

QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF PROGRESS.

IN publishing a continuation of the history of Lieutenant Warren's Work in Jerusalem, the Committee beg to announce to the subscribers and friends of the Fund that they purpose issuing these letters and printing other papers relating to their work no longer at irregular intervals, but in the form of a quarterly pamphlet, which will be forwarded to every subscriber, and which, it is hoped, will be circulated as widely as possible. It is proposed also to make this quarterly pamphlet the medium of publishing new facts or brief papers of interest on the Holy Land. In the present number, for instance, will be found, among other papers, Mr. MacGregor's admirable letter to the *Times*, descriptive of his visit to the shafts; and the Committee invite recent travellers in Palestine to forward to them any notes of interest which may be considered as adding to the stock of information on the Holy Land—its manners and customs, climate, geology, archæology, and any other points.

The letters appended continue the detailed account of Lieutenant Warren's work for the three months ending March 31, 1869, so far as accounts have been received, and contain very much that is of the highest interest.

The work has been carried on at Birket Israil; the S.E. angle of the Haram Wall; Robinson's Arch; the Pool of Siloam; the Wall and Hill of Ophel; the Vaults of Wilson's Arch; the Gate Gennath; the Haram Area itself; the Triple Gate, and the Golden Gate; also at Khureitân. Full details of results will be found in Lieutenant Warren's own words.

To sum up, however, these results.

The work of the three months establishes the following facts:—

The bottom of the "Birket Israil," the so-called Pool of Bethesda, is found to be a "hard, smooth surface, evidently for the bottom of a reservoir." It is composed of a thickness of 2½ in. of plaster, and then a concrete 1 ft. 4½ in. thick of small stones and mortar. The northern end of the pool, unlike the other sides, is built up of steps of concrete, similar to those at the pools of Solomon. Rock has been found at depths which seem to Lieutenant Warren to show that the Birket Israil never extended farther to the west than

its present limit, at its present depth; that if the pool was ever of greater extent than it is at present, it could only have been by a portion running north towards the west end of the Church of St. Anne; and that the pool has only rock on its western side.

Robinson's Arch, from which so much has already been obtained, has yielded fresh results. The chambers mentioned at p. 89, and the aqueduct running north and south, with circular pools, one of which is *under* the Haram Wall, await further exploration.

The "Wall of Ophel" has been traced to a point where it ends abruptly (see page 90). On the "Hill of Ophel," south of the Haram Area, remarkable results have been obtained (pp. 93 to 96). A cavern cut out of the rock has been found—cisterns, drains, and massive walls are met with, with remains of buildings, the rock, when met with, being frequently scarped and cut away. The wall is from 20 to 40 feet below the surface, and the expense of keeping the shafts open would be too great, owing to the costliness of the wooden frames; they are therefore tamped up.

The account of the very curious tank found at the N.W. corner of the Haram Area (p. 96) has been already published in the *Times* and other papers. The sketch sent home by Lieutenant Warren has been lithographed (see plan 35, appended).

It will be remembered that the secret passage under the great causeway of Tarik Bab es Silsile, to the west of Wilson's Arch, was explored to a distance of 250 feet, when it runs immediately under the street; at 220 feet the passage is terminated abruptly by a comparatively narrow wall, and an opening to the south leads into an ancient vault, and farther on to a place used as a donkey stable. This is about 8 or 9 feet (from the springing of the arch) below the level of the street. Lieutenant Warren has discovered, at a depth of 40 ft. below the street, and under the secret passage, two chambers, with a peculiar gateway (see pages 91, 92). Research in the Tyropœon Valley seems always to bear good fruit, and it is greatly to be lamented that the funds at the disposal of the Committee will not allow the works to be carried on here on a more extensive scale.

At the foot of the wall of the Haram Area, at the S.E. corner, on the lowest courses of the stone, about 70 feet below the surface of the ground, various letters and marks in red paint were discovered, which are now undergoing investigation by competent

scholars, and promise important results. See plan of these (No. 29 appended). For details, see Captain Warren's letter of January 2, 1869 (pp. 84—86.)

An interesting exploration of the Cave at Khureitán will be found described in Captain Warren's letter of the same date (pp. 83, 84).

The Gate Gennath (so-called) has been explored at the desire of the Duke of Modena (see pp. 92, 93).

With these remarks on the contents of this interesting series of letters, the Committee place them in the hands of the subscribers to the Fund.

The Committee concluded the statement of progress, dated Jan. 1, 1869, by an appeal for fresh funds. They have to repeat this appeal. The work is dependent wholly on the subscriptions which are sent in month by month. The Committee have, with the very greatest reluctance, been compelled to instruct Lieutenant Warren to abandon all but the most important portions of his work—this, too, at a time when facts are fast accumulating, when the results of ruined Jerusalem are rapidly being wrested from the ruins, and when the promises that attended Lieutenant Warren's earlier efforts are being attended with success. To abandon these works at such a moment would be most lamentable; it would be to proclaim to America, to Germany, and to France, that England—the country where the Bible has been most loved and most studied—will not from her great wealth spare a few thousands yearly to carry on the work of elucidating and explaining the Bible history.

The Committee will not, however, believe that the work will be allowed to stop, and that other nations are to have the glory of completing what England has begun. They therefore beg their friends to become, each in his own circle, an advocate of the cause. There are, besides, many, especially among the clergy, who can help more efficiently in this way than by donations. The Committee especially beg these to consider themselves on the same footing as subscribers, and equally entitled to the publications of the Society.

To the whole body of the clergy of the Church of England; to the whole body of the Nonconformist ministers; to students of the Bible, of whatever opinions, the Committee especially make this

appeal. Those who are most interested in the results of the work should be most active in its promotion. Those who know the value of the removal of difficulties from the right understanding of the sacred text should be foremost in helping a society which has no other aim than to remove them, and no other reason for existence.

The subscriptions, including the proceeds of lectures and sums received on the Photographic account, amount, for the three months ending March 31, 1869, to the sum of £818 19s. 6d. The expenses attendant on the work are *necessarily* equal to this amount, and should be much greater. As it may appear desirable to stop the excavations during the heat of the summer, and thereby to lessen the immediate expenditure, the Committee hope that by a combined effort of their subscribers, enough may be raised to carry on the work afterwards with renewed vigour. Were every parish in England to contribute a single half-sovereign for this purpose, the money would be more than raised.

It is gratifying to announce the establishment of new Societies in Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Northampton, Hertford, Dover, Peterborough, and Frome. At other places, too, gentlemen have been found to undertake the post of Honorary Secretary; and the Committee beg all who may be willing to help in this way to communicate with the Secretary.

Lectures have been given, and addresses made, on behalf of the Fund by the Rev. H. B. Tristram, F.R.S., the Rev. George Williams, Mr. Walter Morrison, M.P., Lieutenant Anderson, R.E., the Rev. Charles Boutell, the Rev. G. St. Clair, and the Secretary. Arrangements may be made for lectures at the next season. It is particularly requested that the Secretary be communicated with in the *first* instance, and that lectures be not given on this special work of the Society, in aid of other institutions.

The Committee are very gratified in being able to announce that the cause of the Palestine Exploration Fund is being advocated in America. They have to record their best thanks to the Rev. W. Budington, D.D., of Brooklyn, New York; to the Rev. Stephen Hubbell, of New York; and to the Rev. W. Patten, D.D., of Chicago, for offers of assistance.

In Chicago, the "Advance," a paper of large circulation, has kindly thrown open its columns to the advocacy of the Fund. It is

most gratifying to find that the labours of Lieutenant Warren are not only properly valued on the other side of the Atlantic, but that they are also likely to meet with solid assistance, as well as sympathy.

It is proposed to hold a public meeting in May or June next, which will be duly announced in the papers.

In order to make Lieutenant Warren's letters continuous, their pagination is separate from the rest of the pamphlet, and is carried on from the previous letters.

April 6, 1869.

BRIEF NARRATIVE OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

THE following very brief history of the organisation and proceedings of the Society may be interesting to some of the subscribers who have not followed its operations from the beginning. It was first called into existence at a public meeting held in Willis's Rooms on June 22nd, 1865. The Archbishop of York, the present President of the Society, was in the chair, and among the speakers were the Bishop of London, Lord Strangford, the Right Hon. Mr. Layard, the Count de Vogüé, the Dean of Westminster, the Dean of Canterbury, Sir Roderick Murchison, Mr. Gifford Palgrave, Professor Owen, the Rev. H. B. Tristram, and Mr. Gilbert Scott.

It was decided that the objects of the Fund should be comprised under the following heads :—

1. Archæology.
2. Manners and Customs.
3. Topography.
4. Geology.
5. Natural History.

The first expedition, under Captain Wilson and Lieutenant Anderson, was despatched at the end of the year 1865, and was employed in Palestine for six months, at a cost of £1,500. During this time, the party constructed a series of maps on the scale of one mile to an inch, of the whole backbone of the country, from north