

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Second Report, since the resumption of the excavation of Gezer, furnishes many new and varied items of interest. Some early Christian tombs, Byzantine objects, a good example of a Roman bath, and sundry remains of the Hellenistic period, are among the features of the relatively later ages. For older times, Mr. Macalister records that another "high-place" has now been found; it has a row of stones similar in some respects to the famous alignment discovered previously. Hard by was a curious foundation-sacrifice. The discovery of a zodiacal tablet in débris contemporary with the Amarna period will excite general discussion, and in view of the general resemblance which it bears to the familiar Babylonian examples, the presence of astronomical symbolism in Ancient Palestine is significant. Mention may also be made of a very fine Babylonian seal of a somewhat later period. Both appear to represent native forms. Apart from a later inscribed weight, legible, but of unknown interpretation, the chief epigraphical novelty is a small stamped jar-handle, the writing on which appears to find its closest analogy in the old Aramean inscription of Bar-rekub at Zenjirli. But who or what is meant by its legend *h-y-r-t* is a problem which must be left for others to solve.

Prof. Sellin's excavation at Jericho has already revealed many interesting features. He has found an old Canaanite castle, one of the best specimens of its kind. The objects deposited therein were more suggestive than informing: potsherds with animal figures in fine relief, bronze hatchets, and close by, twenty-two small unburnt-clay-tablets, evidently for use—but (unfortunately for the excavator) without any writing! A clay idol with an ox-head (the horns broken off), the whole only 8 centimetres in height, was found in the same place. The city-wall was also reached; its appearance at once reminded Prof. Sellin of Babylonian types. Strange to say,

steps were found leading from the top of the wall to the plain. The ruins of a private house, or rather of a series of buildings raised each upon its predecessor, gave household articles of all periods; but even the topmost were Canaanite, so that a lengthy duration of this culture seems to be involved. Here also were two clay-tablets—again not yet used; of particular interest was a stone idol, male, of primitive workmanship, about 20 cm. high. A jar-handle too, deserves mention as bearing two old Hebrew characters, one certainly a *yôd*, and the other “probably” *hê*. Prof. Sellin observes tentatively that this provides a very important argument for the view that the Canaanites already possessed the old alphabet (Phoenician—Moabite—Old Hebrew) about 1500 B.C. The publication of this jar-handle will be awaited with interest; meanwhile, it is to be observed that the evidence may admit of another explanation—the persistence of the culture of “about 1500 B.C.” to a date much later than commonly supposed.

In *Home Words for Jerusalem* for June, Dr. Wheeler gives the following account of the quarter's work:—

“There have been nearly a hundred in-patients more than for the same quarter last year, and yet we have had no epidemic of any kind up to this time. Fever has been more prevalent than usual, and we have had a greater number of children ill with it. We had an interesting case of congenital fever, *i.e.*, born with fever, of a baby of four months. The mother suffered severely from malaria before the birth of the child; and after; she attributes the baby's infection through her milk. These cases are very rare, and are of special interest. The child had a large spleen, and had regular attacks of fever in the Hospital. She improved gradually on quinine and good nursing. Several of our boys have been ill in the Hospital, but are now convalescent. We hope to have our out-patients' extension soon finished; we need it very badly. The numbers that come for dressings are very great, and at times there is hardly any room for them; for at the same time there are as many waiting for their prescriptions to be made up, and these together form a large crowd, all anxious to be attended to at once. There is naturally a good deal of jostling and impatience shown, but on the whole they behave well, and wait patiently for hours. The number of eye cases is increasing, especially among the infants. We have had some good operations. The nursing staff,

although reduced, are working excellently, and do all they can to meet the demands made on them. The Dispensary staff is very hard worked, as the long list of prescriptions show:—In-patients, 444; out-patients, 4,224; home visits, 1,349; dressings, 6,095; prescriptions, 9,549; receipts, 21,891.”

It may be mentioned that *Home Words* (Jerusalem) is giving a full reproduction of Mr. Macalister's recent article on the “Garden Tomb” for its interest to local readers.

Mr. Griffith has written to point out that the scarab represented in the last number of the *Quarterly Statement* (Plate I, no. 17, p. 199), gives the name of Rameses IV. This gives at any rate the upper limit of date, although a later date is not excluded for the workmanship.

Mr. Offord informs us of the discovery by Père Delattre at Carthage of a seal bearing the inscription “to Joab.” It has been assigned to the 7th or 6th century, and the script is probably Hebrew. It is worth mentioning if only on account of the seal “to Asaph” which Dr. Schumacher found at Tell el-Mutesellim (*Quarterly Statement*, p. 78 sq.).

Mr. J. Jamal reports that the amount of rain which fell in Jaffa during the winter season, commencing on October 7th, 1906, and ending April 9th, 1907, was as follows:—

3 days in October, 1906	...	·85 inches.
4 „ November, 1906	...	5·20 „
5 „ December, 1906	...	1·90 „
12 „ January, 1907	...	7·05 „
9 „ February, 1907	...	2·60 „
6 „ March, 1907	...	3·75 „
3 „ April, 1907	...	·90 „
42 days	22·25 inches.

In the preceding four winter seasons the rainfall in each has been as follows:—

In 1902-3	...	28·05 inches in 54 days.
„ 1903-4	...	15·64 „ 44 „
„ 1904-5	...	23·50 „ 63 „
„ 1905-6	...	24·62 „ 58 „

Thus the average for the last five seasons amounts to 22·80 inches.

Out of the forty-two chapters of *A Pilgrimage to Palestine*, by Mr. Charles G. Trumbull, nineteen chapters are devoted to Palestine. The story of the pilgrimage from New York to The World's Fourth Sunday School Convention, 1904, is told with a minuteness which would be irksome but for the way in which it is told. The volume is beautifully illustrated by well chosen photos, and the author's "first impressions" afford delightful and profitable reading. A chapter, written by the Rev. Everette Gill, and illustrated by a plan of the site from the *Quarterly Statement*, tells of a visit to the excavations at Gezer. Mr. Macalister delivered a lecture to the party on the site of the actual monuments.

Our Local Secretary at Liverpool, Mr. A. B. Thorburn, writes :—

"Seeing among the books presented to the Fund, *La Terre-Sainte, autrefois, par aujourd'hui*, I wrote to the author, the Abbé Curtet, Groissiat, par Martignat, France (Ain), and received his work, which I have read with much interest. He has collected a variety of extracts from the letters and works of French missionaries long resident in Palestine, and French ecclesiastics who have written about the country and people. His object has been to bring together facts as to the life of the modern inhabitants of the country, in order to show how little has changed in 2,000 and even 4,000 years, and how readily one can call up the scenes depicted in the New Testament and in the Old. In this he has been very successful, and he has obtained letters of commendation from his Holiness and from the Patriarch of Jerusalem, as having put it into the power of teachers and preachers to explain the Scriptures in a more vivid and interesting manner.

"To us the interest lies in these extracts from French authors, such as the Abbés Galeran, Vigouroux, and Fillion, as we are not so familiar with the works of French as with those of English and German writers."

"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. Price 5s. 4d., post free.

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 June 24th to September 20th, 1907, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £195 1s. 5*d.*; from sales of publications, &c., £129 14s. 0*d.*; making in all, £324 15s. 5*d.* The expenditure during the same period was £474 12s. 10*d.* On September 20th the balance in the bank was £82 15s. 6*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, 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:—

Walter Morrison, Esq., Hon. Treas. ...	£10	0	0
Mrs. Ellen Rothwell	£50	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 $6\frac{1}{4}$ 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 prices.

The Committee acknowledge with thanks the following :—

"Architecture, East and West." From the Author, R. Phene Spiers, Esq.

"The Annual of the British School at Athens." No. XII. Session 1905-6.

"Échos d'Orient," July, 1907.

"Jérusalem, Publication Mensuelle Illustrée," July, 1907. ("Pratiques et superstitions Juives," by S. Peitavi.)

NEA ΣΙΩΝ, 1907.

"Al-Mashrik : Revue Catholique Orientale Bimensuelle." "Les Merveilles du pays de Moab"; "Ibn Jubair et la Syrie au XII^e Siècle," by P. H. Lammens.

"Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale," by Prof. Clermont-Ganneau. Tome VIII, Livr. 2-5 : § 3. Topographie de la Jérusalem antique. § 4. Traditions arabes au pays de Moab. § 5. Légendes sur l'alouette. § 6. Le sépulcre de Abedrapsas. § 8. L'antique nécropole juive d'Alexandrie. § 9. Forgerons, poètes et musiciens. § 10. *Fiches et notules.*

"L'Architecture des Abbassides au IX^e Siècle." From the *Revue Archéologique.* By Général de Beylié.

"Gordon's Tomb and Golgotha." From the Author, A. W. Crawley-Boevey, Esq.

"The Itinerary of Benjamin of Tudela ; Critical Text, Translation, and Commentary." From the Author, Marcus Nathan Adler, M.A.

See also "Notices of Books and Foreign Publications," below pp. 307 *sqq.*

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.*