of the section of carriage road so long left incomplete between Jerusalem and Nâblus. Although the really difficult mountain descents are still to be begun, much has been done on the last parts, and if the work is continued with the energy with which it was begun during the early part of April, it should be finished this summer.

The Nebi Mûsa road is being rapidly completed, and though that part which goes to Jericho is a very wide detour as compared with the old carriage road, it should be of great use for a return journey ; the old ascent is a terrible strain on the horses. The new road is distinctly picturesque, though one misses the peep into the wonderful gorge of the Wady Kelt which is such a memorable feature of the old road. If travellers by carriage could in the future go by the one route and return by the other, the drive to Jericho would be most interesting ; the fear is that the former will be allowed to lapse into utter disrepair.

Damascus. On February 7th, in the presence of the Governor-General of the province, and the General Commanding the Fifth Army Corps, besides the foreign consuls, civil and military officials, and other notables, the new electric street cars and street lighting service were handed over to the "Société Ottomane Impériale des Tramways et d'Éclairage Électrique de Damas." The cars were

to begin running on March 14th, the opening of the Mohammedan fiscal year. Damascus is now lighted by 1,000 electric street lamps, besides lights in the Great Mosque, and private lights will soon be in use. A generating station is established on the Barada river. The installation is by a Belgian company, and the cars, motors, and dynamos are Belgian, but some of the apparatus is from England, France, and Germany. So one of the oldest historical cities is now lit by electricity.

A legacy of two thousand dollars has been left to the Fund by Miss Mary Ropes of Salem, Mass., U.S.A., who had not been a subscriber, but was a friend of Professor Theodore Wright, our valued Hon. Secretary in America. He was, however, quite unaware of her intention. It is much to be hoped that this bequest may be handed over to the Society in time to assist the present excavations.

We understand that serious objection has been taken to the authenticity of the position of the inscribed stone relating to St. Stephen's Church, an account of which was given in the April *Quarterly Statement* by Mr. Spyridonidis. The stone itself is genuine, but is said to have been seen in another locality in 1904. In all probability more will be heard of the subject.

Dr. Selah Merrill is leaving Jerusalem shortly through promotion in the United States Consular Service. He is an enthusiastic student of Palestine, and has been a contributor to the *Quarterly Statement* from 1876 onwards. He will be greatly missed in Jerusalem, where he has made many friends, and his deep interest in the Fund has been manifested on many occasions.

Owing to the pressure of space the "Notice of Publications and Foreign Journals" has been unavoidably held over. P. Vincent's recently published *Canaan d'après l'Exploration Récente* is a wonderful piece of pioneering work, which will be indispensable for future students of ancient Palestinian history. We hope to publish a review of it in the next number. Prof. Montgomery's *The Samaritans, their History, Theology, and Literature*, which has just reached us, is another excellent work full of careful research and independent examination of the problems which this, the earliest

Jewish sect, furnish. Both books are necessary additions to the libraries of all interested in Palestine. M. l'Abbé Curtet sends us *La Terre Sainte*, a book consisting of excerpts from other books which illustrate the manners and customs of the Israelites. It is intended for "the practical study of the Bible;" it certainly contains numerous interesting extracts, and, considering its cheapness (only 2 fr. 50), ought to find a large sale. It is to be had direct from the author, and the profits will go to the furtherance of Catholic work in the Holy Land. (See also below, p. 173.)

"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., etc., 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."

The first edition of Mr. Macalister's work, "Bible Sidelights from the Mounds of Gezer," is already sold out, and a second edition is now on sale. 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.

The *Painted Tombs of Marissa*, recently published by the Fund, is now recognized as a very important contribution to the history and archæology of Palestine in the last centuries before our era. It may be mentioned that the leaflet containing the result of the investigations by Mr. Macalister at the Tombs has been published, and can be had on application to the Acting Secretary by those who possess the volume.

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 are sent by Mr. Macalister, illustrating the excavations at Gezer and which are not reproduced in his quarterly reports, 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, 7d. Also to the *Meteorological Observations at Jerusalem*, with tables and diagrams by the late Mr. James Glaisher, F.R.S. Tourists and all desirous of accurate information about the climate of Jerusalem should not fail to send for a copy, price 2s. 6d.

The attention of subscribers is also called to a work by Sir Charles Warren, entitled "The Ancient Cubit and our Weights and Measures." He brings evidence to show that all weights and measures (except those of the metrical system) are derived from one source—the double-cubit cubed of Babylonia.

The Museum and Library of the Palestine Exploration Fund at Jerusalem are in the Bishop's Buildings, near the Tombs of the Kings, where the use of a room has been kindly permitted by the Rev. Dr. Blyth, Bishop in Jerusalem and the East. The Museum is open daily, except Sundays, and the Honorary Secretary, Dr. D'Erf Wheeler, will give all information necessary.

The "Flora of Syria, Palestine, and Sinai," by the Rev. George E. Post, M.D., Beirût, Syria, containing descriptions of all the Phaenogams and Acrogens of the region, and illustrated by 441 woodcuts, may be had at the office of the Fund, price 21s.

The income of the Society from March 19th to June 24th, 1907, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £386 10s. 10d.; from sales of publications, &c., £54 5s. 2d.; making in all, £440 16s. 0d. The expenditure during the same period was £590 4s. 7d. On June 24th the balance in the bank was £232 12s. 11d.

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, as the outgoings on the excavations at Gezer will be a heavy drain on the funds. The special donations during the quarter have been received from :—

Miss Gould	...	...	...	\$500·00
Walter Morrison, Esq.	...	...	...	£20 0 0
James Hilton, Esq.	...	...	...	£10 0 0
James Melrose, Esq.	...	...	...	£5 0 0
Mrs. Cudworth	...	...	...	£5 0 0

Subscribers to the Fund are reminded that, whilst the receipt of every subscription and contribution is promptly acknowledged by the Acting Secretary, they are now published annually, and not quarterly. A complete List of Subscribers and Subscriptions for 1906 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.

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 $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the inch and measures 3' 6" × 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 prices.

The Committee acknowledge with thanks the following:—

"Études Bibliques: Canaan d'après l'Exploration Récente." By P. Hugues Vincent.

"The Samaritans, the earliest Jewish Sect; their history, theology, and literature." Prof. J. A. Montgomery (Philadelphia).

"La Terre-Sainte, autrefois, par aujourd'hui; Études de mœurs et documents divers pour l'étude pratique de la Bible, tirés des auteurs les plus compétents, recueillis et mis en ordre." By the Abbé Curtet (aumônier à Groissiat, par Martignat, Ain). Price 2 fr. 50 ("au profit des Œuvres Catholiques de Terre-Sainte").

"Palaestina : Organ für die wirtschaftliche und kulturelle Erschließung des Landes," 1907.

"Jérusalem, Publication Mensuelle Illustrée," March, 1907.

NEA ΣΙΩΝ, January, March, 1907.

"Al-Mashrik : Revue Catholique Orientale Bimensuelle." "Causeries géographiques sur la Syrie," by P. H. Lammens; "Monographie du Liban," by M^r. Em. Khacho; etc., etc.

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.