

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

The Forty-third Annual General Meeting of the above Fund was held at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, London, W., on Wednesday, June 17th, 1908, the Very Reverend the Dean of Westminster presiding.

The HON. SECRETARY read letters regretting absence from Dr. W. Aldis Wright, Col. R. C. Hellard, R.E., The Dean of Ely, Prof. T. G. Bonney, F.R.S., W. Lamplough, Esq., D. MacDonald, Esq., Rev. Wm. Henry Rogers, D.D., Prof. T. K. Cheyne, Rev. Arthur Carr, Mr. James Melrose, Rev. Montagu Butler, The Bishop of Ripon, etc.

The CHAIRMAN.—The first business that we have before us is somewhat of a formal nature. It is a resolution: That the Report and Accounts already printed and in the hands of subscribers be taken as read and be received and adopted. I beg to move that, and I will ask someone kindly to second it.

Col. ANGEL SCOTT seconded the Resolution and on being put to the Meeting it was carried unanimously.

The Hon. SECRETARY.—I regret to say that the General Committee has suffered the loss by death since our last Meeting of Mr. James Hilton, F.S.A., the Rev. Prof. Theodore Wright, who was for many years our Honorary Secretary in the United States of America, and whose death is a great loss to us, Major-General Sir Frederick Goldsmid, K.C.S.I., Col. Bramble and the Right Rev. S. W. Allen, Bishop of Shrewsbury.

Col. Sir CHARLES M. WATSON.—I beg to propose that the following gentlemen be added to the General Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund: The Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of Birmingham, Mr. E. C. Blech, now Consul at Jerusalem, who has shown a great interest in the work of the Fund, the Rev. Father Hugues Vincent of the École d'Archacologie, Jerusalem, who has done an immense amount of work for the research in Palestine

antiquities and who takes the greatest interest in the Fund, and Mr. Francis William Percival, F.S.A., who also takes a great interest in the work; Major-General C. E. Cumberland, R.E., and the Ven. Archdeacon Dowling, D.D.

The Rev. C. H. DRINKWATER seconded the Resolution, and on being put to the Meeting it was carried unanimously.

The Ven. Archdeacon DOWLING.—I have very great pleasure in moving: That the Executive Committee be re-elected, and I should like to be allowed to say one or two words. They are to this effect, that yesterday I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Lunn and proposing to him that instead of the ordinary tours that he makes in the steam yacht "Argonaut" there should be in future, beginning with next year, a camping tour throughout Palestine, and we think that this will be managed in the course of time, perhaps not immediately, but it will give the people who come an opportunity of passing through the country and not only visiting Jerusalem and Jericho, but of going through Samaria and Galilee, and so understanding something more about the inner life of the country. I have great pleasure in moving the Resolution.

Mr. HOLMAN HUNT seconded the Resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—I now have very great pleasure in calling upon Professor Alexander Macalister to describe the excavations at Gezer and the recent discoveries there. Professor Macalister is very well known to many of us. His extraordinary versatility enables him to take a valuable interest in a large number of subjects. I myself have some notes of a lecture which he delivered a good long while ago on "Early Religions in Egypt." His personal interests and personal investigations, I was going to say, extend from China to Peru; at any rate, they certainly have found a place in China, and we shall, I think, listen with very great interest to anything he has to say, partly for the sake of his son whose work has been so valuable and partly for the great pleasure it will be to us to welcome him and to listen to him. I call upon Professor Alexander Macalister.

Prof. ALEXANDER MACALISTER.—Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have been asked to describe the advances that have been made in the exploration of Gezer since the last Annual

Meeting. I come as the substitute for the Chairman of Committee, who asked me to take his place as he has been away, and, as his deputy, I shall describe the additions that have been made to our knowledge within the last year. I need say nothing in general about the earlier work at Gezer—this remarkable Levitical city situated on the border of the tribe of Ephraim which has now been under exploration for five years—as you are all familiar with its history and situation.

On the slide shown I have marked in ink the additions that have been made to the exploration within the last year. You will notice that the striated portions are where excavations have been made, during the former Iradeh ; but now since the second Iradeh all these portions marked in black have been excavated. During my last visit to the Tell, nine months ago, my son and I went over it carefully, measuring it to see what prospects there were of finishing the work during the existence of the present Iradeh. We found that of the surface within the city wall unfortunately nearly one-quarter is inaccessible, as that quarter is occupied by the farm buildings, the cemetery and the Wely ; I say, unfortunately, because I believe that that is one of the best portions of the city. Most of the recent finds that have been so interesting to us have been around the border of that inaccessible portion. Another quarter, or thereabouts, has been thoroughly and minutely examined and has yielded up all the information that can be got from it, and so a little less than a half yet remains to be done and we have only nine months to do it in ; therefore it behoves us during that nine months to employ sufficient labour in order that the work may be done as thoroughly as possible. In part of that half I believe the amount of *débris* is not very thick and consequently the work will progress more rapidly than before. Still it is a great amount of work to do in such a short time.

I shall recount, somewhat in chronological order, some of the more important finds that have been made within the last year, and in order that you may have an idea what the sequence is that I follow, I put on the screen this diagram. When excavations were made through the hill the surface stratum was one in which were the materials remaining from the old Hellenic and Maccabean settlement of Gazara. The Maccabeans were the last inhabitants who built upon it. Under that was an older city, dating back to the time of the Jewish occupation, which began, as you will

remember, when Solomon received the city as part of the dowry of his wife, Pharaoh's daughter. We will call this second stratum the Jewish. Under that there is a third stratum in which are the remains of the city that the Israelites found on the occasion of their immigration into the land, and which they were unable to take, and in which, for the two hundred years or so that intervened, the Israelites and the Canaanites lived side by side. That we will call the Exodus city. Under that there is a city from which the seven Tel el-Amarna letters were sent. This is the city that was taken by Thothmes. Under this again there lies an earlier Semitic settlement, showing a longer period of occupation even than the strata from Thothmes to the surface. And lastly, on the surface of the hill under all these there are the remains that were left of the cave-dwellers who lived there before any settlement on the land.

We will take our chronological events, then, from the surface downwards. One of the most important discoveries has been that while on the surface of the hill there was no sign of any settlement from the Maccabean age to the present, yet in the valleys all round there were traces of a fairly large population in Roman and in Christian times. At two places, one directly to the east, Khurbet Yerdeh, and another directly to the south-west, Abu-Shusheh, there were centres of population. These were in the neighbourhood of the two great wells in the valley from which their water supply was taken. One knows the importance of water supply in determining the settlement of people. And so we find when the fortified city ceased to exist as such, the people settled in the valley, and two series of deposits were found there. On the east and on the south-west were found numerous tombs containing within them Christian emblems. At El Kusa, there were the remains of a Christian Church, having a mosaic pavement. Here also was part of a stone cross. One of the most interesting remains of this date is a small earthenware paten in the middle of which is a fragment of glass cemented to its surface, probably covering a fragment of the eucharistic element. We know from the account given by St. Amphilochius that the practice of burying such with the body was practised by St. Basil in the fourth century, and was probably of much older date, as the further development of the ritual, the administration of the sacrament to the dead, was forbidden by the second Council of Carthage in

A.D. 379. Glass patens are extremely rare, but examples of them have been found. I am unaware of the existence of an earthenware paten in any collection. These, together with small bronze crosses, lamps inscribed with the cross, and one with a Greek inscription on it, show that there was a Christian population in the valley round about Gezer, probably between the third and the fifth century. The ruined Basilica at Latrun, about five miles off, is probably of this age.

Other remains of the period of Roman occupation occur at Khurbet Yerdeh. In the course of the harvest some years ago a small corner of mosaic pavement was exposed. When my son saw this and sent down a gang of men to clear the surface he found this mosaic pavement was a part of a great bath establishment; the entire bath house was something like 68 feet long by 58 feet wide, and although the walls were ruined its foundations remained and the plan of the house could be traced. From it there passed a well-built street drain, and on tracing it he found remains of foundations and houses. Probably there was something more to be found there, but the pressure of the work within the city wall was such that he had to withdraw his men from carrying out that portion of the work, having ascertained the fact that there was a Roman settlement in early times in the valley round the Tell. On the other side, north-west of the Tell, he found another portion of a Roman pavement, but all the material around it had been cleared away, so it is impossible to say of what kind of building this was the floor. These were the principal Christian and Roman remains in the immediate neighbourhood of the Tell itself.

Several new tombs of Hellenic and Maccabean age have been opened, and in several of them Ossuaries were found. These are common throughout Palestine and a number of interesting and very ornately inscribed Ossuaries came from the Hellenic graves about the Tell. The most important find of this period is a jar handle bearing an inscription in archaic Hebrew letters, and as this was found in company with some Rhodian jar handles which were dated, it is probable that this jar handle was of Maccabean age. The seal, which has archaic letters, has been the subject of comment in the *Quarterly Statement*. The other discoveries of this date, the Maccabean castle, the great system of Maccabean baths and the wall built by Simon, have been described at former Annual Meetings. I might just mention one fact which is certainly

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of interest to me and may be of interest to you, namely, that my son, finding that the tents were unsuitable in the rainy season, has cleared out a part of Simon's Palace and has roofed it over and is living in it, so that this Palace, which ceased to be occupied when Simon Maccabaeus went out of power, is now re-occupied by the Palestine Exploration Fund.

Passing on from the Maccabean period the further exploration of the stratum containing the Philistine graves has brought to light some pottery and some moulds for the casting of gold ornaments of elegant decorative forms. Professor Myers, who has seen and commented upon the drawings and casts of the materials found in these tombs, seems on the whole to think it probable that these graves have been correctly described as Philistine graves. There is certainly a fairly strong Cretan affinity shown by the art of these remains which shows a higher grade of culture than that of the ordinary Canaanite or Israelite, and clears the reputation of that little-known people from the ignorant stigma which is implied in the modern use of the name Philistine. In ancient times they were a cultured people. The lantern slide shows some specimens of silver work which they buried in one tomb; and several extremely beautiful pieces of pottery carefully painted have been found in another tomb, showing strong signs of Ægean influence. We have reason to believe, from the Biblical narrative, that the city was in Philistine hands in the time of David.

To this period, or perhaps to the later part of the age preceding it may be referred a symbolical foundation sacrifice in which the victims were represented by small bronze and silver models. In the earlier Canaanite city a remarkable foundation sacrifice consisted of two male victims buried with food vessels. The skeleton hand of one of these was placed in the food bowl as if to represent him partaking of the food which it contained. With this may be compared many previous finds of food vessels, under buildings, containing one or more finger joints. In this instance in addition to these human remains beneath the corner stone there was, in a cavity under the threshold, the upper half of the skeleton of a lad of about sixteen to eighteen years old, who like the girl found in the cistern during the first year of the exploration, had been sawn in two about the middle of the back. Here, as in the case of the girl, there were no vestiges left of the lower half of the body. This seems to render it probable that the former

example was not an accidental case of mutilation, but that there was some ritual purpose in the severing of the body. In another foundation sacrifice beneath a building near the approach to the temple about to be referred to, the head of a little girl of two-and-a-half years old lay on some potsherds covered with fragments of charcoal, and with these were some bones of a sheep or goat and a portion of a cow's tibia, the extremities of which had been trimmed with a knife. A later example of a foundation sacrifice which is reported is remarkable because the whole of the body of a goat had been buried with the human victim. Probably to about the same date may be referred a remarkable form of incense burner (see below, p. 211), resembling very closely one of the finds by Dr. Schumacher at Megiddo.

In the stratum of Tel-el-Amarna age was found the singular astronomical tablet which has been described and commented on in the *Quarterly Statement*. In this the sun, moon and one star—probably Venus—are delineated, together with figures representing the constellations Aries, Taurus, probably Gemini, Cancer (or the Tortoise) Leo (or Canis), Aquila, Spica, Libra (or the Yoke), Serpens, possibly representing the Ecliptic or the Milky Way, Scorpio, a barbed bolt probably indicating Sagittarius, Capricornus, Amphora and Pisces. All these forms closely resemble those which have been found on those Babylonian monuments known as Kudurrus or boundary stones; for example, the sitting or kneeling figure of the bull and the ladder-like basis upon which the fish stands. The clay tablet has received these impressions from a cylinder seal being rolled over it. The sequence can be better determined by comparing the different panels, as the tablet is badly cracked. The clay was unbaked, and although fairly firm, yet it had suffered damage even before its exhumation. Within the last two months in an earlier stratum, a somewhat similar, but not identical, series of figures has been found impressed on a seal. Several cylinders, undoubtedly Babylonian, have also been discovered. All these indicate some early connexion with, or intercourse between Gezer and Babylonia. The discovery of some blank tablets in size and shape resembling the commonest type of Babylonian or Assyrian tablet was disappointing, but it was interesting from the fact that Prof. Sellin found a similar set in Jericho.

While these are tokens that there was some connexion with Mesopotamia on the one side, the number of monuments connecting

Gezer with Egypt are far more numerous. The discovery of a large building stone on which the best part of a large hieroglyph, "Nub," was inscribed, may possibly indicate that some building existed there with an Egyptian inscription (see below, p. 201). A portion of a royal oval inscribed on a terra-cotta plaque was disappointing, as it was broken across just below the honorific titles. The oval of Rameses III was found on a sherd of a green enamelled vase, and numerous scarabs have also been found during the past year principally of the middle and early new Empire. It will be remembered that in former years many Egyptian remains have been described ranging from the remains of a slab of the VIth dynasty to the base of a small figure inscribed with the name of Naïfaarut, the last king of the XXIXth dynasty, about the year 379 B.C. Gezer was, therefore, politically and commercially in communication with Egypt during most of its existence as a City.

One of the most important and interesting remains of the Amorite period during the year was the new alignment of masseboth leading up to the temple, described last year, whose façade was probably supported on wooden pillars, the round stone discs supporting which were found *in situ*. You will remember there was found a large number of circular stones like cheeses in a row. I was very much struck in many cities in the middle of China to find that the front of the houses and in some cases the fronts of some of the temples had similar wooden pillars and underneath each pillar there was a circular disc of the same pattern. Of course it is one of those easily understood bits of construction required to make the pillar firm on an earthen floor. The stone was laid down and the pillar stood on top of it. Up to the temple an alignment of large pillar stones was found standing in a row, not quite as large as those of the great high place, but still a conspicuous row. Four, and the stump of a fifth were *in situ*, and some others had been worked up into lintel stones. In this connexion may be mentioned the great square rock cutting on what was part of the western ridge which in its outline and general appearance was singularly like the so-called high place at Petra which was discussed by Professor Driver in his recent lectures. There was no rock altar, but in the place where, in Petra, the altar stood there was a pit which may have been the basis of an earth altar such as that found in the great high place of Gezer. This is another illustration of the fact that at Gezer have been found examples of almost every kind

of ancient structure which have been described from other Palestinian sites, the one exception being the Taanach altar. But we know not what a day may bring forth.

The great tunnel which was lately found has been described in the *Quarterly Statement* for January and April, and will be fresh in your memory, and, consequently, I need say very little about it. An interesting article relating to it, by Father Vincent, is published in the *Quarterly Statement*, and to that I direct your attention (see below, pp. 218-229). This gigantic engineering work, executed about 2000 B.C. and abandoned 1500 B.C., has proved to be the sloping approach to a well. The tunnel is about as high as the "Twopenny Tube" and about half as wide, and descends by eighty steps gradually to a depth of 130 feet below the present surface of the hill, or 94 feet beneath the rock surface. The tunnel is so constructed that the light from its mouth falls down the shaft and illuminates the brink of the well where the water carrier stands to fill her pitcher. It is by far the greatest work which has been found in Palestine, and readers of Prof. George Adam Smith's monumental work on Jerusalem will appreciate the importance of this intra-mural water supply in a fortified city. The next slide will give you some idea of the size. This is a view taken in the tunnel itself.

Here is a view looking up the tunnel towards the opening. In excavating, in order to save time, steps were made to allow boys and girls carrying out the *debris* to climb up. This slide shows these at the side. Those shown in the centre are the ancient rock-cut steps down into the tunnel.

It seems descending from the sublime to the ridiculous to refer here to some of the smaller finds, but they have their interest. Among these are a little terra-cotta shrine or model of a house much like the curious ancient models found in Egypt. This is taken from a stratum dated about 2000 B.C. Of a little later age is the series of grotesque figures found in a hollow on the top of a tower of the ancient wall. Whether they were intended as portraits of the inhabitants I do not know, but they were found where they had been placed before 1500 B.C. Curious pottery of the second Semitic period with vertical lenticular cup-like appendages to the mouth have not been found elsewhere in Palestine. What the meaning of this vertical cup at the end of the mouth is, I do not know.

Coming now to the oldest period, that of the cave-dwellers, a discovery of singular interest has just come to light. A small

group of caves was found. Here is a plan of the entrance to the caves and here are the various chambers. The bottom of these caves were indented with cup markings. The date may be gathered from this, that over the mouth of the caves were eight strata of buildings, the earliest representing the first Semitic period and the third being contemporaneous with the XIIth dynasty of Egypt; that is going back at any rate 2000 B.C., so that the time when the cave-dwellers lived in these must have been long behind that. Upon the floor of one of these caves were a number of cup-markings of the familiar pattern. Those cup markings have been found in many other parts of Gezer. On the wall of the cave were found these extremely graphic linear pictures scored on the surface by the old cave-dwellers who lived at least 3000 years ago (below, pp. 216-217). These are the earliest examples of Palestinian art that have come down to us. And as these compare with and resemble those found in many caves in the south of France, they show that the dwellers in Palestine, in the Stone Age, had a great deal in common with those who lived in the South of France. They are mostly rude outlines of animals, generally cows, and comparable with those found in the caves of Cannstadt, Perigord and Laugerie Basse, and mostly of the type which the Abbé Breuil calls his fourth class of simple graffiti, not deeply incised and constructed of discontinuous lines. Some, however, are representatives of his first class with stiff, continuous, deeply cut lines.

Although it does not form any part of my commission, I should like to be allowed to add to this description four remarks. One, that only nine months remain in which to finish the excavations. And as experience has shown that every new pit reveals some object of historic or archaeological importance, if any large part of the Tell is left unworked we may miss material of significant value. Secondly, we are now only one of the three Societies in the field of excavation in Palestine, and although we are the oldest we are working under greater disadvantages than any of the others, having less money to spend and consequently being only able to afford one superintendent while the others have a much larger staff of experts. Thirdly, we have also the disadvantage that in spite of the value of the researches little public interest is taken in them. To illustrate this want of interest it is worth notice that in the index of Archaeological Papers which is periodically published by the Society of Antiquaries no notice is taken of the work of the

Society, and the papers in the *Quarterly Statement* are never catalogued. Fourthly, before the next meeting the excavations will be closed, and the Committee of the Fund will have to face the task of publishing the final Memoir. The publishing of this immense mass of material will be attended with considerable expense, but if it be not adequately and exhaustively set forth and illustrated, the exploration might as well have been left undone.

The CHAIRMAN.—I now call upon one who is very well known to many of us from his work, to some of us personally, Professor George Adam Smith, to address the meeting.

Professor GEORGE ADAM SMITH.—Mr. Dean, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour to submit for your acceptance the following resolution :—“That this Meeting desires to express its appreciation of the thorough and careful manner in which the excavations at Gezer are being conducted by Mr. Stewart Macalister, to whom they offer their congratulations.”

Before speaking more particularly to the terms of this resolution I may be allowed to say something with regard to the previous work of the Palestine Exploration Fund in general. The results of that work are so much a common-place in all further exploration of Palestine that we are in danger of forgetting how valuable they have been. They form the foundation, and will form the foundation for all time to come, of excavation and exploration of all kinds. But like every foundation they run the fate of being constantly used without being properly appreciated, and I should like to say one or two words this afternoon with a view of recalling to your minds how thorough, how accurate, how valuable, and how indispensable the great work of our Fund has been from first to last. Take, for instance, the great map. That map is absolutely indispensable, and will be for years to come to every geographer working within its limits. One is glad to note the recent surveys of provinces lying round the sphere of that map. These surveys have in every case started from the triangles laid down by the Engineering Officers who so ably conducted the Palestine Exploration Fund Survey. For instance, we all have used for many years Col. Conder's survey and map of the Ammonite and Moabite territory to the east of Jordan, but within the last year or two we for the first time know to the full how accurate and thorough Col. Conder's survey of that part of the country was. You may remember it had to be carried

through with extraordinary rapidity and in the face of a large number of obstacles put in the way of Col. Conder both by the authorities and by others. And now that the Turkish authorities have succeeded in reducing to order the provinces east of the Jordan and travellers come and go and other surveyors have been over the region, we are furnished with a number of proofs of how accurate and how sound Col. Conder's survey was. I feel that in the light of these testimonies of recent years tribute should be paid to that work. We are glad to see here present one who took part in it, Mr. Armstrong, to whom the Fund is so much indebted for all the work he has done. It has been my duty within the last month to go through the work and maps in which Herr Musil describes and has laid down the survey which he carried on not only over part of Col. Conder's territory, but to the south as far as the coast of the Red Sea. And I will say this, that in the part where Herr Musil's survey covers Col. Conder's, while the nomenclature in Herr Musil's more leisurely expeditions is perhaps more often to be preferred, from my own knowledge obtained upon two visits, I can say that I greatly prefer the way that Col. Conder has surveyed and mapped the natural features and the topography generally. Coming from that to another point, there are the excavations at Jerusalem in which our Society was practically the pioneer and in which it has done by far the greatest part of the work. Sir, it is usual for Britons to hear that while we have distinguished ourselves in many directions as pioneers, still our work has failed in comparison with German work in thoroughness and accuracy. Now it has been my duty during the last few years to go very carefully over both the German work and the British work which has been done from first to last in surveying and exploring Jerusalem, and I state it as my deliberate opinion that the British work, in any comparison, has nothing whatever to fear. In many cases it is the more accurate and the more thorough, if I dare make that comparison. We all know of course how Sir Charles Warren's and Sir Charles Wilson's labours in surveying Jerusalem and in excavating the surroundings of the Temple last to the present day in value, and must last always as the basis for any other work that is done upon the sacred city. One has only to look at the great new map which Herr Kuemmel has prepared, to see how very much he is indebted to Sir Charles Wilson and Sir Charles Warren, and other British

work for the materials of that map, and of the memoir by which it is accompanied. And then take Dr. Bliss's work, the work of another Agent of the Fund, round the southern part of the city. I have been over that, and I am able to say unhesitatingly that I do not know of any work done in or about Jerusalem which was done more thoroughly, or the presentation of which is more lucid, or the inferences and judgments upon which are more sane and proportioned than those of which Dr. Bliss, the Agent of this Fund, has been the author. It was his part in one portion of his field to work over a piece of land that had been already operated upon by workers of another Fund and another nationality, and Dr. Bliss succeeded in making important discoveries there, where they had failed a few years before, just because of the extra patience, the extra ability, and the extra thoroughness which he put into his work. Now, in coming to speak, if I am not detaining you too long, for a minute upon the particular subject of the resolution before us, I find myself in some difficulty. Three years ago at this meeting I had to speak of Mr. Macalister's work in Gezer as a witness and a grateful student of it, and I found I could speak of it only in superlatives. Well, sir, to-day after reading the reports of another year under the new Firman, and after reading and hearing the testimony of trained archaeologists of other nations who have visited Mr. Macalister and his work, all I feel I can do is to underline those superlatives which I used three years ago. Mr. Macalister of course in the first place has been singularly fortunate in his opportunities, and I should like first of all to emphasize how exceedingly fortunate he has been in his Committee. I should wish, sir, as an ordinary member of the Council of this Fund, to congratulate the Executive of the Fund upon its decision to work out thoroughly this one site of Gezer instead of, with the new Firman, departing to begin work upon another site. This may seem to be of less interest to the public. But I am sure it is this way of work which will tell in the long run, and in fact the report of this year's labours laid before you by Professor Macalister will show you that it is already beginning to tell in the most impressive and valuable manner. Then, in the second place, I think that we must congratulate Mr. Macalister on his good fortune with the Turkish Commissioners who have been appointed at various times to work along with him and on the friendly interest shown by the Turkish authorities generally in safeguard-

ing and helping his work. Now, of course, a great deal of that is due to Mr. Macalister himself, and to the constant honesty, candour and unselfishness which he has shown in all his work. By these qualities he has won in a most remarkable degree the confidence of the authorities. I should like to say also how much we owe to another gentleman in connection with this work, whose name I do not remember to have heard mentioned before, in connection with the work at Gezer, at an Annual Meeting. Mr. Macalister is fortunate in excavating a site which is not in possession of ignorant peasant proprietors but which is administered by a gentleman who is perfectly aware of, and sympathetic with, the great ends of the work. No one who has had the good fortune of making the acquaintance of Mr. Serapion Murad can fail to have been impressed with his culture or with the great sympathy which that culture enables him to show with all work in Palestine for the advancement of knowledge. Mr. Murad is the administrator of the Gezer Estate, upon which site Mr. Macalister is excavating, and one is glad to see in last year's report the special tribute that Mr. Macalister pays him. Mr. Macalister found, on going back with the new Firman to recommence the work that none of the buildings which he had exposed under the previous Firman had in any degree suffered from their long exposure, and he puts that down to the care and friendly interest of Mr. Murad. I feel that in passing this resolution we ought to keep in mind the gratitude of ourselves and all interested in this work to Mr. Murad. Then again, if I may say so in his presence, Mr. Macalister has also been exceedingly fortunate in his father. I do not think, sir, in the whole history of archaeology that any explorer or excavator had ever a father who was at once an expert archaeologist and an expert anatomist. If I may remind you, the story is told of Thomas Carlyle that on visiting for the first time his friend Richard Monckton Milnes he found that his young friend did not smoke and that he had a father who was very fond of smoking and a great connoisseur in tobacco. Looking through the mist of smoke in the library at young Milnes, Carlyle said, "Oh! Dicky, Dicky, what a father you have had wasted upon you." Now we feel Mr. Macalister has just had the kind of father that every archaeologist should possess, and that so far from being wasted upon him the two have worked together in a most admirable combination with the result of many discoveries and appreciations,

especially of those skeletons and skulls, some of which we saw, that would have been impossible unless the two had been working together. Well, in conclusion, with all these opportunities Mr. Macalister has shown during the past year the very same qualities as he displayed while working under the first Firman, the same wide knowledge of archacology, the same opulence, if I may put it that way, of archaeological knowledge, the same practical sagacity whether in conducting methods of excavation or in managing his workmen (which after all is a very important affair) and the same fertility of resource in suggestion, the same mobility of theory and opinion that distinguished his work in the years gone by. There is no need for me to go through what the results of that work have been; we have had them put before us by Professor Macalister this afternoon and we understand them. But, ladies and gentlemen, you will permit me before sitting down to emphasize two things, and the first of them is this: the extraordinary range of the work which Mr. Macalister has uncovered in Gezer. I know that there is no other site in Palestine, and I am almost sure that there is no other site in the whole world, which has been uncovered through such a long range of time, lasting from the stone age and troglodite caves, from before 2500 B.C., down to Roman baths and Byzantine churches. You have heard how much still remains to be done. Well, it seems to me, if I may use such strong language, little short of a scandal to the British public that this work should want so much the support which it needs. It is pointed out in one of the last numbers of the *Quarterly Statement* that if all of us who subscribe to the Palestine Exploration Fund would but double our subscriptions for one year the Society would be enabled to get over a great deal of the surface still remaining unexcavated before the next nine months are past and the Firman has run out. I hope all the subscribers will lay that to heart. I am sure I appeal to many here who can do more, and through them and through the Press to others throughout England who are interested in this great, and as I may call it, this sacred work, who could by several large subscriptions immediately raise the £500 or £1,000 which are required to carry Mr. Macalister's work to the perfection to which his ability and thoroughness will certainly carry it if only he has the means at his disposal. I have very much pleasure, sir, in moving the resolution.

Dr. PERCY D'ERF WHEELER.—Mr. Dean, ladies and gentlemen, I deem it a great honour to stand before you this afternoon to second the Resolution that has been so eloquently commented upon by Professor George Adam Smith. I am here in rather a unique position, both as one of the oldest residents in Jerusalem, where I have lived for nearly 23 years, and also as the Hon. Secretary of this Fund in Palestine. It has been my privilege to see much of the excavations done by Dr. Bliss, and with his name I couple that of Mr. Dickie, whose beautiful and wonderful drawings are known to all of us. And it is also my good fortune to have known Mr. Macalister, and to have seen a good deal of his work, especially that at Gezer. I believe I was one of the first to go down that wonderful rock-cut tunnel that he has just excavated; it is a marvellous piece of engineering work for those ancient times. It was also a curious experience to have had tea with Mr. Macalister in the castle or palace of Simon Maccabaeus. My words must be few because it is impossible to say much after the stirring address we have just listened to from Professor George Adam Smith. I can corroborate and underline the superlatives with which Professor George Adam Smith has described Mr. Macalister's work. He combines in his work efficiency, accuracy, and what is very important, economy. He is indeed fortunate in having the help of his father, Professor Macalister, of Cambridge. In seconding this Resolution I would plead with you on behalf of this Exploration Fund, to become one guinea subscribers. It is not very much for such an excellent and practical work; and I take this opportunity as one of the delegates from Jerusalem to the Pan-Anglican Congress, to press upon the Bishops, and upon the clergy—why, if only all the *Bishops* became subscribers, that would alone be a great help—the importance and necessity of helping forward such a work, especially when they remember how closely they are connected in a peculiar manner with that Holy Land from whence comes our knowledge of our Holy Faith, so much strengthened by discoveries made by the work accomplished by this fund.

The Resolution, on being put to the meeting, was carried by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN.—It would be impertinent on my part, ladies and gentlemen, to attempt to add anything to what has been said of the work of the Society here this afternoon by those who are

truly qualified to speak upon it. It has been a very great intellectual pleasure to listen to the extraordinary exposition which we have heard of the various layers of civilisation which have been in turn discovered and unearthed at Gezer. How is it we do not know more about this? How is it that I knew nothing about it at all until someone asked me a few years back to become a member of the Society and told me Dean Stanley had been one of its great supporters and that he had begun this work in the Jerusalem Chamber? Why was I not urged long before to join this Society? It seems to me the work of the Society is not at all as widely known as it deserves to be, and as for its interest it might be. I commend to the Committee, as a suggestion, that if in some way or other it could be brought more widely, say before the clergy, with a request that they would spread interest in the Society, a great deal more might be done. Of course the Society started with a great wave of interest and for a very long time the original subscribers carried on the work. But the time comes when death carries away those who have begun these great movements, and unless there is a constant effort to interest the younger students in these things, and to draw them in some way or other, it must inevitably be that the work of the Society must suffer because its finances from natural causes have begun to diminish. I trust that the suggestion Dr. Adam Smith so eloquently made to us will be carried out, and that we shall if possible all of us agree to double our subscriptions for this year. I shall be perfectly willing to double mine for this year in order that this particular piece of work may be properly put through. It seems to me that there is nothing more that I can say about the Society. My own line of study has not lain in the Old Testament specially, nor has the topography of Palestine been a matter to which I have had to give anything like serious attention. I think that we have generally to recognise the very great service which has been rendered to us, I will not say by the popularisation, because perhaps the word somewhat carries with it a suggestion of contempt, but if I could find some other word that was free from that, I would use it; at any rate, I do think we ought to recognise the very great service that Dr. George Adam Smith has rendered to us by bringing these things in an attractive form before the minds of the public generally. His works have been invaluable to theological students and to readers of the Bible;

and they have carried in an interesting and stimulating way a knowledge of a great deal of the work which this Society has done. I am now myself, in the midst of the attractions of this interesting month, struggling at night with, or rather, I am resting at night upon, his pleasant book on Jerusalem, and I commend that most heartily to you. I believe that that book in itself will be a stimulus which will be of use to the work of this Society. I now call on Sir Charles Watson.

Sir CHARLES WATSON.—I would ask your permission to call upon this meeting to give you a very hearty vote of thanks for having been so good as to come here, notwithstanding your numerous engagements, to preside over us on this occasion. You have alluded to the fact of Dean Stanley having taken an interest in the Society, and I think it is an interesting fact that it was just forty-three years ago since a meeting was held in the Jerusalem Chamber at Westminster under the auspices of Dean Stanley at which practically the Society was originally founded, and that it was Dean Stanley who was on the first Committee which drew up the first Prospectus as regards the work to be carried out, and also laid down the principles upon which the Society was to be guided. Those principles and the Prospectus have never been altered, and we are still carrying on the work which was started in Westminster Abbey. And I am glad that on this occasion, too, we should have a Dean of Westminster to preside over us and to take an interest in the work. I would ask you, ladies and gentlemen, to consider this Resolution to present a most hearty vote of thanks to the Dean for having presided over us, and I will ask Mr. Walter Morrison, who is one of the original Members of the Committee, to second the Resolution.

Mr. WALTER MORRISON.—Ladies and gentlemen, I second this Resolution with the greatest possible cordiality. I suppose I must be the only surviving member of the original General Committee, and, as you have heard, this Society took its birth in a very appropriate place, that of the Jerusalem Chamber, and Arthur Stanley was always very interested in the Fund and very good to us. Well, now, this is a special occasion for the English Church. There are bishops and clergymen from every part of the English-speaking world in our midst; we run across bishops in all the streets and everywhere, and it is only natural that they should

gravitate towards that place which may be regarded as almost the centre of the English-speaking world, that great Abbey of Westminster, of which we are all so very proud. And so I am very glad indeed, that on an occasion like this we should again have the Abbey of Westminster connected with the Palestine Fund. I thank the Dean on your behalf and on my own very heartily for his being able to find time among his numerous avocations to be with us to-day.

The Resolution, on being put to the Meeting, was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—I thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. I congratulate the Society on having been able to draw together so excellent a gathering at a time when our interests are scattered in so many directions.

The proceedings then terminated.
