MEETING OF GENERAL COMMITTEE.

MEETING of General Committee of June 24, 1879.
Chairman, Lord Talbot de Malahide.

Letters were read expressing inability to attend from Sir Moses Montefiore, Messrs. Grove, Harper, Martin, and Morrison.

The Minutes of the last General Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary then read the Report of the Executive Committee, which was as follows:—

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—On resigning the trust committed to them on June 11th, 1878, your Committee render an account of their administration during the last twelve months.

1. On their first sitting, Mr. W. Hepworth Dixon was re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. The number of meetings held during the year has been nineteen, without counting many meetings of sub-committees.

3. The memoirs and plans belonging to the sheets of the map executed by Lieut. Kitchener were completed by that officer in September, 1878. He handed over to the Committee on the 10th day of that month the whole Survey of Western Palestine, consisting of (1) a complete survey,
1-inch scale, of rather more than 6,000 square miles, prepared for publication with hill-shading by the Ordnance Survey Department. (2) Twenty-six volumes of memoirs—namely, twenty by Lieut. Conder, and six by Lieut. Kitchener, comprising the notes made by the Survey party while at work. (3) A reduced map prepared by Lieut. Kitchener in accordance with the instructions of the Committee, with corrected photographs, to enable the printer to proceed. (4) A number of photographs taken by Lieut. Kitchener. (5) A number of special plans drawn by Lieuts. Conder and Kitchener. The Committee, by a special resolution, expressed their sense of the ability with which Lieut. Kitchener had brought the Survey to a successful termination. It was gratifying to hear that he had been selected by her Majesty's Government for an important work of the same kind in the Island of Cyprus.

4. The Committee have great satisfaction in announcing that, by authority of her Majesty's Government, the map of Western Palestine has been photo-zincographed by the Ordnance Survey Department, and is now so far advanced that it might, if necessary, be published without further delay. The map is kept back only for the memoirs, which are necessary to explain it.

5. The Committee have been in correspondence with the Rev. Dr. Hitchcock, of New York, President of the American Association for the Exploration of Palestine. The correspondence has resulted in the arrival of the materials resulting from the American Survey, which have been placed in the hands of this Committee for publication. They consist of (1) thirteen sheets of the country lying east of Jordan. (2) Name lists. (3) Memoirs which are now being completed by the Rev. Selah Merrill, of New York. These sheets will also be photo-zincographed, under authority of her Majesty's Government, by the Ordnance Survey Department. They are now in the hands of Col. Cooke, R.E., the director, for that purpose.

6. The Committee proceeded immediately after their appointment to consider the preparation and reduction of the smaller map. They asked for estimates from the principal map-makers and geographical engravers of the country, and finally came to an agreement with Mr. Stanford, in whose hands they placed the twenty-six sheets reduced by photography, and the hill-shading. The agreement was signed on the 13th day of December, 1878. The outline is now engraved, and considerable progress has been made with the hill-shading, which is necessarily a long and costly work. It will probably be a year before this map is ready. It will be issued in six sheets. It is hoped that we may add the American work on the same reduced scale.

7. With regard to the publication of the memoirs, plans, &c., the Committee have given the subject very careful consideration. In the first place, Col. Wilson, one of the General Editors, examined and reported on the materials placed in his hands.

On the receipt of this Report, the Committee empowered him to get certain imperfect portions completed; to make arrangements with
Professor Palmer for the examination of the Arabic name lists; and with Lieut. Conder for the execution of any new work which might be required.

The Committee then instructed their Secretary to prepare a report on the cost of printing and publishing. Such an estimate is necessarily rough, but it affords some guide to the responsibilities incurred in this great publication. It was found that about £4,000 would be required for the undertaking, counting the engraving of the small map. The Committee thereupon invited a few of the leading publishers in London to associate themselves with the Society in the risk of publication. It was found, however, impossible to make the arrangements proposed, and the Committee have now decided on issuing the large map, with all its memoirs, plans, &c., first, in a subscription edition limited to 250 members, every copy to be numbered and signed by the Chairman, at the price of 12 guineas. The price to the general public after these copies have been taken up will be considerably higher.

The proposals have as yet been sent to the General Committee only. They will be published in the next number of the Quarterly Statement. There seems to be little doubt that the whole edition will be taken up. No time will then be lost in the printing.

As regards the small map, the Committee have undertaken the whole risk out of the regular subscriptions, and have passed a resolution to place on deposit account a certain sum of money as soon as possible to meet the outlay.

During the year, Mr. George Grove sent in his resignation as one of the editors, and his part in the work has been undertaken by Major Anderson.

Though Col. Wilson has been appointed Consul-General in Asia Minor, he will continue to give his advice and supervision of the proof sheets.

8. Your Committee have great pleasure in recording the success of "Tent Work in Palestine," a book which they announced in their last Report as just ready. It speedily ran through the first edition of 1,500 copies, and a second edition of 500 copies followed, which is rapidly going off.

9. Last year the Committee recommended that an expedition should be sent to Galilee. Subscriptions were invited for this special purpose, and a deposit account was opened. The amount subscribed up to date is £186 5s. The mission will be sent out to Galilee as soon as the necessary funds are raised.

10. The Committee have to regret the loss by death during the past year of General Cameron, R.E., the Director-General of the Ordnance Survey; Col. Home, R.E., C.M.G., of the Intelligence Department; and Herr Petermann, the German geographer.

11. The Committee have received during the year, from all sources, the sum of £3,219 3s. 1d., of which £391 1s. 1d. was received on account of their new book, "Tent Work in Palestine." The expenditure during the same time has been as follows:—
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Printers and old liabilities ........................................... £446 16 10
"Tent Work" ................................................................. 471 0 0
£918 16 10

Exploration ................................................................. 839 2 2
Rent, Salaries, Advertising, Postage, and all Office Expenses ....... 270 5 10
790 12 9

The liabilities, which at the beginning of the year 1878 were nearly £900, have been all paid off. The Society, almost for the first time since its foundation, is now out of debt. There is also a balance in the bank this day of £522 17s. lid.

The income of the Society during the year has been almost entirely due to annual subscriptions, showing that the interest taken in the work is permanent. As in the case of other societies, the receipts have been influenced by the great depression of the times, but the income of the Society has been affected chiefly by the paucity of large donations.

12. Your Committee have to recommend, as the special business of this day, the registration of the Society as a limited liability Company.

The position of the Society at present is as follows. It has no constitution and is governed by no rules.

An Executive Committee was appointed in 1866, under the name of a sub-committee, with full powers of management. It has been the practice since then for this Executive Committee to resign their office at an annual meeting of the General Committee, and at the same time to report on their action during the past twelve months. The General Committee have then, after accepting and approving their Report, proceeded to elect an Executive Committee for the ensuing year. Of the original members present on the formation of the Society, May 12th, 1865, four, viz., Mr. Hepworth Dixon (now Chairman), Mr. Grove, Mr. Morrison, and Mr. Vaux, have remained continuously on the Executive Committee to the present day.

During the fourteen years of its existence the Society has become possessed of very valuable property, consisting of a large collection of antiquities, photographs, the copyright in three books, a great quantity of plans and drawings, and—the most valuable possession of all—the memoirs, map, plans, and drawings of the Survey of Western Palestine.

The Committee are advised by their solicitors that they have no power of defending this property, and that should their books or maps be pirated they cannot even sue the pirate. Under these circumstances it seemed advisable, before proceeding with fresh publications, to consider what steps should be taken to remedy this defenceless position. A sub-committee, consisting of Mr. Hepworth Dixon, Mr. Glaisher, and Mr. Morrison, was therefore appointed. This sub-committee reported on Feb. 18, 1879, as follows:—

1. We are of opinion that, considering the large amount of property now belonging to the Committee, consisting of collections, drawings,
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plans, maps, memoirs, books, photographs, copyrights, &c., it is desirable to take steps for the protection of the property.

2. We are also of opinion that of the three methods proposed to us by which this end may be obtained, viz., by Royal Charter, by private Trusteeship, or by Registration, the last offers the simplest and most convenient means of attaining that object.

3. We are of opinion that at the next meeting of the General Committee part of the business shall be to consider a recommendation to register the Society.

4. We are of opinion that the original members forming the Society should be taken from the Executive Committee, and as many as are willing to sign from the General Committee, to the number of seven or more, that being the number required by law, but in order to cover contingencies, at least ten should be registered at first, and that number kept up.

5. We are of opinion that perpetual succession should be secured by providing that all future elections of members to the General Committee should be, as at present, made by co-optation, and that such future members of the Committee should necessarily be members of the proposed Society.

This Report having been received and adopted, the same sub-committee was elected again to draw up the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association have been accordingly drawn up, submitted to counsel, and are now printed and in your hands.

The Resolutions which will be submitted to you, notice of which has been sent to every member of the General Committee, are necessary before the papers can be submitted to the Board of Trade.

Lastly, the Committee have to acknowledge the receipt of donations and subscriptions of £5 and over from Lord Lawrence, Mr. C. F. Fellowes, Mr. J. P. Bacon, Miss Baxter, Mr. Watson, Mr. Hall Dare, the Bishop of Durham, the Marquis of Bute, Mr. Braithwaite, Mr. J. E. Wilson, Mr. Few, Mr. McArthur, Mr. Samuel Morley, Col. Haig, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Reiss, Mr. G. Burns, Mr. H. M. Ormerod, Mr. W. D. Fane, Mr. Govett, Mr. H. S. Officer, Mr. C. E. Barlow, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Freemasons, the Sunday School Union, Anon., per Rev. F. H. Murray, Rev. J. T. and Mrs. Brown, Mr. A. W. Jones, G. M. E., Mr. G. M. Hicks, Rev. F. S. Wigram, Mr. A. H. Heywood, Mr. Hugh Mason, Mr. W. H. Gamlen, Mr. G. W. Digby, Rev. J. Lyon, Rev. W. H. Walford, G. C., the Bishop of Exeter, Miss S. A. Borrer, Mr. John Noble, Rev. H. Hall Houghton, Mr. John MacGregor, Mr. E. G. Gibson, Miss Wakefield, Rev. J. T. Houghton, Mr. Charles Morrison, Mr. Hastings, N. Middleton.

W. HEPWORTH DIXON,
Chairman Executive Committee.

The Report was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Hepworth Dixon then proposed that the four resolutions, copies of which had been sent to the members of the General Committee, be passed. In proposing the motion he explained the circumstances which
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had led to the steps proposed. The motion was seconded by the Bishop of Jerusalem, and was carried unanimously.

The Resolutions were as follows:

(1) "That considering the large property of the Fund now in the hands or under the control of the Committee, consisting of maps, copyrights of books, and other publications, collections, drawings, sketches, and photographs, &c., and the present unsatisfactory position of the Committee should any infringement of the copyright take place, which would destroy the value of their property, it is desirable to take steps with a view to its protection."

(2) "That the best method appears to be the registration of the Society, with Limited Liability, under the Joint Stock Companies' Acts of 1862 and 1867, as a Company, but without the addition of the word 'Limited' after the name of the Company, if the necessary licence can be obtained from the Board of Trade."

(3) "That the draft memorandum and articles of association, copies of which have been distributed among the members of the General Committee, and which have now been read, be adopted for the purpose of the registration of the Company, and that steps be at once taken to procure the licence of the Board of Trade."

(4) "That the Executive Committee for the year 1879-1880 be empowered to take such further steps as may be necessary for the establishment of the Society as a Limited Liability Company under the Acts of 1862 and 1867."

Mr. Glaisher then proposed, and Mr. Holland seconded, that the General Committee should be increased by the addition of the following gentlemen, should they accept the invitation, viz.:

Bishop of DURHAM.
Colonel Cooke, R.E.
Mr. George Burns.
Lieut. H. H. Kitchener, R.E.

The proposition was carried unanimously.

It was proposed by the Bishop of Jerusalem, seconded by Mr. Vaux, and carried unanimously, that the Executive Committee be re-elected with the exception of Mr. Harper, whose resignation was accepted with regret, and with the addition of Professor Hayter Lewis and Lieutenant Kitchener.

It was proposed by Mr. Hepworth Dixon, and seconded by Mr. Eaton, that the honorary officers be re-elected. This was carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. Hepworth Dixon, and seconded by Mr. Lewis, that the thanks of the meeting be passed to the Chairman. This was carried unanimously.

The Committee then adjourned.

At a meeting of Executive Committee, held immediately afterwards, Mr. Hepworth Dixon was re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year.