

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of Subscribers to the Fund will be held on Wednesday, June 23rd, at 3.30 p.m., when the Chair will be taken by the Very Rev. the Dean of St. Patrick's. Applications for tickets may be made after June 1st.

NOTES AND NEWS

THE Twenty-First Quarterly Report on the Excavation of Gezer describes the results of the completion of the digging of the trench joining the pits in the Central Valley and the Eastern Hill, and the preparations for a new trench on the Western Hill. Owing to the unusual severity of the weather, active work was seriously hindered and relatively little of importance was discovered. The most interesting "finds" comprise a fragment of a cuneiform tablet, unfortunately very imperfect, and an Egyptian statuette found in a house which, to judge from other objects in it, was inhabited by an Egyptian. Of no less real value is an olive press, almost entirely complete, and noteworthy as being much older than the Roman Period. Two more fragments of the so-called "votive altars" add to the material for future discussion, for it is uncertain whether these boxes really deserve the name, or whether they were meant for some domestic purpose. An interesting fragment of a pot will attract notice for its very curious frieze of animals, the work, it would seem, of some native artist.

In this Report Mr. Macalister surveys the extent of the field which will remain after the conclusion of his labours, with an estimate of the probable richness of these untouched localities. In

the meanwhile, care is being taken to fill in the more important buildings on the mound, in order to preserve them from the vandalism of the natives, and in this connection Mr. Macalister records a couple of conversations which clearly illustrate the attitude of the average workman to the numerous discoveries at Gezer which have done so much to illuminate the Old Testament. When we read with what coolness two natives discussed the utility of the pillars of the High Place, and how admirably the end one would serve as a lintel, we may congratulate ourselves that this unique sanctuary was laid bare in the course of *scientific* excavation, and we can realize the fate of equally valuable monuments in the past which have fallen under the notice of people entirely devoid of any reverence for antiquity.

We are indebted to Father Dhorme, Professor of Assyriology at St. Étienne, Jerusalem, for the translation of the small cuneiform text which, it will be observed, opens out some interesting enquiries. Prof. Ronzevalle, the archæologist, of the University of Saint-Joseph, Beirut, has kindly responded to our invitation that those who could would help to throw light upon the very remarkable Hebrew tablet described in the last *Quarterly Statement*. The facsimiles of the tablet, and pp. 26-34 containing the contributions of Professors Lidzbarski and Gray and Mr. Pilcher have been reprinted, and can be had on application to the Acting Secretary (price 1s.). In the present number Prof. Ronzevalle has an entirely novel explanation of the tablet which will be read with interest. The Assyriologist, Dr. Samuel Daiches, contributes valuable material from cuneiform sources, illustrating the nomenclature of the months, and this may be read with Mr. Macalister's independent remarks on the present custom of giving descriptive names to the months. Other observations based upon modern agricultural custom have been kindly contributed by Prof. Gustaf Dalman, of Jerusalem. We learn, too, that Prof. Vincent, of Jerusalem, will discuss the tablet in the current number of the *Revue Biblique*, and we hope to be able to give some account of his conclusions in the next issue.

We are indebted to our valued correspondent, the Rev. J. E. Hanauer, for a series of Notes on Damascus and the Anti-Libanus. These were accompanied by a number of photographs, a few of

which are reproduced. The notes are of extreme interest to lovers of folk-lore, and afford a good idea of the amount of information which only awaits collecting. While on this subject, we may refer to the Philippine sacrifice, which finds an analogy in the mutilated skeletons from Gezer (p. 101 *s.q.*, *cp.* also p. 153).

It is with great regret that we hear of the death of Dr. Selah Merrill, a member of our General Committee, and a valued friend of the work of the Fund. Although for some time past his health had given his friends cause for anxiety, his activities were unrestrained, and he was able to crown a long career as an expert in Palestinian study by the handsome volume on *Ancient Jerusalem* which was noticed in the number for last October.

NEW HONORARY SECRETARY FOR U.S.A.

Professor Lewis Bayley Paton, Ph.D., who, from May 1st, will take up the duties of General Honorary Secretary for U.S.A., is already well known by name to many of our English as well as to our American subscribers. Professor of Old Testament Exegesis and Criticism in Hartford Theological Seminary since 1892, he was, in 1903-4, Director of the American School for Oriental Study and Research in Jerusalem, and there in frequent friendly communication with Mr. Macalister at Gezer. Trained in Berlin and Marburg, as well as in New York University and Princeton, he is able to keep himself informed as to the work doing by other Societies, and as to foreign literature bearing on Palestine Exploration. In announcing Prof. Paton's appointment, the Committee wish to record their sense of the obligations they are under to Miss Mary A. Wright, who has for so many months efficiently discharged the duties which unexpectedly fell to her upon her brother's death.

Mr. Joseph Offord writes: "In the *Quarterly Statement* for January, 1905, p. 32, Mr. R. A. Stewart Macalister, M.A., writes and shows a sketch of a remarkable bowl found at Gezer, into which the calvaria of a skull exactly fitted, evidently intentionally. An almost precisely similar relic has recently been found in the

Sacred Grove of the Nymph Furrina, at Rome, in the shape of an ossuary containing nothing but the "calotte cranienne" (M. Paul Gauckler's expression) of a man. As in the case of the Gezer bowl, the coffer from the Janiculum Hill was made of the precise dimensions to contain the skull cap, and evidently designed to fit it. Though found in a sacred site at Rome, this coffer is closely connected with Syria, if not with Palestine, because the deities to whom the Grove was sacred were the Syrian Jupiter, beneath whose statue the coffer was buried, Atargatis, Hadad Lebaneotis, Zeus Kerauneos, and Jupiter Maleciabrudus (of the Syrian city Yabroud). The rites at this sanctuary were undoubtedly Semitic in character, and whatever is the meaning of the depositing of the upper part of a skull in a sacred spot, the two such interments were dictated by the same concept. For particulars of these excavations at Rome, see *Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des Inscriptions*, 1907 and 1908."

Prof. J. L. Myres writes to point out that the object held by the Astarte, represented on p. 15 of the last *Quarterly Statement*, is almost certainly the usual tambourine, and adds that there are plenty of parallels for such tambourines with ornate edges. He, too, identifies the oriental horse-bit on p. 24 (see Mr. Macalister's remarks, below, p. 88): "the cheek-pieces, which, as usual, are loose on the bar of the bit, here slipped (on the side nearest the spectator at all events) towards the middle, where the two bars are looped together."

In the note on the Bronze Object from Nâblus, p. 73 of the last *Quarterly Statement*, Crete-Syria is a misprint for Coele Syria, as the context shows.

The January number of *The Harvard Theological Review* contains an account by Prof. David G. Lyon of the Harvard expedition to Samaria, with twenty-one plans and illustrations. The nine weeks' digging under the direction of Dr. Schumacher and, for a time, also of Dr. Reisner, revealed many things of interest, a brief record of which is given. No doubt a future and more complete record will pay greater attention to the more technical archaeological details which have proved elsewhere to be of the first importance for the chronological study of the results of excavation. In the account before us attention is chiefly directed to the buildings, and relatively

little to the pottery, and it is not clear on what grounds the former are identified with Hebrew, Roman, or Byzantine periods as the case may be. The torso of a fine statue is identified, for reasons not stated, as probably that of Augustus, and references are made to marks on certain stones which are rather hazardously said to be distinctive of *Hebrew* masons. We are glad to hear that the work of excavation will be resumed this year, and the results of the few weeks' labours last year give promise of a richer harvest as the work continues to be more thoroughly pursued.

Much interest has been aroused by the publication of the report of the excavations at Jericho, conducted by Dr. Sellin and others on behalf of the German Oriental Society. Apart from the notices in the Daily Press, and the reproduction of typical views in the *Illustrated London News*, February 6th, we may refer to the articles in *The Builder*, January 30th, and, by Prof. Driver, in the *Guardian*, February 17th. The report itself is published by the Society (No. 39, December, 1908) with eighteen illustrations, and gives a good account of the results. Most important of all is the great surrounding wall of massive stones, whose general appearance and arrangement suggested a comparison with the structure of the walls of the "second city" of Troy. At the north-east of the mound was the citadel, the interior of which contained many small rooms, one of these in a very good state of preservation. Beneath the floors of some were the remains of children buried in earthenware pots. The pottery shows many signs of Egyptian and Mediterranean style. Of especial interest may be mentioned the discovery of jar-handles stamped with the Divine name in Aramaic script (viz., *y-h* and *y-h-w*).

The Rev. G. Robinson Lees has written an interesting account of the life, customs, and beliefs of the desert Bedawin (*The Witness of the Wilderness*). It is based on personal observation, supplemented by the works of Doughty, and our contributors Jennings-Bramley, Baldensperger, and others, and is enriched with numerous admirable illustrations of the natives, tombs, scenery, &c. The book gives a very good *résumé* of actual conditions, and special care has been taken to point out illustrative passages in the Old Testament. "In the Children of Israel," writes the author, "there is represented the progressive revelation of God; in the Children of the

Wilderness we see the state of life in which it first appeared. That life has been stationary in the Bedawin, and I have endeavoured to depict its salient features in their association with the Land of Promise and its People, and the normal condition of its existence."

Archdeacon Dowling, Commissary for Eastern Church Inter-course within the Anglican Bishopric in Jerusalem, has published an account of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, with numerous interesting and well-reproduced illustrations. He gives brief sketches of its history, constitution, and buildings, and furnishes much useful information upon a little-known subject. The book comes at an opportune moment, since a fierce racial struggle in the Greek Orthodox Church is taking place in Jerusalem, and how the conflict will be settled is uncertain (see the long account in *The Times*, January 26th, from a Jerusalem correspondent).

In an interesting article on the Climate of Ancient Palestine (*Bulletin* of the American Geographical Society, September–November, 1908), Mr. Ellsworth Huntington investigates the question whether there has been considerable change in the course of the last two or three thousand years. The problem has been the subject of much debate, and is of great importance, not only for Biblical study, but also as a test for the climatic history of the whole ancient world. It arises from a comparison of present conditions with ancient evidence for denser population, greater fertility, and general richer circumstances of life. Two main causes have been adduced: *either* a change in rainfall, temperature, or the like, *or* a change in historical conditions, war, misgovernment, increased slackness on the part of the population, etc. After a rapid review of the evidence, Mr. Huntington selects Palmyra as a typical site, and considers its vicissitudes. Neither human factors nor earthquakes seem to afford a sufficient explanation of its present state, and the lack of rainfall is held responsible. The conclusion is not stated dogmatically, but he finds on the whole that in Palmyra, as in many other places, the lines of evidence tend to the hypothesis that there has been a change of climate, and that on any other hypothesis some fact or other remains inexplicable. This suggestive paper, though not convincing, is a useful contribution to the subject.

Many readers will be interested to know that a reprint of Mr. Armstrong's book *Names and Places in the Old and New Testaments* is now ready. The book has been out of print for some years, but has been frequently enquired for.

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.

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 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.

"*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 "Cutts & Co."

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.

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 December 19th, 1908, to March 19th, 1909, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £488 0s. 1d.; from Lectures, £1 5s. 3d.; from sales of publications, &c., £73 1s. 8d.; making in all, £562 7s. 0d. The expenditure during the same period was £628 16s. 11d. On March 19th the balance in the bank was £543 14s. 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.

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 1908 is given in the Annual Report published with the present number.

The Committee will be glad to communicate with ladies and gentlemen willing to help the Fund as Honorary Secretaries.

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. Prof. Lewis B. Paton, Ph.D., Honorary General Secretary to the Fund, 50, Forest Street, Hartford, Conn.

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*, 1869-1908, 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 :—

"The Patriarchate of Jerusalem." By Archdeacon Dowling. From the publisher, Charles North, The Blackheath Press, S.E.

"The Witness of the Wilderness: The Bedawin of the Desert." By the Rev. G. Robinson Lees. From the publishers, Longmans, Green & Co.

- "The Religion of Ancient Palestine, in the Second Millennium, B.C., in the Light of Archaeology and the Inscriptions." By Stanley A. Cook, M.A. (*Religions: Ancient and Modern*. Messrs. Constable & Co. 1s.)
- "The Exploration of Egypt and the Old Testament: A summary of results obtained by exploration in Egypt up to the present time, with a fuller account of those bearing on the Old Testament." (With 100 illustrations from photographs.) By J. Garrow Duncan, B.D. From the publishers, Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier (Edinburgh and London. 5s. net).
- "Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology," University of Liverpool, I, 3. "The Cappadocian Tablets belonging to the Liverpool Institute of Archaeology," by Dr. T. G. Pinches; and other articles.
- "Vie de Saint Euthyme le Grand (A.D. 377-473); les Moines et l'Eglise en Palestine au V^e siècle." By R. P. Fr. Raymond Génier. From the publishers, Lecoffre (Paris, 4 francs). The first of a new series: "Études Palestiniennes et Orientales," under the direction of R. P. Lagrange.
- "Palästinajahrbuch," 1908: Prof. Dalman on the Cup-marks of Palestine in their relation to the old culture and religion; Prof. Gressmann on the *ḫubbet eš-šakhra*, etc., etc.
- "Revue Biblique," January, 1909: R. P. Dhorme "Les pays bibliques au temps d'El-Amarna" (*continued*); "Les fouilles anglaises à Gézer—hypogée romain au nord de Jérusalem—glanures archéologiques—pseudo-figure de Jahvé, by R. P. H. Vincent; etc., etc.
- ΝΕΑ ΣΙΩΝ**, November, December, 1908.
- "Journal des Savants," January, 1909.
- "Al-Mashrik: Revue Catholique Orientale Mensuelle," January, February, 1909: "Mœurs et coutumes en Abyssinie," by Mag. A. M. Raad, etc.
- "Idées Modernes." Vol. I, part 1. Paris, January, 1909.
- "Échos d'Orient," January, 1909.
- "Palästina," January, 1909.

Also the following, presented by Mrs. Ross Scott:—

1. Map of Robinson's Researches in Palestine.
2. Robinson's Biblical Researches, 1852, Vol. 1-3.
3. Whiston's Josephus (Pictorial edition), Vol. 1-2.
4. Expedition to the Dead Sea and the Jordan, Vol. 2.

5. De Sauley, Journey round the Dead Sea and in the Bible Lands, Vol. 1-2.
 6. Syria and Palestine, Vol. 1-2 (1851-1852).
 7. Dr. Wilson, Lands of the Bible, Vol. 1-2.
 8. E. H. Palmer, The Desert of the Exodus, Vol. 1-2.
 9. J. G. Wilkinson, Topography of Thebes, and general view of Egypt.
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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.