

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PALESTINE
EXPLORATION FUND.

THE Fiftieth Annual Meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund was held in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W., on Tuesday, June 22nd, 1915. The Most Reverend The Archbishop of Canterbury (President) occupied the Chair.

THE PRESIDENT.—The Hon. Secretary will read letters regretting absence.

THE HON. SECRETARY read letters regretting inability to be present from Mr. Walter Morrison, the only member of the Committee present at the meeting held fifty years ago, and one who had taken an active part in the proceedings of the Society ever since; from Sir Frederick Kenyon, Lord Normanby, the Dean of Ely, Professor Alexander Macalister, Professor Kennedy, Mr. James Melrose, Dr. Butler (the Master of Trinity, Cambridge), Mr. Leonard W. King, and Professor Bonney.

THE PRESIDENT.—Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is now my privilege to move the first resolution:

“That the Report and Accounts for the year 1914, already printed and in the hands of subscribers, be received and adopted.”

It is a real pleasure to me, and I count it a very high privilege, to take part in the proceedings to-day and to move this first resolution. It is not always that looking back over fifty years of life the supporters and friends of a society are able to speak of its work as having sustained with unimpaired interest and quiet perseverance what was the initial plan of those who half-a-century ago set it in motion, but I am absolutely sure that with regard to the Palestine Exploration Fund and its work, we to-day can look back with no un-mixed gratitude to the staff and with thankfulness over the whole

course of the life of the Society whose fiftieth year we are at this moment commemorating. They were wise men who resolved fifty years ago to take this work in hand in the way and on the lines which were then laid down. There were business men and profound students and thoughtful people and scholars of all sorts who were interested in what was being started, but I am inclined to think that the real interest which the world felt—for it was nothing less; it went beyond England—in the Palestine Exploration Fund and its work was due in large measure to two men who had about them not merely the scholarship, not merely the Biblical knowledge and interest and all that conduced to make this work in their view important, but who had also, each of them, a glamour of his own which was infectious and made other people care for what they loved—I allude to Arthur Penrhyn Stanley and George Grove. Both of these men in after years—not at that time, for I was a boy at school when the inauguration of this Fund took place—became dear friends of mine; they were much older than I, but they honoured me to a large degree with their intimacy. I constantly found the thoughts of both those remarkable men, the Dean of Westminster and Sir George Grove, as they then were, turning to the lines of thought which had been kept constantly to the front during the carrying on of the work which they inaugurated, and in which they had taken so keen a part. It is fifty years ago to-day since the Society held its inaugural meeting under the presidency of a man of thought and intelligence and hard-headed knowledge and learning, Archbishop Thomson of York, who was its President for a good many years after that time. He was one of the most competent guides and leaders we could have had, but I venture still to think that it is to the two men I have named, whose personal charm and whose power of making that loved by other people which they themselves love, it is to them in no small measure we owe the interest which this Society has evoked during all the years of its life. We have already been reminded that we are still privileged to have as our Hon. Treasurer Mr. Walter Morrison, who was one of those who helped to inaugurate the Society, and who has been its Treasurer for forty-six years. He had the choice between two alternatives laid before him to-day, two golden weddings; one he has attended in Hampshire, the other the golden wedding of his own association with this Society. I do not doubt he made the choice he should have made, but we all miss him here to-day. Those men decided, fifty

years ago, to get at an accurate knowledge upon the subject which was at that moment strangely behindhand in comparison with many other kindred subjects of thought and interest, sacred and secular, and they determined to do it in what is called a scientific way—scientific is sometimes rather a deterrent word to those who do not think scientifically—meaning that they were to carry on with accurate impartiality and with judgment a work which was certainly wanted topographically as truly as the corresponding work was wanted and carried on textually at that time for the elucidation of Holy Scripture and of the literature that specially concerned it. It is strange when we look back to see how vague and uncertain was the knowledge existing about ten years before that time as to sacred geography—the geography of the regions which we believe to have been the most important in the world. If anyone will look at the maps of Palestine which existed, say, when Queen Victoria came to the Throne, they will be surprised to see how uncertain, how incomplete in the worst sense—because it was not leaving space vacant, but filling it up wrongly—were the then existing maps and the literature about them which was current even among students and available for the public.

The man to whom I suppose we ought to feel that the work for which our Fund has existed owes its primary leadership and inception was a man to whom Dean Stanley was never tired of paying compliments, Dr. Robinson, the American explorer, whose three portly volumes were the outcome of careful study of a very remarkable kind, to which, as I have said, Dean Stanley used to bear unceasing testimony. But if we look on, the writing which first gave an impetus to this was, I am inclined to think, undoubtedly the *Quarterly Review* article which in 1854 was written by Canon Stanley, as he then was, upon, I think he called it, "Sacred Geography." It was an article which it will repay anyone to turn to now because of the extraordinary appreciation which he showed as to what would be the things likely to be elucidated, and what would be the kind of help likely to result from taking in hand in some regular way the investigation of these subjects. Two years afterwards came his great book, *Sinai and Palestine*. Considering the knowledge then at his disposal, it certainly is the most vivid and the most helpful of the books—and they are now multitudinous—which have been published on that subject. I have a copy of that book well thumbed and knocked about by having been carried on the saddle of horse or camel for weeks together on successive

journeys in the East, and I have never found it devoid of new interest, and one has turned to its pages for the bringing out of some thought which would otherwise probably have escaped one as regards the region in which one was travelling, or the investigations one was endeavouring to make. The preface with which that volume starts may have been taken as the very guiding bit of literature upon which our Society should conduct its work for years to come. I should like to take the opportunity to-day of paying tribute to one to whom we owe a very real debt of gratitude for what he has done in inaugurating the thoughts which are now everybody's thoughts, but which then belonged only to a very few. Since then literature has become voluminous in every sense of the word, and I suppose we should most of us feel that among later writers we should give a foremost place to Dr. George Adam Smith. In a different way he possesses the kind of gifts which belonged to the two remarkable men to whom I have referred, Stanley and Grove; he has a power which very few men have ever possessed in the same degree of bringing modern suggestion and modern thought in perhaps unexpected ways out of ancient material. I daresay many here remember the almost startling suggestion that if one wanted to understand the Old Testament rightly—it is in the preface to his *Historical Geography of the Holy Land*—one must thoroughly understand Napoleon's invasion of Syria, for Napoleon's invasion of Syria will throw light upon the things investigated when you are looking at what happened two or three thousand years before. Very few men would have thought of using that, and still fewer of bringing out its usefulness in the way George Adam Smith has so remarkably done. We have had throughout our work great men to guide our thoughts, to provide us with suggestions of an illuminating kind which are taken from material available to everybody, but it requires a man of genius to bring out of the material that which would be helpful in the way these men have done.

When we turn, as we look back along our fifty years, from the men who have been writing to the men who have been digging, we cannot forget how extraordinarily well served our Association has been by the men whose services we have been enabled to utilize for, I venture to believe, the public good. Then you think of Captain Wilson, or Sir Charles Wilson as he became; of Gordon, and what he did in the early days of Palestine exploration. When we think of Sir Charles Warren, who is happily still with us, and who, as

Captain Warren, did so much in the early years of exploration in a private manner to overcome some of the most difficult and uphill work, we feel we have had an important man indeed to guide and help us. Then Captain Conder was a man whose work in Palestine, it seems to me, was beyond price, owing to its painstaking accuracy and ingenuity of thought. When we come to the War Office, to the man to whom everybody's thoughts turn, and at whom everybody's eyes are looking at this time in the history, not only of England but the world, and remember that Lieutenant Kitchener was one of our most efficient officers, we again feel that it is not surprising that our work should have been successful, and that we should have been able to carry through satisfactorily what we took in hand. Those volumes of tomes I see in front of me should be worth studying and referring to when we remember a man like Lord Kitchener was a contributor to so very very many of them. I remember, when in Palestine for the second time, meeting at the bottom of a shaft a tall, gaunt figure, grimed from head to foot with the dirt of a shaft which happened to be passing through particular bits of most untoward soil and conditions, and being introduced to Lieutenant Kitchener. I recollect that now when I compare notes about those days. That was in the year 1875, I think. Then, of course, we think of the names of Drake, of Conder; then there was that remarkably versatile man of a different type from any I have spoken of, Dr. Tristram, whose work up to the end of his life was of a remarkably thoroughgoing kind in the investigation of all sorts of problems connected with these matters and which some of us, it seems to me, find of absorbing interest in our life and which we are going to find still more absorbing—the Desert of the Wanderings. And we remember what we owe to Professor Palmer for the work which Mr. Horner, who is going to speak to us to-day, and I shared for weeks together journeying through the regions of what was then called the Long Desert, and I think he will say, as I do, that by night or by day, we hardly had Professor Palmer's book out of our hands, so great was the interest with which it inspired us. The work which we have supervised from England and which has been carried out by those most competent and devoted men upon the spot has been in every sense of the word worth while. It is not easy for any man when he is growing old to attribute readily to their different

sources thoughts which have been fruitful and helpful to him in the later years of life, but I certainly should myself attribute to Eastern travel in successive times no small part of any thoughts of interest or enthusiasm about this kind of study in which one has oneself rejoiced or which one has tried to inspire in other people; and that people's interest in travel through those lands has been redoubled by the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund no one will doubt. There are few more fruitful enjoyments and sources of thought than to endeavour on the spot to hammer out investigations such as those which the men I have referred to hammered out; and even the rest of us, who, as amateurs, tried to do something of the same kind, perhaps for some long continued period now and then in our lives, have very much to thank God for in the privilege that was given us of the enjoyment at that time and the sources of thought that have come since.

I do not know whether Mr. Horner remembers, as I do, an occasion in the middle of the desert when we were trying to induce an Arab sheikh to understand some particular theory that we wished to get at. His reply was, "I understand—the place where Moses and Mr. Palmer were." To him the thought of Moses and Mr. Palmer came exactly side by side as something which was equally interesting to the traveller who came and, I am afraid, equally uninteresting to the genuine inhabitant of those lands.

Since then, ladies and gentlemen, the whole position has become changed. Egypt, which some of us loved so well in those days, and may love still, but in a totally different character, has become a fashionable resort, a highway of luxury and comfort and the rest; it has become more easily accessible and a great deal more is known about it. Naturally the conditions are entirely changed from those with which we were familiar long ago. There are other societies which have had in hand the elucidation of Egyptian history and life, both past and present. Palestine itself has been roaded and railwayed out of recognition to those of us who knew it forty years ago. I find a curious result of that easy travel in Palestine and the rush of a great many people there: they have all one thought, simply the identification of Biblical names in places and facts of the day, which is a wide departure from a rule which in those early days was laid down rather strictly, namely, to avoid calling places by the Biblical name which may or may not have been theirs, but to stick to the name belonging

to the place to-day and let it be proved whether the identity is real or not. I am often startled by hearing people talk about some place which may or may not have been rightly identified, and giving it a name which begs the whole question. It has become the custom, owing to the short time occupied in galloping by rail or road through the land, to give it far less plodding attention than was given in former years. I think it is a pity to find the superseding of the names which undoubtedly are those by which the place is locally known, and the giving to it a name which may be more or less certain, but which is sometimes purely conjecture; it is, I think, begging a question which may require investigating. I cannot say with what interest I, personally, am looking forward to the productions of future writers upon the Desert of the Wanderings: we have a good deal to learn as to things which have been familiar to us for years past.

Now we are asking at this tremendous time in the world's life: What will this appalling War do as regards the work which we have in hand? I do not see how it can be other than in the long run a gain, because it is almost impossible to conceive that there will not hereafter be a better opportunity to investigate the things we have hitherto found it hard to investigate; and none the less I suppose most of us look with some trepidation to the thought of the damage which may accrue to things of interest and the harm which may be done to spots which we desire to see treated with reverence in the regions about which we are speaking. But it is not about that we meet to-day, though it is difficult to let one's thoughts go anywhere else than to the War, which is the greatest event the world has yet seen in terribleness and horror, whatever may be its ultimate issue for the world's gain or good. We have for fifty years adhered wisely to the lines laid down at first, and I am certain it was a good thought on the part of those who began the work that whatever was undertaken should be carried out scientifically; that the Society should, as a body, abstain from controversy, and that it should not be started or conducted as a religious Society. The very fact that these last two rules would nowadays hardly seem necessary shows the way in which the lesson was wisely learned: and those rules were laid down to start with and followed conscientiously by those who have worked the Society since then. The outcome of our work of fifty years of quiet perseverance has not been in vain. Not only have we a far greater knowledge than we had before of the regions which

are to us the most sacred on earth, but a more vivid interest thereby aroused in great parts of the writings which we believe to be incomparably important to the story of the world. We have splendid maps, fifty years of devoted work, high expectations of future usefulness which has still to come out of what we have now got in hand, and I am quite clear that among the many and varied efforts that have been made for the enlightenment of man in things sacred and secular in the last half of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century the place occupied by the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund will not be the smallest.

Col. Sir CHARLES M. WATSON.—I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Report.

The PRESIDENT then put the resolution to the Meeting and declared it carried.

The HON. SECRETARY.—It has been my duty year after year for a good many years to mention at this meeting the loss that the General Committee has sustained by death during the past twelve months. This is the first occasion on which I have been able to say that there have been no deaths on the General Committee. I hope that may be a good augury for the coming year.¹

Col. Sir CHARLES M. WATSON.—I have pleasure in proposing the following resolution:—

“That Mr. Leonard Woolley, who conducted the archaeological researches in the recent survey of the Desert of Wanderings, and now serving with H.M. forces, be invited to join the General Committee.”

I think it is most satisfactory that the last work of the Fund was completed just before the War; it was finished in May, and Mr. Woolley's interesting report, which all the subscribers can get and have in their hands, is on the table. The map that has been prepared by Capt. Newcombe and Lieut. Greig, of which he told us last year, is ready, but for evident reasons we cannot issue it: we do not want the Turks to get maps which they might find rather useful in their feeble efforts to get to Egypt. It is better

¹ The Hon. Secretary was, unfortunately, mistaken. During the 12 months the deaths occurred of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Blyth, Bishop in Jerusalem and the East; and of the Rev. Canon Cheyne, D.D., the veteran Biblical scholar and critic.

we should not issue the maps for the present. But the archaeological reports, in which the Turkish soldiers will not find much to help them, have been issued to subscribers. Mr. Woolley, Mr. Lawrence, Capt. Newcombe and Lieut. Greig are all at present serving in the English Army in Egypt. It is satisfactory to think that our explorers, civil as well as military, are under the flag. Mr. Lawrence was at one time, as a light-weight, used as an observer in an aeroplane—very useful for a man who surveys the country. Mr. Woolley is in the Intelligence Department, and I have great pleasure in proposing that his name be added to the list of the General Committee.

Mr. D. G. HOGARTH.—I have very great pleasure in seconding Sir Charles Watson's proposition. Very few people are better fitted, both by training and experience, than Mr. Woolley. He has had other experience of Assyria, and when the War came upon us he was directing the British Museum Exploration of Carchemish, and it is intended to resume that work as soon as Assyria is quiet again. Sir Charles Watson said Mr. Woolley is in the Intelligence Department. He was until two or three months ago at Cairo, but he has been transferred to Port Said, and in a responsible position in the Chief Intelligence Division at Port Said he is able to learn even more about the Northern Desert of Syria, and, perhaps, about Southern Palestine than he was before. I cannot imagine anybody who is likely to be a more useful member of the Committee than Mr. Woolley, and I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

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

Sir EDWIN PEARS.—Mr. Chairman, I have to propose :—

“That the actual members of the Executive Committee be re-elected.”

We shall go a long way before we get a better selection than has been made. There is no one we want to get rid of, no one at present whom we wish to add to their number, and I have very great pleasure in proposing the resolution. I would like to add one remark. When His Grace spoke of the principles of the Society in reference to religious denominations he recalled to me the fact that when I arrived in England, almost the first letter I received was one requesting me to take the Chair, simply because I belonged to

the Palestine Exploration Fund, at a meeting held by the Jews in London at their school for training Rabbis, and the subject of the lecture was the Exploration of Palestine by Lord Kitchener, and the lecture was given by Professor Daiches, and was an admirable one.

Rev. G. W. HORNER.—I beg to second the resolution. One name has been omitted by His Grace, of which we are reminded by those raised maps in front of us—that of Mr. Armstrong, who was the designer of these and the extremely clever originator of those wonderful maps. His Grace has been good enough to refer to a trip I took in his companionship in Egypt and Syria, and one side of what was coming was plain to me. I used to try and learn my Arabic from the dragoman, and studied from a little book he gave me; but His Grace, by instinctive power, understood much better than I ever did, as he showed us in his explanation about Moses and Mr. Palmer. It may be interesting to you to know His Grace appeared as a draughtsman, and there is a collection of some small drawings of his, a sort of replica of the studies of Lebanon. As for Lord Kitchener, I had the pleasure of making his acquaintance—not at the bottom of a shaft—in the year 1876 in the Albert Hall, where he was elaborating the plans which he had brought from Syria. And His Grace may remember our entertaining Captain Conder, who had just arrived in the Holy Land, when he was staying in Jerusalem in our tent, and from that time his name was celebrated throughout Egypt. As His Grace has said, we had great opportunity of seeing things in those days which have now disappeared. There was the Mashetta Palace and the one at Rabbath Ammon, which, I believe, has been pretty well demolished, and still more Jerash, which we saw actually complete in those days.

The motion on being put to the meeting was carried unanimously.

COLONEL SIR CHARLES M. WATSON.—Your Grace, Ladies and Gentlemen, as this is the Fiftieth Annual Meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and, as in consequence of the present war, it has not been possible to do any work in the Holy Land since the last Meeting, it would not be out of place if I were to give a short *résumé* of the operations of the Society since it was established on June 22nd, 1865, and of the way in which the Committee have endeavoured to carry out the objects of its founders.

There is no country in the world that has a greater interest for mankind than Palestine, because it contains Jerusalem, the Holy City of Christians and Jews, and regarded with veneration by the Mahomedans, who hold it as only a little less sacred than Mecca, the centre of their faith, and Medina, the burial place of their prophet. Palestine has also held an important place in civil history from the earliest times, as it is situated close to the line separating Asia from Africa, and has been the scene of many battles between the great nations of the past. It contains the remains of the many different races that have occupied it, the people of the Stone Age, the Canaanites, the Egyptians, the Philistines, the Israelites, the Assyrians, the Persians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Christians, and the Arabs, who built city after city, of which the ruins still exist, though often buried under a vast accumulation of *débris*, and only to be recovered by careful exploration.

Considering the large number of books which had been written about Palestine it is remarkable how little was really known of the country in modern times, and it was not until 1804 that an attempt was made to explore it scientifically. In that year a Society was founded called the Palestine Association, which had for its object to procure and publish information regarding the geography, history, people and climate of the Holy Land. In 1810 this Society issued a translation of Seetzen's Travels, and they sent out an expedition to examine and report; but the times were unpropitious, as the nations were engaged in a great war, and the explorers could do nothing on account of the dangerous condition of Palestine.

The Royal Geographical Society was founded in 1830, and, four years later, the Palestine Association decided that, as the new Society undertook similar objects to those of the Association, the funds, books, and papers should be handed over to the former, and so the first Palestine Exploration Society came to an end; and, as the Geographical Society had the whole world as the scope of its operations, it could not devote much attention to a small country like Palestine, especially as the interests connected with it were archaeological and historical, rather than geographical.

It was in 1838 that the first important step was taken in the direction of Palestine exploration, and then by an American traveller, the Rev. Edward Robinson, who, having been appointed Professor of Biblical Literature in a New York College, decided that he could not undertake the duties of the position until he had

made himself personally acquainted with the lands of the Bible. He began by studying the whole literature of the subject, so as to learn everything that was already known, and then travelled through Sinai and the Holy Land, making careful notes of all he saw. On his return to the United States he published the results of his investigations in a volume, entitled *Biblical Researches in Palestine*, which was the most valuable contribution to the subject that had been written, and recognized as such by the Royal Geographical Society, as the Royal Gold Medal was awarded to the author in 1842.

Robinson's example was followed by others, among whom was the Rev. A. P. Stanley, afterwards Dean of Westminster, who travelled in the East in 1852, and again in 1862, when he accompanied His Majesty, King Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, on a tour in the Holy Land. After returning from his first expedition he published a book with the title *Sinai and Palestine*, and, in the preparation of this, he was assisted by Mr. George Grove—the late Sir George Grove—who was engaged in writing the articles dealing with the Holy Land for Smith's *Dictionary of the Bible*. Mr. Grove, feeling, like Dr. Robinson, that he could not do this work satisfactorily without a personal knowledge of the country, started for Palestine in 1858, and returned full of enthusiasm for the subject. He felt the great need for a good map and decided that such a map must be made.

An unexpected assistance towards the work of Palestine research came from another quarter ; the late Baroness Burdett Coutts had heard that Jerusalem had serious need of a good water supply, and decided to supply the want if possible. On making enquiry as to the best way to proceed, she learned that the first step was to have a good survey made of Jerusalem and the neighbourhood, and placed £500 in the hands of Sir Henry James, Director-General of the Ordnance Survey, for this purpose. Captain Wilson, R.E., volunteered to carry out the work, and proceeded to Jerusalem in 1864, when he made an exact survey of the city and a map of the environs. This survey may be regarded as the actual origin of the Palestine Exploration Fund, for, while Wilson was still in Jerusalem, Mr. Grove came to the conclusion that the time had come for giving tangible form to his long cherished project, and, with the consent of the Dean of Westminster, who was equally interested, a Meeting was held in the Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster, in May, 1865,

presided over by the Archbishop of York, when it was decided that "An Association should be formed, under the title of the Palestine Exploration Fund, for the purpose of investigating the archaeology, geography, geology, and natural history of Palestine." A Committee was formed, and Mr. Grove was appointed Honorary Secretary.

The next step was to summon a Public Meeting, which was held at Willis's Rooms on June 22nd, 1865, when the Society was formally established. In his opening address the Archbishop of York stated the principles upon which the work was to be carried out: these were as follow:—

1. That whatever was undertaken should be carried out on scientific principles.
2. That the Society should, as a body, abstain from controversy.
3. That it should not be started, nor should it be conducted, as a religious Society.

These principles have been rigidly adhered to during the past fifty years, and, in consequence, the Society has had support from Christians of all denominations, Jews and Mahomedans, because it is known that the work is conducted with the same spirit of the fearless search for truth that obtains in any other branch of scientific research.

Of the original Committee appointed at the inaugural Meeting one Member only remains; I allude, of course, to Mr. Walter Morrison, who has been Honorary Treasurer for forty-six years, and has always been the mainstay, the guardian, and the true friend of the Society.

The Meeting was followed by an appeal for funds, and many large contributions were received, headed by a donation of £150 from Her Majesty Queen Victoria, who graciously consented to become the Patron of the Society. In a short time sufficient funds had been collected to justify the Committee in making a start, and it was decided to begin by making a preliminary reconnaissance of Palestine from north to south, and Captain Wilson, who had just returned from Jerusalem, was appointed leader of the expedition, with Lieut. Anderson and some men of the Royal Engineers as his assistants. The party landed at Beirut and commenced their work in Palestine, at Banias, near the sources of the Jordan, on January 1st, 1866. A triangulation was carried along the range of hills which form the backbone of the country, fifty stations being fixed

trigonometrically and astronomically, and a sketch map made on the scale of one inch to the mile, with plans of important places on a larger scale. Thanks to the scientific knowledge of the officers a larger amount of accurate information about Palestine was collected than had ever been available before, but one of the main results of the expedition was to show clearly that the first step towards a scientific knowledge of the Holy Land was the preparation of a complete survey of the country on a sufficiently large scale to mark every geographical and topographical feature, and to indicate every tell or mound under which one of the cities of the past is buried.

But although the production of such a survey was very important, there were other questions in which some of the subscribers were specially interested, one of which was the exploration of Jerusalem itself, a city which has gone through so many vicissitudes and been so often destroyed, that it is impossible from a mere inspection of what now exists to realize what it was like in ancient times, as the accumulation of *débris*, in some places eighty or one hundred feet in depth, has completely obliterated many of the features. Jerusalem can only be studied by exploration, and, in 1867, the Committee decided to send out an expedition with the view of solving some of the questions in dispute, such as the site of the Temple of the Jews, the line of the walls with which the city was fortified in the time of the siege by Titus, the position of the Holy Sepulchre, the City of David, the Castle of Antonia, in which St. Paul was imprisoned, and other places.

In order to carry out the work permission was obtained from the War Office to engage the services of Lieut. Warren, R.E., now General Sir C. Warren, G.C.M.G., who, with a party of the Royal Engineers, proceeded to Jerusalem early in 1867, where he worked for three years. His operations were specially directed to the Eastern Hill, on which formerly stood the Temple, first built by King Solomon and twice reconstructed, on the site now occupied by the Mahomedan building, the Dome of the Rock, sometimes, though incorrectly, called the Mosque of Omar. This building stands within a large enclosure called the Haram, which, as regards its present size, dates from the time of King Herod the Great, and is surrounded by immense walls, of which the lower portions are completely concealed by rubbish. In order to examine them to the foundations, Warren had to sink shafts, some of which were eighty feet in depth, and drive galleries through the *débris*, a difficult

and dangerous task, as the rubbish was a kind of loose shingle which had no cohesion, and tended to fill up the shafts and galleries.

Warren's underground explorations threw an entirely new light on the ancient city, and showed how the deep valleys described by Josephus still existed, although almost completely filled up with rubbish, so that it became possible to understand what Jerusalem was like in the days of David and Solomon. The results of his work, combined with that of Wilson, form the basis of that study of the place which has continued ever since.

During the time that these explorations were in progress at Jerusalem, another expedition was sent out under the late Prof. Palmer, who was afterwards murdered by the Bedouin during the war of 1882, to examine the country south of Palestine—known as the Negeb, or the Desert of the Wanderings—where the Israelites passed the forty years of waiting, until they were allowed to cross the Jordan and enter the Promised Land. Palmer was a thorough Oriental scholar, and had been the companion of Captain Wilson, when the latter made the survey of Mount Sinai in 1868, so that he was already well acquainted with the desert, and, on his second expedition, was able to collect a great deal of useful information.

The next work undertaken by the Society was one of the greatest importance—the Survey of Western Palestine. As the expense was certain to be large, the Committee made a special appeal for funds, and sufficient was collected to allow the survey party to be sent out in 1871. Captain R. W. Stewart, R.E., was sent in command, but, soon after his arrival in Palestine, he was taken seriously ill and had to return to England, when Lieut. C. R. Conder, R.E., was appointed to succeed him. Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake acted as assistant until his death in 1874, when his place was taken by Lieut. Kitchener (now Earl Kitchener).

The Survey, so far as the field work was concerned, occupied a period of six years, and, after the final return of the party to England in 1877, several years more were devoted to the preparation of the Map on the scale of one inch to the mile, and of the Memoirs containing the reports and plans. The amount of information collected was far greater than had been anticipated, and it may fairly be claimed that nothing has ever been done for the illustration and right understanding of the historical portions of the Bible, since the translation into the vulgar tongue, which can be compared with this great work.

This Survey of Western Palestine included the whole country west of Jordan, between a line on the north from Tyre to the sources of the river, and one on the south from Gaza through Beersheba to the Dead Sea. The Map was published in two editions, one on the inch scale, and the second on the scale of three-eighths of an inch to the mile; other editions on the latter scale were afterwards issued, upon which the Old and New Testament names were shown, so far as these had been identified. The total cost of the whole work, including publications, was a little over £17,000.

While the survey was in progress, Prof. Clermont-Ganneau, the eminent French Oriental scholar, was employed by the Society on an archaeological mission in southern Palestine, and sent some very valuable reports on the antiquities of the country.

In 1882 Captain Conder commenced the survey of the country east of the Jordan, but the time was not propitious, and, after he had completed about 500 square miles east of the Dead Sea, he was ordered by the Turkish authorities to withdraw, and the survey had to be stopped.

But, after the British occupation of Egypt in 1882, matters were more settled, and, in 1883, an expedition was sent out under Prof. E. Hull, Director of the Geological Survey of Ireland, to investigate the geology of Sinai and Palestine. He was accompanied by Major Kitchener, who surveyed the Wady Arabah, which lies between the south end of the Dead Sea and the head of the Gulf of Akabah.

As the publication of the Maps and Memoirs was an expensive business, little could be done in the way of further exploration, until these were completed and paid for. But, in 1889, when the liabilities were reduced to a small amount, and a loan, which it was necessary to raise, had been paid off, the Committee decided to commence the examination of the Tells or sites of buried cities, of which there are so many in Palestine. The place that was first taken in hand was a mound called Tell el-Hesi, situated about sixteen miles east of Gaza, and Prof. Flinders Petrie, the well-known Egyptian archaeologist, began work there in 1890. He found that the site had been occupied from a remote period, long before Joshua and the Israelites entered Canaan, and that the mound contained a number of buried cities, overlying one another, each in succession having been built over the ruins of its predecessor. There was little doubt that the place was the Lachish of Bible history, and

that one of the cities was that which had been captured and destroyed by Joshua, while another had been fortified in the time of the kings of Judah. Prof. Petrie was obliged to return to Egypt, and his place was taken by Mr. F. J. Bliss, who worked at Tell el-Hesi until 1892, and made many interesting discoveries.

In 1893 permission was obtained from the Turkish Government to re-open explorations at Jerusalem, and Mr. Bliss, who was assisted by Mr. A. C. Dickie, now Professor of Architecture in Manchester University, carried out some important excavations on the south side of the city, when they recovered the old first wall, described by Josephus, which had been so completely lost that some writers even denied its having existed, and also some of the ancient gates, mentioned in the Book of Nehemiah. This was a satisfactory solution of one of the disputed questions regarding the topography of Jerusalem. Mr. Bliss found also, about twenty-five feet underground, the foundations of the old church at the Pool of Siloam, probably built by the Empress Eudocia in the fifth century, and destroyed by the Persians when they invaded Palestine in the seventh century.

Mr. Bliss worked for three years in Jerusalem, and then began a new series of excavations on the Tells of Southern Palestine, four of which were examined with very satisfactory results. These were Tell el-Zakariyeh, Tell es-Safi, possibly the Philistine city of Gath, Tell el-Judeideh, and Tell Sandahannah, the ancient city of Mareshah, near to which Asa, king of Judah, defeated the Egyptians. At each of these careful explorations were made, and many interesting remains were found of the people of the past, adding to our knowledge of the history of the country.

The next Tell selected for examination was one called Tell el-Jezar, the Biblical city of Gezer, where Mr. R. A. S. Macalister worked from 1902 to 1905, and again from 1907 to 1909, during which he was able to trace the history of the site from the days of the people of the Stone Age, and through the Canaanite, the Egyptian, the Philistine, the Israelite, and Syrian occupations. Here he found a remarkable heathen temple, with the monoliths still standing, while around, preserved in jars, were the bones of the infants who had been offered in sacrifice to Molech. Here was the castle built by Simon, the renowned Maccabean chieftain, when he captured Gezer from the Syrians; while one of the most interesting discoveries was a great tunnel, twenty-three feet in height,

descending obliquely downwards into the rock, which must have been excavated by people of prehistoric times, though for what purpose is doubtful. To give an idea of the extent of Mr. Macalister's discoveries it may be mentioned that his reports and drawings fill three large volumes.

In 1911-12 Dr. Duncan Mackenzie carried out an interesting series of excavations at 'Ain Shems, probably Bethshemesh of the Bible, to which the Ark was sent back by the Philistines after it had been captured from the Israelites in the time of Eli, the High Priest. Here, again, was the story of a site which had been occupied from the earliest times, and city after city had been built and destroyed, each set of inhabitants leaving some relics of their occupation. And it must be remembered that Palestine is covered with such Tells, of which only a very few have yet been explored; that there are many others concealing secrets, which, when revealed, will throw new light on the history of the past, and confirm the truth of the Bible.

The last expedition undertaken by the Society was in 1913-14, when the War Office allowed two Engineer officers, Captain Newcombe and Lieut. Greig, to carry out the survey of the country south of Beersheba, and up to the frontier of Egypt. With them were associated two skilled archaeologists, Mr. C. L. Woolley and Mr. T. E. Lawrence, who reported on the antiquities of this very interesting district, the scene of the wanderings of the Israelites for forty years. The work was completed in May last year, and we had the satisfaction of hearing Captain Newcombe's description of the survey at the last General Meeting, while Messrs. Woolley's and Lawrence's Reports have recently been published. The map has been prepared, but, for obvious reasons, cannot yet be issued.

In the above brief summary I have endeavoured to give an idea of the work which has been carried out by the Palestine Exploration Fund during the fifty years of its existence, and you will realize the manner in which the original object of its founders, the scientific exploration of the Holy Land, has always been kept in view, and the original principles laid down for its operations have always been strictly adhered to. I hope that, when the present war is at an end, and explorations in Palestine can be resumed, the results in the future may be as important as, if not more so than, those in the past.

The PRESIDENT.—I am sure we are all grateful to Sir Charles Watson for the extremely interesting account he has given us of our work. (Applause.)

Colonel Sir CHARLES M. WATSON.—May I be permitted to move a resolution. I wish to propose a vote of thanks to His Grace for having been so good in the midst of his numerous engagements as to come here and take the chair on this occasion. I am sure it is a great pleasure that at the Fiftieth Anniversary we should have our President to preside over us and to address us so eloquently as he has done on the work of the Society.

The vote of thanks having been unanimously carried,

The PRESIDENT said :—I am not going to inflict a speech upon you, but I should have been very sorry indeed had it been impossible to have been here, although I am painfully conscious of the fact that I have inadequately performed the duties of such an office. It is practically impossible for me to keep abreast of the responsibilities placed upon me at the present time; therefore the research and investigation one would like to pursue, and the literature of the hour and of our Society and its work has been obliged to be left for a time of greater rest and leisure than is possible for me by day or by night at present. I should have been very sorry had it been my misfortune to have been prevented from taking, however little worthily, the position which ought to belong to the President of this Society.

Dr. PERCY D'ERF WHEELER.—Your Grace, I have much pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to the Society of Antiquaries, who have been so kind and shown such courtesy in allowing us the use of their rooms to-day.

The PRESIDENT.—I am quite sure we should all feel we want to recognize to the full the privilege we have in meeting in so appropriate a place, and we are all most grateful to the Society for the use of the room.

The vote of thanks having been carried by acclamation, the proceedings terminated.