

THE

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

THE Nineteenth Quarterly Report on the Excavation of Gezer will be found to contain many items of great interest. For some years it had been known that the Egyptian king, Merenptah, the latter half of the thirteenth century B.C., had seized Gezer. An ivory pectoral, bearing his cartouches, has now come to light. The curious stamped jar-handles have received an addition in one which has the name "Memshath," without the problematical "to the king" (?). An inscribed weight, dated in the third century B.C., is of interest as being the only dated object as yet found. A number of singular little "votive altars," found in the upper stratum, are covered with scenes which it will tax the ingenuity of the antiquarian to explain; Mr. Macalister throws out the conjecture that they come from a temple, possibly the one destroyed by Simon Maccabaeus. A unique object is the pottery model of a boat, dating from the time of the monarchy; one is naturally reminded of the naval activity of the age of Solomon and Jehoshaphat. In spite of some difficulty in obtaining labour, Mr. Macalister is able to report good progress in the systematic clearing of the mound. The trenches are being completed as quickly as possible, and it is necessary to remind our readers once more that the permit for the excavation of Gezer lapses next March.

A German appreciation of the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund will be gratifying to our readers and subscribers. It is given in the *Mittheilungen und Nachrichten des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins* for the current year (pp. 54 ff), by Dr. P. Thomsen, of Dresden. In introducing a detailed account with plans of Dr. Bliss's excavations on the South-west Hill and about Siloam, he speaks of "the brilliant results" of the latter: "A compilation of the reports

published in the *Quarterly Statements*, 1894-1897, is furnished in *Excavations at Jerusalem*, 1894-1897, by F. J. Bliss (plans and illustrations by A. C. Dickie), London, 1898, a volume of the highest value for the topography of Jerusalem. Apart from an article by Guthe ('On the Position of the Valley-Gate of Jerusalem,' *Mittheilungen und Nachrichten des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins*, 1895, pp. 10-15), and some papers named later on, the important results of this English undertaking have not yet been reviewed in German publications; they may, therefore, be put together here." Then follows a careful and appreciative account of Dr. Bliss's discoveries, with sketches reproducing his plans, by permission of the Palestine Exploration Fund.

Dr. Thiersch, who, with Dr. Peters, described the remarkable Painted Tombs in the Necropolis of Marissa (below, p. 266), sends us a reprint from the Annual of the Royal German Archaeological Institute in which he gives a general summary of the results achieved by the Palestine Exploration Fund in the excavation of Lachish.

We regret to have to announce the death of Mrs. Blyth, wife of the Bishop of Jerusalem. For some weeks her many friends had been very anxious about her health, which was affected by an illness in the beginning of May. The doctors decided that the best hope was that she should be taken home, as, being a lover of the sea, she was most likely to regain strength on the voyage. With the Bishop, and one of their daughters, she left Port Said on Tuesday, the 14th June, but died at sea on the following Saturday. A memorial service was held in St. George's Church on the 23rd.

Dr. Selah Merrill, whose book, *Ancient Jerusalem*, is reviewed in the present number, finds the climate in Georgetown, British Guiana, where he has been stationed as United States Consul, too trying, and has been ordered by his medical adviser to go to the States for a period of complete rest. He is now residing at Andover, Massachusetts.

An important article on "Hirudinea as Human Parasites in Palestine," from the pen of Dr. E. W. Gurney Masterman, appears in the journal *Parasitology*, June, 1908.

We have received from the Rev. Asad Mansur, of Nazareth, a copy of his new Arabic Geography of the Holy Land. It gives a list of biblical place-names with their modern identifications, and was drawn up for the use of the schools in the hope of raising the interest of the natives in the geography of their land. The price is 2s., with special allowance for schools.

Mr. Macalister writes that there has been a great plague of locusts in Jericho, and fears were entertained that they would move westwards and destroy the summer crops.

At the Fifteenth International Congress of Orientalists, held at Copenhagen, August 14th to 20th, the Palestine Exploration Fund was represented by Dr. C. D. Ginsburg of the Executive Committee. The editor was also present, as one of the representatives of the University of Cambridge, and both were among the relatively few Englishmen who contributed papers. We quote the following from *The Guardian* of September 9th:—"Dr. Ginsburg gave an account of his new and critical edition of the Hebrew Bible which is being printed as a memorial of the centenary of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Specimen pages were presented to the Congress, and Dr. Ginsburg explained that the text of Jacob ben Chayim (1524-5) was printed with the accentual and other variations from over seventy MSS. and twenty printed editions. Mr. Stanley Cook dealt with the excavations in Palestine. He observed that the archaeologists, who found no break in the culture of the land, confirm the critical view that there was no sweeping Israelite invasion. A subsequent marked deterioration in pottery formed a dividing line between the old culture and the later phases which overlapped with the Seleucid age, and he associated this feature with the history from the fall of Samaria to the Exile, when there were changes in the population. This period also marked a dividing-line in the religion and the legislature; and from the literary criticism, the earliest consecutive compilation in the Old Testament, the Deuteronomic, must date from the time when these vicissitudes were taking, if they had not already taken, place. He suggested that some of the details in the account of the Israelite invasion and settlement which were regarded as ideal or unhistorical, might really refer to the vicissitudes in and immediately after the Assyrian age."

The attention of those interested in the subject of the Exodus of the Israelites is called to a new map of the "Desert of the Wanderings," from Mount Hor on the east to the Suez Canal on the west, and from Mount Sinai in the south to Beersheba in the north, which has been compiled by the War Office, and is based principally upon the sketch surveys of the Palestine Exploration Fund (scale 4 miles to the inch). In eight sheets, price 1s. 6d. per sheet.

Judas Maccabæus, by Colonel C. R. Conder, R.E. This interesting little book was among those of which the whole edition was destroyed in the fire at Messrs. Bain's warehouse last year. It is now reprinted and can again be supplied (4s. 6d.) on application to the Secretary.

"*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*," was quickly 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 archaeologist, 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 archaeology 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 19th, 1908, to September 19th, 1908, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £574 12s. ; from sales of publications, &c., £54 14s. ; from lectures, £15 ; making in all, £644 6s. The expenditure during the same period was £524 13s. 5d. On September 19th the balance in the bank was £714 16s. 4d.

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. Special donations during the quarter have been received from—

	£	s.	d.
Walter Morrison, Esq., J.P., <i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	400	0	0
First instalment of legacy bequeathed by the late Miss Mary Ropes, of Salem, Mass., U.S.A., May 26th, 1908	...	205	2 7
Mrs. Schuster	...	20	0 0
H. E. Dixon, Esq.	...	9	0 0
Messrs. A. and C. Black	...	5	5 0
Mrs. Mackinnon	...	5	5 0
James Melrose, Esq.	...	5	0 0
		<u>£649</u>	<u>12 7</u>

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 1907 is given in the Annual Report published with the April number.

The Committee will be glad to communicate with ladies and gentlemen willing to help the Fund as Honorary Secretaries. The Rev. J. Garrow Duncan, The Manse, Kirkmichael, Ballindalloch, N.B., has kindly consented to act for Banffshire.

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

Miss Mary A. Wright, Honorary General Secretary to the Fund, 42, Quincy Street, Cambridge, Mass.

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.

A complete set of the *Quarterly Statements*, 1869-1905, containing the early letters (now scarce), 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.

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 :—

“Échos d'Orient,” July.

“Abou Samra Chanem ou Le Héros Libanais.” By Khalil Hamman Faiez. (In Arabic.)

“Palästina,” Heft 4. (Pastor Eberhard, on the Importance of Palestinian Exploration for the Bible, deals especially with Gezer.)

“The International Journal of Apocrypha,” July.

“The Biblical World,” June: “Chorazin and Bethsaida.” By Dr. Masterman.—“The Astro-Mythological School of Biblical Interpretation.” By Prof. G. A. Barton.—“The Jewish Colony and Temple at Assuan.” By J. M. P. Smith.—July: “The Entrance of Hamath.” By Prof. G. L. Robinson.

“American Journal of Philology,” Vol. XXIX, 2: “The Ancient Religions in Universal History.” By Grant Showerman.

“Hirudinea as Human Parasites in Palestine.” By Dr. E. W. G. Masterman. Reprinted from “Parasitology,” June, 1908.

“Al-Mashrik: Revue Catholique Orientale Mensuelle.”—“L'Agriculture dans l'Irac.” By Mag. J. R. Ghanimé.—“L'Histoire de Damas d'Ibn Qalânisi.” By P. L. Cheikho, S.J.

“Petra und seine Felsheiligtümer.” By Prof. Dr. Gustaf Dalman.

“Anciennes Civilisations Orientales” and “la Protohistoire Orientale.” By René Dussaud. (From the Association pour l'Enseignement des Sciences Anthropologiques.)

&c., &c.

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 authorized 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 for the same.

NOTE.—*Three Witnesses are necessary to a Will by the Law of the United
States of America, and Two by the Law of the United Kingdom.*

* * * As we go to press, Mr. Macalister reports that he has
discovered at Gezer a small limestone tablet bearing an inscription
in old Hebrew characters of about the sixth century B.C. From
the frequent repetition of the word *y-r-h*, "month," it may be some
kind of calendar, but photographs will be sent, and a complete
description will be printed in the next number of the *Quarterly
Statement*.