

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

PREFACE.

IN beginning a new volume of our *Quarterly Statement*, we are anxious to ask our Subscribers to bear in mind, that we are still far from being assured as to the stability of our position. We have purposely asked for a very small sum annually, only £5,000 for the next five years or so. That amount will enable us to carry out all our objects. We require £800 a year for home expenses, of which about £400 is wanted for management, the other half being spent in publishing, illustrating, and distributing our Reports. In other words, we can do all our work on eight per cent. of the income we ask. But it must be remembered that we have never received anything like this income.

We have two main lines of work, the survey of Palestine and the examination of Jerusalem. The former has been conducted during the last year with as much vigour as was possible. More than a thousand square miles have been plotted, and when we can send out two more men to help, it will go on with double the expedition. It has been decided to open a special fund for Jerusalem purposes, to which subscriptions are invited. A donation of £50 for this purpose has been recently given by Mr. Tyssen Amhurst, and another of the same amount for the Survey.

If any additional motive were wanted to urge on the work, it would be found in the despatch of the American Expedition. The two great branches of the English-speaking race are now working side by side. The leader of the American Expedition is an officer

of the United States Engineer Corps, Lieutenant Steever. He is accompanied by Professor Paine, as archæologist, and by Mr. Vandyke, jun., of Beyrout. At Beyrout itself are the head-quarters of the Executive Committee of the American Association, composed of the United States Consul-General, the Rev. Dr. Thompson, and the Rev. Dr. Stewart Dodge. As has been stated before, their work will be east of the Jordan over a district comparatively unexplored, and where, doubtless, there will be made discoveries of the deepest interest. There may even be more Moabite stones. We do not *expect*, but we *hope*.

The letters and reports of Mr. Conder and Mr. Drake require no explanation. They are, and will henceforth be, accompanied by a map to show the progress made and the position of the Surveyors. With regard to the tracings already sent home, they are in the office of the Fund, and can be seen by any visitor. They cannot be published until a complete "sheet" has been received. This may not be for more than a year, as the work is spread over a great many sheets, but does not yet cover one single one. We have been kindly promised another meteorological report from Mr. Glaisher for our April *Quarterly*. This will also contain, besides the usual reports, a paper on Mount Gerizim by Captain Wilson. Other papers of interest will appear in the course of the year.

We commend our recently published little book, "Our Work in Palestine," to our Subscribers. It is written with a view to explaining not only what the work has been, but the reasons for it and its aims. We are happy to say that so far its success has been undoubted. Within three weeks after its first appearance we were enabled to order the fourth thousand to be printed, an edition having been simultaneously published by Messrs. Scribner, Welford, and Co., of New York. A very low price has been put upon the book, in order to bring it within reach of all. Considerable corrections have been made in the fourth thousand.