

THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund was held on Wednesday, June 23rd, but one day after the 44th anniversary of the first public meeting (June 22nd, 1865). As on former occasions, the Managers of the Royal Institution kindly lent their Lecture theatre. The chair was taken by the Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's, and there was a good attendance. Mr. R. A. S. Macalister gave a record of his work since his previous address at the Annual Meeting in 1906, illustrating his remarks with a series of interesting lantern-slides. In referring to the preparation of the Memoir of the Excavations of Gezer, he drew attention to the fact that about 6000 drawings and perhaps 500 photographs are available, and it was very desirable for the sake of future study that the results should be published as fully as possible. It has been frequently found that what seems most trivial and unimportant, regarded by itself, has a very real value when studied in connection with other things of the same class, and everyone knows now that the bits of potsherd which once used to be ignored have since been found to be of the very greatest assistance in estimating the relative age of archaeological remains. What was inaugurated by Prof. Petrie at Lachish has been pursued further by Dr. Bliss and by Mr. Macalister, and scholars in other fields are awaiting the publication of the evidence which has more recently been added from Gezer in order to institute a comparative study of the development of culture in the light of history. For, from comparison upon these lines, several extremely interesting steps have been taken, both in ascertaining the chronological periods of various phases of culture, and in estimating lines

of influence, which prove to be of great value in reconstructing the history of Egyptian, Cretan, and other civilisations. Thus, it is no exaggeration to say that the pottery of Gezer will take its place in the work of recovering the history of the Ancient East, and that this department of Palestinian archaeology has already been utilized for Biblical research in its widest extent is to be seen, for example, in such a work as Prof. Vincent's description of Canaan in the light of recent excavation, or in Prof. Eduard Meyer's new edition of his great *History of Antiquity*.

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This is only one of many cases where it is desirable that the fullest results should be made accessible to scholars of to-day and of the future. One may take so insignificant a detail as the shape of the cows' horns found in course of excavation. Mr. Macalister, observing some curious variations, proceeded methodically to tabulate results and found that different types appeared to characterise different periods. Now, outside Palestine other excavators have remarked similar variations of type, and they in turn have been endeavouring to arrive at some conclusion with regard to cattle-trade and trade-routes. Thus it is easy to see that when experts have before them large groups of carefully tested evidence of this kind from neighbouring lands, there is every chance of obtaining valuable information which thus will indirectly throw light upon historical vicissitudes. Again, if one considers what light has been thrown by the excavations of Gezer upon the religious conditions in ancient Palestine, it will be obvious that now that the work has come to an end it is extremely desirable that the evidence should be arranged and illustrated for the guidance of future workers. Some idea of its value in this department can be gained from Mr. Cook's *Religion of Ancient Palestine* (Constable's series of "Religions: Ancient and Modern") or in Dr. G. B. Gray's article on the subject in the May number of *The Expositor*. Those who heard, or who have read, the Schweich Lectures of the British Academy by Prof. Driver in 1908 will have observed how imposing the results of excavation appear when they are presented in constructive form, and it is safe to say that those who know only of disconnected reports scattered over numerous English and foreign journals have little idea of the great strides which Palestinian archaeology has made in less than a decade. The excavation of Gezer has had a doubly successful result—it has revealed striking

features which arrest the attention of every reader: the high-place, the tunnel, the burial-cave, the Philistine graves, and a dozen other prominent objects; it has also brought to light a vast mass of smaller things which, as experience shows, are of equally lasting importance—if not so sensational—though their precise significance often cannot be correctly estimated at the time.

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The excavation of Gezer has amply justified the selection of the site: it has been conducted as thoroughly as time and funds permitted, and, though the expense has been heavy, the harvest has been an extremely rich one. But the full fruits of the harvest will be more abundantly appreciated when the final Memoir is issued. This will co-ordinate the many diverse discoveries now spread over twenty-one Reports, and will include what has been held over in the past for various reasons. It will necessarily supersede these Quarterly Reports which have received from time to time the benefit of the criticisms of other experts, and will present a picture of the whole which will be worthy of the place which Gezer will hold in the Old Testament research of the future. It is hoped that the funds of the Society will permit it to crown in a fitting manner the work on which it has been so long engaged. It will be understood that though Mr. Macalister has much to describe, the value and utility of the publication will depend upon the plates and illustrations—the preparation of which is naturally expensive. The excavation of Gezer being at an end, the ancient site has nothing further to offer us; it only remains to see whether funds will allow a complete publication of everything that Mr. Macalister has collected, drawn, and photographed. It is necessary, therefore, to make a further appeal for donations to assist in producing the Memoir in as worthy a form as possible, and the Committee hope that subscribers and their friends will agree with them that the welcome light which Gezer has thrown upon so many departments of knowledge justifies their appeal.

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In the March number of the *Home Words for Jerusalem*, Dr. Percy d'Erf Wheeler gives his summary of the work at the hospital during the winter quarter. It has been one of the busiest of the 23 years during which he has laboured there. "The increase in our number has been especially among the Askenaz Jews. We have had a fair number of operations. There has been no special epidemic, but we

have had our quota of typhoid and pneumonia cases. Malarial cases have been rather above the average. We have admitted a greater proportion of children into the ward than hitherto. A children's ward is urgently needed and we wish some of our friends would help us to build one soon. We have as many as 20 children in the hospital at one time, out of 62 patients, so it is clearly a necessity." . . . . The total amounts to:—in-patients, 495; out-patients, 4806; dressings, 3881; home visits, 2059, and prescriptions, 9104. Dr. Masterman has gone home on furlough for a well-earned rest.

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Referring to the recent changes in Turkey, *Home Words for Jerusalem* observes: "We have heard and seen the rejoicing of the people, and we hope that a new era of prosperity and true freedom may be ushered in. So far 'freedom' has been grievously misunderstood, and the idea that it means license to do what we like has led to much trouble in the country. Strife between different villages, the immunity which evil-doers have enjoyed, and other causes, have led to a serious state of affairs in this and other parts of the country."

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In the *Records of the Past*, 1909, p. 118 sq., an interesting notice is given of a flourishing and active local archaeological society which is growing up in Marsovan in the very heart of the ancient Hittite region. It numbers missionaries, teachers and students of the upper classes, and is well worthy of attention because of its enterprise and possibilities. The active members know the natives and their language, and are close to Boghaz-keui where the most recent discoveries have been throwing much fresh light upon early political and internal conditions in Palestine. They are collecting reports and are forming a small library and museum of antiquities, and, working modestly and quietly, are laying the foundation of useful work. The Anatolia Archaeological Club of Marsovan, Turkey-in-Asia, will have the best wishes of all who are interested in furthering this field of investigation.

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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 were sent by Mr. Macalister, illustrating the excavations at Gezer and which were not reproduced in his quarterly reports, have been held over for the final Memoir.

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The income of the Society from March 19th, 1909, to June 19th, 1909, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £496 15s. 5*d.*; from Lectures, £1 1s. 2*d.*; from sales of publications, &c., £98 19s. 4*d.*; making in all, £596 15s. 11*d.* The expenditure during the same period was £558 5s. 10*d.* On June 19th the balance in the bank was £582 5s. 0*d.*

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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. Special donations during the quarter have been received from:—

	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Rev. A. Carr      ...      ...      ...      ...	5	0	0
James Melrose, Esq.      ...      ...      ...	5	0	0
	£10   0   0		

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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 was given in the Annual Report published with the last number.

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

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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.

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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.

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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.

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*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."

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*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 in 1907. It is now reprinted and can again be supplied (4s. 6d.) on application to the Secretary.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

*Mitteilungen und Nachrichten des Deutschen Palaestina-Vereins*, 1909, I and II: Prof. G. L. Robinson, on the altars of Petra; Prof. Blanckenhorn, a seismological station in Palestine; Dr. P. Thomsen, brief account of the P.E.F. excavations in the Shephelah.

*Zeitschrift*, of the above, 1908: IV: Prof. Dalman, topographical notes on the route from Jerusalem to Petra, with some epigraphical material; Pastor Thomä, on the Kidron Valley; Dr. Grünhut, the Spanish Rabbi Estori Hap-Parchi and his description of the Temple of Jerusalem. 1909: I: Dr. Hagemeyer, Gibeah of Saul (Kh. el-Hawânit); Prof. Blanckenhorn, on the climate of the Jordan Valley.

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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.

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For list of authorized lecturers and their subjects, see end of the Journal, or write to the Secretary.

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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.

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#### FORM OF BEQUEST TO THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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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.*