

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

THE Forty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the above Fund was held at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, London, W., on Wednesday, June 23rd, 1909. The Very Reverend the Dean of St. Patrick's presided.

The CHAIRMAN.—I shall ask Mr. Crace, the Honorary Secretary, to read some letters from those unable to be present.

The HON. SECRETARY acknowledged the receipt of letters of regret from Sir Donald Macalister, K.C.B., The Bishop of Winchester, Col. S. C. N. Grant, C.M.G., R.E., James Melrose, Esq., Prof. T. K. Cheyne, Donald Macdonald, Esq., Prof. T. G. Bonney, The Dean of Ely, etc.

The CHAIRMAN.—Our first business, Ladies and Gentlemen, is formal but not unimportant, and I now propose from the Chair:—“That the Report and Accounts for the year 1908, already printed and in the hands of subscribers, be taken as read and be received and adopted.”

Col. Sir CHARLES M. WATSON.—I beg to second that Resolution.

The CHAIRMAN then put the Resolution to the Meeting and declared it carried.

The HON. SECRETARY.—I regret to have to report the loss by death during the year of the following Members of the General Committee:—Mr. Daniel C. Gillman, LL.D., President, Carnegie Institution, U.S.A., Rev. A. Lowry, LL.D., Rev. Chas. Taylor, D.D., Rev. Henry George Tomkins, Lord Amherst of Hackney, the Hon. Selah Merrill, D.D., who was for many years the United States Consul at Jerusalem, and the Rev. James H. Rigg, D.D., of the Wesleyan Training College.

Col. Sir CHARLES WATSON.—I beg, sir, to propose that the following gentlemen be added to the General Committee:—The

Most Rev. His Grace the Lord Archbishop of York (Vice-President), the Rev. Père Ronzevalle, S.J., Prof. of Archaeology in the University of St. Joseph, Beyrout, the Rev. Père Germer Durand, of the Society of Assumptionists, Jerusalem, Dr. G. Dalman, of the German Institute of Archaeology, Jerusalem—I may mention that these are three gentlemen who have devoted themselves with great zeal to questions of exploration and archaeology in Palestine—Col. S. Grant, C.M.G., R.E., who has been appointed Director-General of the Ordnance Survey—the Fund has always been in very close touch with the Ordnance Survey, which has always given us the greatest possible assistance from the time of this Society's inauguration, and we have always had the honour of having the Director-General on our General Committee—Mr. R. Phené Spiers, a well-known architect, and Mr. Beresford Pite, Professor in the Royal School of Art. I propose that all these names be added to the General Committee.

Col. Sir HENRY TROTTER.—I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

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

The Rev. HERBERT HUGHES.—I beg to propose that the present Executive Committee be re-elected.

Gen. RENOUARD JAMES.—I have much pleasure in seconding that proposal.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—I have now great pleasure in calling on Mr. R. A. Stewart Macalister, whose name is so well known to us, to describe his Excavations at Gezer.

Mr. R. A. STEWART MACALISTER.—The excavation of Gezer, so far as this Society is concerned, has come to an end: one more page of the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund has been turned: and it now becomes my duty to render an account of the stewardship with which I have been entrusted, since last I addressed an Annual Meeting, just three years ago.

I sailed for Palestine in November, 1906. The permit for the resumption of the excavation at Gezer was not yet in our hands, and I received instructions to proceed at once to Constantinople, in order to determine at what stage the necessary formalities had arrived. I spent about three weeks in the capital, and received

many courtesies from the officials, both of the Ottoman Government and of His Majesty's Embassy. Having obtained assurances that the document would before long be issued, I returned to Jerusalem about the end of December.

A few days after arriving there, I left for a short visit to Galilee. My headquarters were at Safed, where our good friend Dr. Masterman was in temporary charge of the English hospital. A number of miscellaneous observations were made during this visit, which were duly reported in the *Quarterly Statement*. Among these I may remind you of the suggestion of a new site for the village of Sychar; and it is perhaps worth passing notice that within the last few months a collection of early bronze weapons, including some spear and arrow-heads of Mycenaean type, were found close to the site suggested. About forty drawings and photographs were sent in illustration of the notes from Safed and its neighbourhood. Of these, however, it was not found possible to publish more than nine in the *Quarterly Statement*; the remainder are deposited in the Society's office. I may, perhaps, be allowed to show two of these. The first is the little known but very remarkable tomb known as the *Sarir Nebi Sham'a*, or Pulpit of the Prophet Sham'a, near Meiron, where also there are the ruins of a fine synagogue. It does not appear to be of high antiquity, but as you will see is a very imposing monument. The second represents a family of Jews erecting a booth for themselves close to the tomb of the Rabbi Hillel, at Meiron. About 140 years before a great earthquake had done much damage to Safed; 70 years later an even more frightful catastrophe of the same kind, still vividly remembered, had taken place; and another period of 70 years having elapsed, the whole city was seized with panic and very large numbers of them fled and erected for themselves such temporary shelters as you see in this picture, as near as possible to the tombs of noted Rabbis. Even an archaeological excursion which Dr. Masterman and I made to the Sea of Galilee, while the excitement was at its height, was interpreted throughout the city as a precautionary measure on the part of the English doctor and his guest. I hope it will not be thought that I am wasting the time of this meeting over trivialities by showing such a slide as this. To me it appears of special interest, as illustrating the weight of influence wielded over the ignorant Jewish communities by the living rabbis—who engineered the panic—and the protective power of the dead but still active leaders of former generations.

The most important work done during this visit to Galilee was the application of the lessons we have learnt from the study of pottery to the problem of the identification of Capernaum, and the triumphant vindication of the claims of the old site, Talhûm, as against those of its later, but more popular rival, Khurbet Minyeh. It was a most instructive demonstration of the value of potsherds. Later on I hope to give you another and a very striking illustration to show how these apparently insignificant objects are really among the most important of the elements that have to be taken into account in identifying an ancient site.

On my return to Jerusalem, I was grieved to learn that the inhabitants of the village of Kefr Malik, about fifteen miles north of the city, had been systematically plundering some most important Canaanite tombs at a large but unidentified site in their neighbourhood, now known as Khurbet Samieh. Having visited the place and ascertained that very serious damage was being done, I communicated with the Committee of the Fund, who laid the matter before His Excellency Hamdy Bey—with the result that this destructive work came, for the time, to an end. Having thus in the interests of science raised a nest of hornets about my own head in the village, it was impossible for me to make any further investigations there: but, fortunately, Prof. Lyon, the director for the year of the American School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, and his students, took up the matter and made valuable collections of information and of drawings, so far as they had opportunity to do so. I hope, however, that some one of the increasing number of institutions which are taking an interest in Palestine Exploration, will turn its attention to this fine site and study it systematically before the harpies once more settle down upon it.

My foreman discovered at this place, on a stone lying in the bed of a river, a Greek inscription. It was the monument of an ecclesiastic of the time of Justinian. I had quite a fracas with the fellahin standing around, who were suspicious of my intentions, when I endeavoured to take a squeeze of this epitaph: they tried to tear the paper from the stone, and it required considerable persuasion, and considerable *bakhshish*, to procure even an imperfect and hastily made copy. I must here make special mention of the valuable service to science rendered by Surrayya Effendi Al-Khalidi, the commissioner of our excavations, who, at his own personal charges, and at very great inconvenience, visited Samieh a few days later,

and had the inscription removed from its insecure resting-place in the river to the Government Museum in Jerusalem, where it now lies.

It was not many days after these events that the permit was in my hands. You have all heard of such a document, and, as you may be interested in seeing what it is like, I have had a slide made of it. As you are probably aware, the chief conditions attached to the permission to dig are, first, that the work must come to an end in two years from the date of turning the first sod; and secondly, that all the antiquities found are the absolute property of the Ottoman Government.

My first care on arriving on the ground was to erect a series of huts for the housing of the party and of the antiquities. This I found in every way more convenient and economical than the tents that had formerly accommodated the expedition. By the aid of this slide I invite you to visit the local Gezer offices of the Palestine Exploration Fund.

The work at Gezer, which was resumed on 18th March, 1907, has been reported upon in the successive numbers of the *Quarterly Statements*. These are in your hands, and it is therefore unnecessary for me to speak of it now at length. I may just remind you in a word or two of the chief discoveries made during the past two years, which have amply proved the wisdom shown by the Committee in returning to the site rather than seeking another in the country. Some interesting caves, a large and important residential building, and an important series of tombs, apparently Philistine, were our first fruits. From the last-named, which were really the first tangible remains of the Philistines that excavation had revealed, some valuable specimens of alabaster and jewellery came to light; of the latter you have some examples in the picture before you.

During the harvest, in both the years of work, I kept the limited number of workmen which it was possible to retain employed in a search for tombs round the site. In this connection I invite your attention to the map now on the screen, which is a survey I have made of the surroundings of the city. In the centre you see a conventional representation of the city itself; all around are the modern fields, with their boundaries and names, and the position of the tombs, nearly 300 in number, are marked. Of course I have full measurements and descriptions of all these tombs and their contents, which will be put at the disposal of students as soon as

possible. It was clearly of the highest importance to rescue the scientific teachings of *one* cemetery before the rapidly approaching time when every relic of antiquity shall have been carried out of the country. It often happens that in seeking for one thing another comes to light, and I was not prepared to find evidence that, in one place, there probably had been a Byzantine church. Near this a very rare and interesting ecclesiastical relic was found in one of the tombs, namely, a small receptacle for a crumb of eucharistic bread, buried with the deceased (see *Quarterly Statement*, 1907, p. 257). In another place, an equally unexpected discovery was made in the shape of a fine Roman bath. About this time the remarkable seal which, for convenience sake I may refer to as the zodiac tablet, came to light in the excavation of the hill itself.

Here are slides of the ecclesiastical reliquary I have mentioned, a plan of the Roman bath, and a view of this building, and the so-called zodiac tablet with its symbols, which, whatever their meaning, are a valuable monument of the early Babylonian influence on Palestinian civilisation.

In the autumn of 1907 these discoveries were put in the shade by that astonishing piece of engineering work, the Tunnel, first opened in September of that year. So much has been said about it in our Journal and elsewhere, that I need not now enter into a full description. The plans and sections on the screen, which were drawn to scale *in* the tunnel, every step and every deflection being carefully measured, will enable those of you who have not seen the original to form some idea of this extraordinary excavation. One or two views may be added which will help you to realise its general appearance (see *Quarterly Statement*, 1908, p. 102).

The slide now on the screen is one of a series of plans that have been drawn representing the buildings and other details of the city at various periods. This, as the heading shows, is the plan of the rock-surface, showing the cup marks, the very earliest house-walls, and, more especially, the caves. You see, for example, that extraordinary catacomb which was the last discovery under the first permit, the discoveries in which filled fourteen large sheets of drawings. The tunnel is also conspicuous. Close by the tunnel is a small cave, in itself insignificant and sadly devoid of antiquities, which yet, I venture to think, makes a greater appeal to the imagination than any other of the discoveries of the Fund at Gezer: for on the wall was a frieze of graffiti that carried us back to the

early neolithic inhabitants (see *Quarterly Statement*, 1908, p. 216). On account of the importance and interest of this cave, I shall show several slides of it and its picture-gallery. There were other discoveries made during 1908, of which I should have liked to remind you did time permit, but I must not delay over these. A word or two may be spared for the tablet of limestone, bearing, according to some scholars, the oldest known Hebrew inscription (see *Quarterly Statement*, 1909, p. 28). That it is some kind of calendar is agreed, but its exact signification and purpose are not yet certain. I must also pass over, with a bare mention, the Egyptian statuette of sandstone, found in one of the houses, and the fine Solomonic olive press, which was the last of the gifts of the ancient Gezerites to our generation.

Besides the discovery of these and other objects, certain interesting observations of a more miscellaneous kind have been made during the excavation. Some of these have already been published in the quarterly reports, others still await publication. I may take this opportunity of bringing to your notice one of these latter. A large number of cows' horns were found in the excavation here and there. The idea occurred to me to collect and date these; and when, at the end of the work, I came to sort out the various horns of the different periods, I found, to my surprise, that each period had its own type or breed of cattle, almost as distinctive as its own pottery. This slide will show you what I observed. In pre-Semitic and first Semitic periods—that is down to about 1800 B.C.—the horns were fairly long, smooth and curved. From 1800 to 1400 they were longer and larger than in any other period, and often showed longitudinal grooves on the surface. From 1400 to 1000 they were smaller and grooved spirally. From 1000 to 550 they were almost, without exception, short conical knobs, as in the fourth example, and from 550 to 150 they were also short, but more curved. I am not sufficient of a zoologist to indicate the deductions to be made from these observations, but I cannot help thinking that if similar observations were made in other sites, we might arrive at valuable conclusions with regard to the cattle trade and trade routes in early times.

I should like, before passing on, to say a word or two about the department of the work which has been my own special care during these two years. I mean the preparation of the Memoir. About 1000 pages of MS. have so far been written, and nearly 200 plates

have been prepared in illustration of them, beside which there will be, when all is finished, about 6000 drawings and perhaps 500 photographs deposited for reference in the office of the Fund. I may be allowed to say that the excavation is not worth doing at all if its results are not to be published with sufficient fullness, and that I hope funds will be available to permit the Society fittingly to crown the work on which it has been so long engaged. The plan on which the memoir is conceived may be briefly stated. A chapter in the history of the city and a description of its site is followed by an account of the physical character of the inhabitants, derived from a study of their bones. Then comes a description of the various caves and houses in and about the city—the cisterns, city walls, and other buildings. There follow three chapters devoted to a study of the daily life of the inhabitants considered under the three headings of “Food and Dress,” “Work and Play,” and “Foreign Trade and Foreign Conquerors.” Three more chapters are devoted to the important subjects of “Methods and Instruments of Warfare,” “Religion,” and the “Burial of the Dead”; and the book closes with a brief sketch of the chronological development of civilisation in Palestine as revealed by recent excavations throughout the whole country in general, and at Gezer in particular.

It is a matter of great regret with me that I could not finish the overturning of the whole mound. This, however, was quite impossible with the time and funds at my disposal, owing to the size of the mound. To illustrate this I will now show two slides. The first is another of the series of plates of city plans, showing the trenches dug, and the parts left unfinished. The second is a view taken from a spot in the middle of the mound looking eastward, and showing the length of area dug over in the principal series of trenches.

I said at the beginning that a page of the Society's work had been turned, and the blank pages of the future now lie before us. No doubt the Committee will announce in good time any proposal it may entertain with regard to future excavations. But, even apart from excavation, there is plenty of work yet to be done in Palestine. This Society is not, as I have frequently heard it called, the Palestine Excavation Society, but an Exploration Fund, whose motto might well be an adaptation of the Plautine *nihil a me alienum puto*. In that spirit I may venture to remind the Society and its supporters that there are yet many untilled fields of work in the

country. For example, though the vertebrate fauna have been well studied, no one, so far as I know, has yet begun to investigate systematically the lower forms of life. Often, at Gezer, I wished there was at hand some one competent to examine the spiders of the mound, the variety of which was enough to attract and astonish even my ignorant eyes. A dozen or more equally wide and equally unworked regions might be indicated, but I must not enlarge on subjects I know nothing about, and I confine myself, in conclusion, to indicating two crying needs, that lie within the region of my work.

The first is a drastic revision of the identification of ancient sites, which will take all possible sources of information into consideration, and which, if I may thus strongly express myself, will take nothing, not even the site of Jerusalem, for granted, unless it can be proved that none better can be suggested. On such a commission the archaeologist and the exegete must work together; for each occupies ground on which it is dangerous for the other to trespass. I venture to prophesy very startling results from such an undertaking. Let me give you, in accordance with the promise I made at the beginning of this paper, an example from my own recent experience. I left Jerusalem toward the end of April, and went northwards, on purpose to pay a farewell visit to some friends, and to visit the very interesting and suggestive excavations of Harvard University at Sebusteh; proceeding thence to Haifa, where I embarked for Port Said. In passing over the plain of Esdraelon, on my last day in the country, I made a détour to visit Zer'in, universally accepted as the site of Jezreel. I had no doubt in my own mind of this identification when I rode up on the mound; but I left Zer'in absolutely convinced that it could not possibly be Jezreel, and that the site of this important royal city is still to seek. By the aid of one lantern slide I hope to convince you of this also. Here is a man standing in a hole which the villagers have dug down to the rock. You will see that the débris is not sufficiently deep to reach his head. Every scrap of pottery in the section of the pit is Roman. There are something like a dozen similar pits here and there in the mound, all of which tell the same tale. The most careful search over the surface and through these pits failed to reveal a single grain of pottery older than the Roman period. Zer'in, in short, is founded over an insignificant and nameless Roman village, and anyone who would take out a permit for

excavation there and expect to find relics of Naboth's vineyard or Ahab's palace is doomed to inevitable disappointment.

The second need is a full anthropological study of the various elements that go to make up the heterogeneous population of Palestine. Very valuable contributions have been made to this work by our own correspondents Mr. Hanauer and Mr. Baldensperger; by Father Jaussen of the Dominican School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, whose work on the Arabs of Moab, like all the work of his distinguished colleagues, is a classic of Palestinology; by Dr. Gustaf Dalman, the eminent director of the German School of Archaeology; and by others whom want of time rather than of will prevents me mentioning. But it is no disparagement to the labours of these scholars to say that they are not as complete as the importance of the subject requires, because such a study is beyond the power of single workers to accomplish. We want a whole committee of specialists, such as was sent out some years ago by Cambridge University to investigate the natives of Torres Straits.

By way of illustration of the manifold variety of interest that such a study would present I may refer to two small side-studies of my own. One day the foreman of the works noticed a packet of papers in the belt of one of the labourers, and asked him what they were. The owner told him they were papers that he put there to protect himself from colic. The foreman at once commandeered them and brought them to me. I tried to purchase them, but the man refused; he however allowed me to keep them for two or three days. Of course I put everything else aside, and took tracings of the whole series—among them a little manuscript book, containing a number of magical diagrams and formulae, and, oddly enough, a story about a princess, quite in the style of the *Arabian Nights*. Just as I had finished them, the man came and begged to have them back again, as the pains of colic had become unendurable. However, I have a complete set of facsimiles as well as some other material of the same class; and, as soon as I can get myself free of the *Memoir* on Gezer, I shall be able to work over them a little. As another instance of the work that might be done, I may also mention some investigations I have been enabled to make on the language of the Nawar—or wandering smiths of Palestine—a tribe resembling the gypsies of Europe. It was known of these people that they had a peculiar language, which probably would prove of considerable importance for an investigation of the question of the

place of origin of these and allied nomads: but nothing was known of this language except a short vocabulary and a few sentences. I was able to establish relations with one or two of these people, and as a result have now the pleasure of submitting to the Society a manuscript containing a grammar, dictionary, and about one hundred specimens of this hitherto unknown tongue.

If work on the large scale I have suggested is ever to be done at all it must be done soon. Even during my short experience of Palestine changes have taken place, and, since the extraordinary political events of the last few months, changes yet more numerous and more profound must be expected. A straw shows how the wind is blowing. Abû Shûsheh, where the Palestine Exploration Fund has been established for the past six years, is a backward, primitive village, inhabited by backward, primitive people: but a few months ago the chief Sheikh's son was married, and the wedding guests were entertained, not with the ancient traditional songs and dances proper to such an occasion, but with the garbage of a Cairo music-hall, rendered on a hired gramophone.

The CHAIRMAN:—It is my privilege now to ask you to pass a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Macalister for the admirable and instructive lecture he has given to us, and I am sure you will feel we ought not to be content with that, but that we ought to take this opportunity of expressing our admiration for the work which he has so successfully carried on for some years as the Agent of the Palestine Exploration Fund. The Resolution that has been drawn up by the Committee is this:—"That this Meeting heartily thanks Mr. Macalister for his description of the excavations conducted by him during the last three years, and desires to put on record their appreciation of the ability, care, thoroughness and tact with which his labours have been carried on."

The language is strong, but not a bit too strong. The Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund are accustomed to measure their words, and no one who has made any study of the *Quarterly Statements* for years past can fail to be aware of the great services which Mr. Macalister has rendered to anthropology, to archaeology, and to the scientific study of Palestinian antiquities in general. We are very glad to see him amongst us to-day, and I hope he will remember that, in my country at any rate, gratitude is a lively sense of favours to come. And while thanking Mr. Macalister as we do very heartily—for I am sure that you will pass this Resolution,

indeed, I am sure I may take it as passed by acclamation (applause)—while thanking Mr. Macalister, it is right that we should remember that it is due to the energy and effort of those who control the operations of the Fund, to the contributions of many subscribers, and to the great liberality of a few, that his work has been possible at all; it is due that we should remember what the Palestine Exploration Fund has done and is doing for scientific archaeology. During the forty years or more that have elapsed since the Society was founded, it has won for itself an honourable place in the world of scientific archaeology. The founders of the Society may indeed claim to have fulfilled the aims which they set before themselves. The desire of the founders of the Society was this: they desired to promote among English speaking peoples on both sides of the Atlantic a detailed study of the history—political, social, and religious—of Palestine. They believed that by the aid of careful and detailed investigations an important contribution would be made, not only to the early history of mankind, but also to the interpretation of the sacred books of the Old and New Testaments. They did not undertake, and the Society does not now undertake, this work of exploration in the interests directly of any particular form of religion. Members of all creeds are represented among the helpers of the Society, and you will be asked by-and-by to express your thanks to some eminent Palestinian gentlemen who have been its warm supporters in the East; and upon this Committee are representatives of several Christian bodies. In regard to such varying religious interests the Society has always maintained the most jealous impartiality; but, nevertheless, its founders believed that the results of careful investigation would be welcome to all serious and independent people as likely to illuminate the background of the picture which history presents to us of the beginnings of the Christian religion. Ladies and Gentlemen, this Society does its work so quietly and so unobtrusively, that perhaps the public is not fully aware of the obligations under which it has placed all students of the Bible. It is not too much to say that most of the topographical and scientific articles with which our Bible dictionaries—and there are a great many of them—are filled, are due directly or indirectly, with or without acknowledgment, to the publications of the Palestine Exploration Fund. And certainly in regard to the New Testament, if I may speak for a moment of the field in which my own studies have almost entirely been laid—in

regard to the New Testament, no student of the Gospels can get very far without constant reference to the *Quarterly Statement* and other publications of the Fund. Now we have had put before us this afternoon the results of an inquiry into one of the buried cities of Palestine, whose records of stone extend over many periods, and go far back, as Mr. Macalister reminded us, behind the era of the Hebrew occupation; and very important such investigations are to the student of anthropology on account of the light which they throw upon the habits, the customs, and the beliefs of the early dwellers in Palestine. And if you will consult the list of the publications of the Fund—and it is under the auspices of the Fund that we are gathered here to-day—you will see that the later periods which bear, perhaps, more directly and immediately upon the interpretation of the books of the Scripture, have also yielded fruitful results, and, as Mr. Macalister said just now, in some very suggestive sentences, a great deal yet remains to be done in this direction in regard to the identification of sites. Perhaps I may be permitted, before we close our meeting, to make reference to the debt which the public and the Society in particular owes, especially in regard to the preliminary surveys, to the distinguished corps of Royal Engineers (applause). That is a debt that ought to be gratefully acknowledged at a meeting such as this. I may be permitted to recall the honoured name of Sir Charles Wilson, who did so much for the Fund, whose acquaintance I made twenty years ago. He was the first person to interest me in the work of Palestine Exploration. His scholarly book on Golgotha is indispensable to anyone who is interested in the vexed question of the site of the Holy Sepulchre. And then other names will occur; Sir Charles Warren and Lord Kitchener have won distinction in other fields, but their names will also be remembered in the record of Palestine Exploration. The present Chairman of the Committee, Sir Charles Watson, if he will allow me to say so, carries on the same honourable tradition, and he has lately made all friends of Sir Charles Wilson his debtors by the publication of Sir Charles Wilson's life. And then only this year another member of the Society and of its Committee, one of the same corps of Royal Engineers, who has contributed many publications and published many books in the interests of the Fund, has given us the matured fruit of his long experience in the holy places, in his learned work on Jerusalem—I mean Colonel Conder. The Society has indeed been fortunate in having been

able to secure the co-operation not only of soldiers and engineers and explorers and excavators, but also of scholars and men of letters, such as Professor George Adam Smith, whose great book—for it is a great book whether you view it from the scientific side or the literary side—whose great book on Jerusalem is really, indispensable to every student of the New Testament. Quite recently one of the members, whose loss we deplore, Dr. Selah Merrill, who was so long and honourably known as the American Consul at Jerusalem, gave to the world a handsome volume which contained the conclusions which he had reached as to the topography of Jerusalem. It is a book which possesses all the authority that comes from first-hand knowledge of locality. I put it to you that the Society has been very fortunate in being able to secure the services of so many men of eminence in various fields, and I trust that to-day's Meeting will do something to inform the public of the real value of the work that has been done by the Fund, not only in the interests of anthropology and of science, but also in the interests of Biblical exegesis and interpretation. I am asked to say that if there are any of those present who would desire to show their practical interest in the Fund, our Honorary Secretary, after the Meeting, will be very glad to have their names and addresses and promises of support in order that the further excavations to which I think Mr. Macalister looks forward—to which certainly some of us look forward—may be successfully carried through.

Sir CHARLES WATSON.—The Resolution I am going to propose really grows out of Mr. Macalister's address. It is as follows:—That the best thanks of the Society be conveyed to the following gentlemen. To His Excellency Hamdy Bey, Director of the Imperial Museum at Constantinople, for the interest he has shown throughout the Society's work at Gezer. I daresay some of those who are here know his museum, and how for a long period he has been a great supporter of the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund. He is an instance of a most intelligent Turk who takes an earnest interest in archaeology. Our thanks are also to be given to Mr. Serapion Murad for his great services to science in putting the mound at the disposal of the Society, and to Surrayya Effendi Al-Khalidi for his courtesy and helpfulness throughout the work on which he has served as Commissioner to the Ottoman Government, with an expression of the Society's appreciation of his valuable services in

rescuing the inscription at Samieh from destruction, and which Mr. Macalister has told us about. You must remember that he is the official who is appointed by the Ottoman Government to keep our explorers in order, and he has been of the greatest possible assistance to Mr. Macalister during the excavation. And, lastly, we have to thank Mr. A. T. Gelat, Dragoman to the United States Consulate at Jerusalem, for many kindnesses done from time to time to the officers of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and to offer him our congratulations on his recovery from his recent serious illness.

The REV. ARTHUR CARR.—I have much pleasure in seconding that Resolution.

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

Mr. WALTER MORRISON (*Hon. Treasurer*).—Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in proposing the following Resolution:—That the thanks of the Meeting be given to the Managers of the Royal Institution of Great Britain for granting us the use of their Lecture theatre.

It is a very considerable advantage to us that year after year the Royal Institution welcomes us in this exceedingly well-arranged hall, and you can readily understand that it is a great advantage to us to have all the conveniences we have seen in the way of darkening the room and showing on the screen the photographs which have been taken at Gezer. You must recollect we are on holy ground in the interests of science. Faraday lived in this building a great number of years, in fact, during the greater part of his life, and it was in this hall he delivered his famous lectures in the comparatively early stages of chemistry, where I used to come with my father, sometimes—who was a great friend of Faraday's—when I was a small boy, to see the old gentleman. I have much pleasure in moving the Resolution.

Mr. J. D. CRACE.—I have much pleasure in seconding that.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

Sir CHARLES WATSON.—I ask your permission to move one more Resolution which I am sure will be received with acclamation. It is:—That the best thanks of this Meeting be offered to the Very Rev. the Dean of St. Patrick's for his kindness in presiding over the proceedings. I am sure we all owe a debt of gratitude to

the Dean for having been so good as to come over from Ireland to take the Chair on this occasion.

The Resolution having been carried by acclamation—

The CHAIRMAN in replying said :—Sir Charles Watson, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you very much for the kind way in which you have received the Resolution. It was a privilege as well as a pleasure to be here to day, and it was especially delightful to have the opportunity of hearing Mr. Macalister lecture again. The last time I heard him was in Jerusalem.

The proceedings then terminated.
