

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

P R E F A C E.

It is with the deepest sorrow that we record the death of Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake, which took place at Jerusalem, on Tuesday the 23rd ult. An attack of fever was followed by complications of a kind which, although the patient rallied at one time so as to give hopes of recovery, proved fatal after three weeks of suffering. Mr. Drake was only twenty-eight years of age. His loss is a grievous one to the work of exploration, and our readers will greatly miss the intelligent and pleasant letters which have for two years and a half helped to keep them informed of the progress of the Survey. In our pages farther on will be found a short memorial paper by Lieutenant Conder.

Lieutenant Conder contributes to the present number a paper on the identification of *Ænon*, the "place near Salim, where there was much water" (St. John iii. 23). Three sites have been proposed; Lieutenant Conder advocates that first proposed by Dr. Robinson. He offers an answer to the problem of the tells of Palestine; they are, he thinks, brickmaking accumulations. He traces the victory and pursuit of Gideon (Judges vii.), identifying, as he goes, the places whither the host fled, "Beth-shittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abel-meholah" (Judges vii. 22). If the chapter be read side by side with Lieutenant Conder's comments, it will be found to have received much additional light. If his proposed identification of Zererath with Ain Zahrah be accepted, it is an entirely new discovery. Lieutenant Conder's argument in favour of Ras el Ain as the site of Herod's Antipatris may be read with the paper by Major Wilson on the same subject.

Mr. Drake, in the last report we have from him, speaks of the continued subsidence of the bottom of the Dead Sea. He also speaks of the curious Kurn Sartabeh, of Akrabeh, and the ruins of Herod's town of Phasaelas.

The voluminous reports of M. Ganneau continue to be of the greatest importance and interest. They are full of inscriptions, legends, traditions, and suggestions. To architects and those

interested in the controversies which have grown up round the Kubbet es Sakhra, the most valuable portions of the reports will be the account of the columns and balustrade of the building.

The excavations in Jerusalem are, for want of funds, very limited, consisting principally of those in and about the rock-cut chambers north of the Via Dolorosa.

The identifications proposed by M. Ganneau in this number, are, that of Malha with Manocho (see the Septuagint version, Joshua xix. 9), the Forest of Hareth (1 Sam. xxii. 5) with Herché, and Kurn Sartabeh with the place in which Joshua saw the captain of the Host of the Lord (Joshua v. 13—15).

An account of the Second Statement of the American Exploration Society will be found in the present number. It is necessarily brief.

The most recent information on the Shapira Collection is also published. We do not, however, undertake to give in future further arguments on the basis of facts already known.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE FUND.

Received from March 26th, to June 26th, 1874 ...	£788	11	5
Including proceeds of Lectures	31	19	4
Sale of Publications } at Lectures ...	19	14	2
Sale of Photographs } and elsewhere ...	9	16	0
Balance in banks (June 26th)	306	14	0

PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS OF THE FUND.

Lieutenant Conder will return to Palestine in the autumn, and resume the work of the Survey. The non-commissioned officers are in Jerusalem, under the charge of Dr. Chaplain.

Lieutenant Conder will read a paper on the Survey at the meeting of the British Association in August, at Belfast.

M. Ganneau will continue his work at Jerusalem and elsewhere during the summer.

TRANSLITERATION AND NOMENCLATURE.

It has been decided by the Publication Committee to adopt for the future Robinson's system of transliteration in all their reports and papers.

THE PUBLICATION OF THE MAP.

It has been resolved that until the new map is completely finished no steps shall be taken towards publishing any portion of it.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

This was held on Tuesday, June 23rd, at the Royal Institution. In the unavoidable absence of the Archbishop of York, the chair was taken by the Dean of Westminster. Lieutenant Conder read a paper on the Survey, and resolutions were proposed by Sir Bartle Frere, Gen. Sir Frederick Goldsmid, Rev. George Williams, Rev. Dr. Manning, Rev. Dr. Porter, and Mr. George Grove. A full report will be published in the next *Quarterly Statement*.

PRICE OF THE QUARTERLY STATEMENT.

In future this will be half-a-crown to non-subscribers.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY.

Intelligence has been received from the Secretary of New York that the sum of 60,000 dols. has been collected, and that the money is still flowing in. A second expedition to carry on the work of the first will be dispatched immediately.