

MEETING OF THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

Jerusalem Chamber, Westminster Abbey, Tuesday, November 30th, 1880.

THE DEAN OF WESTMINSTER IN THE CHAIR.

THE Secretary read the Minutes of the last meeting, and laid before the Chairman, letters of regret at their inability to attend from the Archbishop of York, Lord Talbot De Malahide, the Dean of Lichfield, Rev. Canon Tristram, Rev. H. Hall-Houghton, Mr. W. Morrison, Mr. A. Lloyd Fox, Mr. Laurence Oliphant, Rev. W. F. Birch, Colonel Cooke, C.B., R.E., and many others.

The following is the letter received from Canon Tristram :—

DURHAM, *27th November, 1880.*

Dear Mr. Besant,—It is with extreme regret that I have to write to tell you that my duties here prevent my carrying out my intention of attending the meeting on Tuesday, to plead the cause of the Exploration of Moab.

I can, from personal observation, confidently state that no part of the country affords such virgin soil for the exploration as the rich and lofty table-land East and North-East of the Dead Sea ; nor is any portion likely to produce more important results. With the solitary exception of the fortress of Kerak, the land has known no settled inhabitants since it was swept nearly 1,300 years ago by the Persian destroyer, Chosroes. It is much as he left it. Time has done its work slowly and gently, unaided by man, for the great destroyer is not the Nomad, but the subsequent builder, who employs old material and adapts what he finds to his own use.

Moab is absolutely strewn with ruins above ground, and honeycombed with cisterns. The ruins are not desolate heaps or grass-grown mounds. Pillars, arches, churches, streets, remain only partially damaged, and I have often scrambled over the vaulting which still covers the ancient streets.

The names of the towns remain for the most part in their Semitic form in the vernacular of the wandering tribes. There are ruins like those of Shihan, undoubtedly megalithic, like the older remains of Bashan ; there

are many which tell of the Syrian occupation and the flourishing epoch of the Maccabees, while Roman, both pre-Christian, and of the Byzantine period, churches, towers, and basilicas abound everywhere. Here too we find the unique work of Chosroes, alone in its desolation, the marvellous palace of 'Mashita.

I sincerely trust that earnest and zealous support will be given to the proposed enterprise by every lover of the Bible and of Eastern history.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

H. B. TRISTRAM.

The Chairman called upon Mr. Glaisher to propose the Resolution of the day.

MR. GLAISHER. Mr. Chairman, and friends :

When the completion of the map of Western Palestine was drawing near, and the several memoirs were in a state so advanced that we felt certain of their completion ; the attention of the Committee on different occasions was directed to the completion of the Survey of Palestine, taking into consideration the present state of our knowledge with respect to the eastern side of the Jordan. You are well aware that the Americans had undertaken to make that survey, but when I point out to you the maps that they had sent in to us, of which here are several, and when I tell you that an endeavour to connect the points that were common, revealed discrepancies so large in amount that it was not possible by any amount of coaxing to connect the one with the other, you will agree with me that it became evident that if the eastern side of Palestine was to be surveyed and explored, the work must be begun *de novo*, using the maps as reconnaissance maps and no more.

Then the Committee on different occasions met, and this pamphlet (the "Survey of Eastern Palestine,") was prepared, which, I believe, has been sent to every gentleman present, and perhaps under those circumstances I need not read it, but it may be taken as read. This paper shows that the country on the eastern side of the Jordan—Eastern Palestine—is very full of interest indeed. There are many ruins, and the photographs, which may be seen by looking about the room, taken by the Americans, may lead one to the thought that there are many others which they have not visited, that much information is to be gained, and that, if careful explorations could be made of the ruins on the Eastern side of Palestine, many very valuable results would follow. Then the monetary question arose. It is a question which has frequently cropped up. It came before us when, ten years ago, we met in this room just before we began the Survey of Western Palestine ; but we now have large experience that we had not then, and probably the future will be very like the past. I should like, while upon this point, to speak of the subscriptions and donations that we have received. In the year 1872 we received £2,441. The party then took the field, and the next year, in consequence of that, I believe, the amount was increased to £3,170 ; the

next year £3,382 ; and in 1875 £3,971. There was an attack made upon the party that year, which prevented our party going out in the year 1876 ; and the consequence was the amount of donations and subscriptions fell £800. In the year 1877 the party went out again, and the subscriptions rose £200, and in 1878 the amount was £3,751. The greatest expenditure in any one year was £2,951 on the part of the Survey ; but then we had a party at work at home, and a party at work in the field. We had then the invaluable services of Lieutenant Conder, who has made, I may say, a lifelong study of biblical knowledge and of biblical association, leading to invaluable results to the Fund. It is a great pleasure to me to think that he, with his increased knowledge, may be at the service of the Fund, and that if we begin the Survey of Eastern Palestine, I am led to hope that he will be able to take charge of it. I feel confident that nothing will escape his attention, and that he will give that intelligent interpretation to facts which has always weighed hitherto, and will weigh in future with this Committee. Now, sir, the years of the Survey were 1872, 1873, 1874, and 1875, and as I have told you, in 1875 an attack was made upon the party by the Arabs, so that we had no party in the field in 1876. In 1877, Lieutenant Kitchener went out and completed the Survey, and in the year 1878 and 1879, when our funds had decreased, the office work was done at home. The interest of the subscribers never flagged whilst there was a party in the field, but it must be remembered that while it is important for the party to take the angles carefully, it is quite as important to do the office work at home by computing the sides of the triangles of which they were part, and to lay the results down as we have done upon the map. The map is a splendid piece of work, very accurately performed, and is something that the Executive Committee feel, and I think justly feel, proud of. But we are ambitious. We are anxious to have the other side of the Jordan explored with equal or if possible greater thoroughness.

Now what are the expenses ? The working expenses for the years 1872-1877 were £2,675 a year, so that during the five years the expenses were between £13,000 and £14,000. I believe that for £13,000 or £14,000 we shall be able to have a map on the other side as accurate as we have it on this. When I was here ten years ago, the map I hold in my hand represented what we knew of the topography of Western Palestine. How great is the difference between our state of knowledge then and our state of knowledge as shown by the large and beautiful map upon the wall !

That which we are most desirous of doing, as we are now free—as we can give our undivided attention to the work—as we have trained officers who have their hearts thoroughly in the work, is to see if we cannot complete on the one side of the Jordan that which we have done on the other. Now the plan hitherto adopted has been to keep the party continuously in the field ; but it has been suggested by the Committee that perhaps a better plan would be to keep the working party in the field for the best six months of the year, and to have five months at home, doing office and other work, the other month being devoted to the going

and coming. If this plan were adopted the result we might look for, might perhaps be stated thus. Firstly, we should have the maintenance of the party for only seven months in the year; secondly, we should give the party a beneficial change of air and rest; thirdly, we should enable the work to be got up, and portions finished off, and probably some put into the engraver's hands; fourthly, it would give the Committee better means of estimating the expenses and inquiring into methods of work. If this plan were not adopted, I do not think the expenses could be less than they were formerly—that is, about £2,700—and if our office and all other expenses are taken into account, you will see that we should require between £3,000 and £4,000 a-year to carry out satisfactorily the objects which we have in view. If, however, the early return of the party were resolved upon, we might perhaps save £400 or £500 a-year. These are matters to be considered. Money, of course, is an important element to be regarded, but I cannot think that while the money is economically used, we shall have any trouble in procuring the necessary amount. The past leads me to feel confident that if we do our work steadily, faithfully, and well; gaining information upon biblical points (and looking at this pamphlet it will be seen that there are a very large number of biblical associations of the highest interest, upon which we may hope to gain information), we cannot have much trouble or difficulty in procuring the money that we may require. Therefore, sir, without further remark, I would beg to move—That it is now desirable to take, without delay, the Survey of Eastern Palestine, under conditions similar to those which have been proved to be thoroughly successful in the case of Western Palestine. (Cheers.)

Mr. MACGREGOR. Mr. Chairman, I do not think we require to convince any person around this table of the importance of the work which it has been proposed should be begun. If this were a meeting of the general public, who may be more or less ignorant of our work, and who would require to have descriptions given, what we might have to say would be very different. The great success which has hitherto been attained must afford cause for mutual congratulation, and I am sure the Dean will feel that it is deserved, especially by those who have worked hard—the Officers and the Committee—those who have gone away and those who have stayed behind. The great success gained should be an incentive to further efforts, because “nothing succeeds like success.” Certainly it would never have done to have taken the Eastern side first, but now that we are strong upon the West, and can point to the results, our progress to the East becomes an absolute necessity.

Thirty years ago I went to Palestine in the ordinary way, and but twenty years afterwards, I went in another way on the water. At that time the maps were very deficient; I had the great privilege of the gift by Captain Warren, now Colonel Warren, of a little photograph of a map that had been made of the Sea of Galilee. This I copied, and put into a book on half-inch scale. That was invaluable of course, especially as it was to be used on the water. I have brought here one of a great

number of maps that I had copied in the British Museum, and this was the best. It was rather old. It is the map of Seetzen in A.D. 1732, and is rather amusing to look at. But although that may appear ridiculous now, it was the only thing to be had some time ago, and we shall look back, I hope, in another year or two to the time when we had only those imperfect maps which are now superseded by the splendid map before us.

Our work in Jerusalem will greatly depend, I think, upon the success of the Map and the Memoirs, and I suppose political matters are now sufficiently quiet to hope that this, at any rate, will be allowed, and that Colonel Warren and others will swing down these shafts 90 feet under the ground, and feel as happy as he used to be when he was suspended there by a rope at the top.

I am very sorry that the Eastern part will be a little impeded by the illness of Mr. Oliphant, who was to have been here to-day, and I am not able at all to plead in his stead, having little of his knowledge of the subject ; but he was so unwell that he was persuaded not to come. His book will, however, be out on the 7th of next month, and from what I have seen and know of it and of him, and from what we have already heard in an indefinite way, it will be sure to be interesting. It will come out at a very happy time for us all, when this work is about to be begun in the Land of Gilead, and I hope that a work of this description will make the place so interesting that the publication will come opportunely for the Fund. There is also another very remarkable work in connection with the Fund in one sense. *The Jewish Chronicle*, a well-known paper belonging to the Jews of London, and two or three other newspapers in foreign lands, are turning their attention to the East country, not only because of its general interest, but for purposes of future settlement and cultivation. It is too soon yet to say more than that there is to-day a very strong feeling on the part of many influential persons that something should be done in England which would enable the Jews to go back to Palestine. Where they should go, and by whom they should be maintained, and for what exact purpose, is of course no within our province to declare or to suggest, but it is, I think, within our province to remember that a Map and a completion of the Memoirs of the East might be even more useful to them than the Map of the Western part, seeing that the Western part is on the whole at present not considered so adapted for settlement as are the provinces on the Eastern side of the Jordan.

Now there is one congratulation that I think ought to be made at this particular period of our progress, and that is, that whilst the Committee get some thanks—and the Executive Committee try to deserve some too—I think we ought all to thank our Secretary for the extraordinary attention he has given, and for the work that he has successfully accomplished (applause). It is only necessary to see him as we do in the Executive Committee to feel that this tribute will be cheerfully accorded to him by the Chairman and the Committee. (Hear, hear.)

It is a striking thought too that in this year, and in this Chamber—the Dean will correct me if I am wrong—the revision of the New Testament is in progress.

The DEAN of WESTMINSTER. It is completed.

Mr. MACGREGOR. We have it from the chair that it is now completed. That is a remarkable addition to the wonders of this year. Now the map is published, and the revision is completed, the two will go hand-in-hand, and each will help the other. Combined they form a picture Bible—a correct picture Bible—and those who know how many picture Bibles there are that are full of mistakes, will be delighted to find that at any rate, as regards the map, it is as correct as it can possibly be made. An erroneous picture Bible is one of the worst things for children to use, and a correct map of Palestine must be one of the best things for students to be guided by. The work that has been done is commended on all sides, and we can only hope that our American friends will resume in some other shape what they have confessedly failed in doing at the present moment. This cannot be for want of will. When we think that the whole of Palestine that is now surveyed, is only the size of Wales, and that the whole of Jerusalem within the walls would go into Hyde Park; it is a wonderful thing if the two great nations of the world, receiving assistance, as they do, from Germany, Sweden, Norway, and other Protestant countries, cannot finish the work that has been so well begun.

There is one suggestion I would make, and it is only a suggestion. No doubt the Executive will consider it afterwards. I happened to be yesterday with the new Lord Mayor, asking from him the use of the Egyptian Hall, for a meeting on behalf of the monument to the Martyr Tyndale. Now it is a matter for the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund to consider whether, having done a good deal among the *literati* and the universities, we should not also have a meeting in the city upon this subject under the presidency of his lordship—an earnest Christian man; and we should then be able to go to one of the most powerful communities and which is sometimes called the largest Protestant Church in the world—that is the Wesleyans—those in America being assimilated to, if not actually part of the same body as those who are in England. We may well hope that the Lord Mayor would be as kind in giving us the use of that place and his presidency, as he has been for the other great purpose I have named. I wish all success to the Fund. It is a great privilege to work with such kindly associates; we never have a quarrel, and our Chairman would keep us in order if we had. (Applause.)

Mr. F. A. EATON. I am afraid, sir, the only excuse I can have for saying a few words, is that I am one of the very few persons who have had the good fortune to visit the countries east of the Jordan. It is now more than eighteen years ago. We were a party of seven, travelling along the beaten track in Western Palestine, when, thanks to a letter of

introduction which two of us had from you, Mr. Chairman, to the Protestant missionary at Nazareth, M. Zeller, our plans were suddenly changed, and under the guidance of that gentleman, we struck eastwards across the Jordan by the Jisr Mejámieh, traversed the Ghor to Pella; thence forded the Yarmuk, and ascended the hot springs of Amatha to Um Keis; rode along the well-wooded slopes of Jebel Ajloon (Gilead) and the fertile plains of Bashan and the Haurán to Mezarib, Derá, and Bozrah of Moab. Near Bozrah, our route lay through the other two subdivisions of the Haurán, the Jebel el Druze, or Ard el Bathaneeyeh, the land of Batanæa, and the el Lejah, the Hebrew Argob and Greek Trachonitis, to Damascus. We paid no backsheesh and we had no escort, but trusted to the hospitality of the Arab and Druse Sheikhs, with whom M. Zeller was well acquainted, and all of whom entertained us right royally. Though our journey was a hurried one and only lasted a fortnight, and though it took us through but a small portion of Eastern Palestine, it was quite enough to show us that though not so rich in Biblical associations as Western Palestine, Eastern Palestine was infinitely richer in archæological remains. For one monument on the western side there are probably a hundred on the eastern; nor have they suffered so much at the hands of man. Neither the Crusaders, the Byzantine Greeks, nor the Arabs have played such havoc in the east as in the west. In the Haurán may still be seen those massive stone buildings, the materials of which, however comparatively modern their arrangement and decoration were, it may be reasonably presumed, chiselled in a far more remote antiquity. It is no uncommon thing to see these houses in a complete state of preservation built of huge blocks of black basalt with slabs of the same for the roof, 12 feet long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, and $\frac{1}{2}$ foot thick, and entrance doors also of basalt, hung on the ball and socket principle; great solid stones of the same material being used as lintels at the top and bottom. I remember seeing some folding-doors of this kind at Damá, in the centre of that wonderful island of rock, the Lejah, which were 10 or 12 feet high, and 8 or 9 inches thick, and which turned in their sockets with the greatest ease. It may, indeed, be said that inexhaustible possibilities await the explorer here; but time, great philological experience, an intimate acquaintance with Arabic dialects and with Hebrew, a trained and practised eye, and great care, are absolute essentials towards making a proper use of them.

If I am not detaining the meeting too long Mr. Dean, I should like to read a short extract or two from a letter I have just received from that eminent Semitic scholar, M. Clermont Ganneau. I have only had time to glance over it, but, with your permission, I will roughly give the meeting an idea of a few of the things he says:—

M. Ganneau is quite sure that all the countries on the East of the Jordan, if properly examined, have many surprises in store for the explorer, and that though we may not discover the iron bed of Og, King of Bashan, there is every hope of finding some basalt sarcophagus with a royal inscription like that of Eshmunazur in the Louvre. He lays great

stress on what he calls the onomastic traditions of biblical countries, and on the tendency of autochthonous tradition, a tendency very marked in all Semitic races, to think of and to consider as geographical entities those who were more or less connected with the history of the country. As for instance that the name of the modern *Belka* is the same as that of *Balak*, King of Moab; that *Shihdn*, where M. de Vogüé found a magnificent bas-relief of a king, is the same word as *Sihon*, the King of the Amorites; the *Avjeh*, an affluent of the Jordan, as *Og* the King of Bashan; *Ajloon* as *Eglon*, King of Moab; the town of *Shobek* as *Shoback*, one of Hadarezer's generals; *Bela*, the old name of Zoar, as *Bela* (cf. *Balaam*), the son of Beor, King of Edom; while the name of *Lot* survives in *Kaum Loot*, the people of Lot, *Madween Loot*, the Pentapolis, and *Bahr Loot*, the Dead Sea. M. Ganneau also connects the towns of *Rabbath* and *Zoar* or *Segor* with the two daughters of Lot; to use his own words, "la grande et la petite, l'ainée et la cadette, *Bekira* et *Seghira*, *Rabbetha* et *Seghirtha*," who according to the Judæo-Mussulman tradition gave their names to the two principal towns of Ammon and Moab. Another very important point to which M. Ganneau draws attention is the possibility of finding at Pella monuments relating to the very earliest Christian times. He also directs attention to the topographical value of the milestones which bordered the Trans-Jordanic Roman roads, and the necessity for carefully searching for them; one that he knows of near *Ajloon* bears a long inscription, with the name of the place and the distance in miles.

These are some of M. Ganneau's remarks, and they seem to me so valuable as showing what a rich store of interest awaits the proposed expedition, that I trust, sir, you and the meeting will pardon me for having so long detained you.

MR. DOUGLAS FRESHFIELD. Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I have responded to your kind invitation to come here to-day and say a few words about your proposed exploration of the east side of the Jordan, with great pleasure, and the more so because for the last ten years I have had these few words more or less burning within me. It is quite ten years, I think, since Mr. Morrison asked me to come and speak at one of your annual meetings in Willis's Rooms. When I got there I was asked what I should talk about. I said "The east side of the Jordan." "Oh!" said the Society, "that will not do at all, because we have got something else on hand." Well, of course you were perfectly right to do what you had on hand, and to finish it in the way you have done; but I confess at the time I was disappointed, because it seemed to me you were putting off and handing over to the Americans what was the most important and likely to be the most useful part of all your work—the exploration of the country east of the Jordan. In saying this I should like to guard myself against being thought to slight in any way what has been done already. I think the map before us is one of the most admirable bits of private work I have ever seen, and I have used maps a good deal. I am quite sure, speaking as a member of the Council of the Geographical Society, that when we next award our

annual medals that map will be brought before us, and we shall carefully consider amongst others, the claims of its maker or makers to distinction. But, good as this work is, it seems to me that when you get across the Jordan your work will be still more valuable. What has been accomplished may be spoken of—roughly only of course—as a work of correction of previous authorities; but when you go to the other side your map will be a creation. The old maps of the eastern side are practically worthless, and this fact may be illustrated by what happened to myself. The first day we left Es Salt we tried to ride over the hills by Van de Velde's map as I had been accustomed to do in Western Palestine. We immediately lost our way and—the story has a double bearing—in doing so we came upon some ruins which I had never seen described before, and which I am not at all sure have been described since, and that is what you are constantly doing on the eastern side of Jordan. Then during the next two or three days we found rivers two or three miles out of their proper course, and villages on the wrong side of them—Roman roads not marked, or wrongly marked; in short we had the most convincing evidence of how much a good map was wanted.

As to archæology it seems to me that there is scarcely any limit to the new knowledge that you may hope to collect by the identification of sites and the collection of inscriptions. When we get a complete set of photographs (those on the table already show how much may be done in that way) we shall be able to tell whether any remains of primitive architecture really exist under the accumulations of Roman and Arabic civilisations. We shall certainly be able to bring before the eyes of English people what has been partly brought before the French public by the Count de Vogüé's beautiful book—it has often been a source of wonder to me no translation of it has been published in this country—in which there is a picture of a Roman town in the early centuries of our era almost as perfect as you get from Pompeii. Moreover, I think you will find the work not very difficult to carry through. One advantage you will have. Suppose the tribes come up and the country is dangerous—though I do not assume this will happen, refuge may be taken in the hills of Jebel Haurân, which will afford, not only a place of retreat, but a sanatorium probably, at all seasons of the year perfectly healthy.

As to photography, I should like to add one remark. It seems to me extremely desirable that, if possible, one member of the expedition should be a good photographer. The other day we took steps at the Geographical Society which may result favourably in promoting that result. We referred it to one of our Committees to make arrangements by which intending travellers could be easily and cheaply instructed in London in photography. We should be very happy if one of the first instructed was a member of the Palestine Exploration Society. I will only add that the gist of what I have meant to say is this—that I think to stop now after your work would be a thousand pities—it would be like leaving off reaping in a field just when you have got to the very thickest part of the crop. (Applause.)

Colonel WARREN. Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen :—

The undoubted success attendant upon the sale of the new map, and the demand that has occurred, appears to justify the course which it is now proposed to pursue of extending our work to the other side of Jordan. As far as I am concerned myself, I should strongly have advocated the continuation of this work, even if we had not the prospect of such a success as it has been, because I think as our work is the elucidation of the Bible, there is no doubt that many persons would have made up any deficiency ; but when we find that the public is entirely satisfied with the work, and there is already by the sale of the maps a small profit being made which may be placed to the credit of further work, it is undoubtedly our duty to continue our labour to the end, and not to take our hand from the plough.

When we look at the map before us, we must acknowledge that it is a very beautiful specimen of work. We know that it is extremely accurate, and we must feel and acknowledge that it reflects the greatest credit upon Lieutenants Conder and Kitchener, the accomplished surveyors who have produced it ; and I am sure we must all hail with great gratification the prospect of Lieutenant Conder being employed on this work a second time. It is not only as a surveyor that Lieutenant Conder's services are so valuable ; he unites to his professional attainments a knowledge of the people ; he is intimately acquainted with their manners and customs ; he knows their country, and, last of all, he is a student of the Bible. He knows the nature of the information which is specially wanted, and he can make a shrewd guess as to where things are to be found. I feel assured myself that the success of the expedition will be attained by retaining the services of Lieutenant Conder if that can possibly be arranged. I do not wish to infer in any way that we ought not to throw upon our surveyors the duty of making identifications, etc. ; for I think it is their business to collect all the information they can possibly find and bring it home, and let scholars in England form their own deductions. But there is no doubt it is of the greatest advantage to have in the person of the surveyor, an officer like Lieutenant Conder who knows a clue when he sees it, and can follow it up, and who is not likely to let slip any chance matter which may come before him which would lead to good results. When we look upon the east of the Jordan, we find a country there far different to that on the west for surveying purposes. It is not broken up in the same deep woods and valleys as that on the west. It is in a great measure a table-land elevated 3,000 feet above the Mediterranean, and is well watered and well wooded. It is, too, comparatively healthy ; and in fact, in the summer of 1868, I took my party over to the east side actually to the benefit of their health. I think on that account, the Survey on the east side will be found much more pleasant work, and the triangulation that has taken place on the western side will be found of very great service to those on the east, and there are parts where the ground is level, and a base of verification may be very accurately measured.

I do not know whether we are all agreed upon the point to which the

Chairman of the Executive Committee alluded with reference to bringing the party home every year; I must say that from a surveyor's point of view, I should rather feel inclined to keep the party out at least one year or eighteen months. I think after that time, some of the party may get jaded or ill, and it may be necessary to bring them home; but I think the surveyors themselves, after they have been out there the first six months, will feel inclined to go on with the work, and would probably rather not come back, because they would be just getting into the very thick of it, as it were, and probably it would be as well for them to go on with it.

The climate on the eastern side is not like that on the west. During some of the summer months over this plateau there is a cool wind blowing, and sometimes for eight or ten days together the country is comparatively mild, and not in any way so unhealthy as the cauldron of the Jordan, or the shore of the Mediterranean.

With regard to the population, some have stated that there is likely to be a difficulty with the Bedouins. For my part, I think the fact that in this country, there are simply Nomadic population, Druses, and Moslems, is a great advantage. On the western side in the villages, there are Mussulmen of different kinds, and Christians of several denominations, Jews, Druses, Maronites, etc., and these people are continually intriguing and stopping the surveyor in his work in one way or another; but on the eastern side there are simply the Bedouin who are not fanatical with regard to their religion, and who are very fond of the good word of an Englishman. They have many very good qualities, qualities which Englishmen regard, and I have no doubt that very little difficulty will be found with them.

Again, people are inclined to say that this is not the time to go on with the work on account of the political complications that are likely to ensue; but we may ask when were there not similar complications apparent upon the horizon?—when was not the political horizon lowering in this direction? and one is tempted to cite the old proverb—“He that observeth the wind shall not sow, and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.”

I can speak with regard to the numerous ruins which are on the eastern side, especially towards the country of Gilead. There, for many hundreds of years, hardly any change has taken place; in fact, scarcely any change, since many of these magnificent old temples were cast to the ground during the earthquakes previous to the Middle Ages. And we must not forget that many of these old temples, which date from the time of the Antonines, are made of old material; and there are architectural remains and mouldings which point to there having been a separate style of architecture in that country, previous to its occupation by the Romans. I feel certain myself, that when a systematic and prolonged search is made, some very remarkable results will be obtained. I think that the photographs which have been brought back, will in many cases show that there are some very ancient ruins—far more ancient than those of the Romans in that country, which are still to be brought to light; and my own impression also, is that among these splendid ruins about Mount

Nebo, and in the high places between Mount Nebo, and Rabath Amman inscriptions similar to that of the Moabite stone are likely to be found. It may be said, of course, that the finding of the Moabite stone was an accident; but we must acknowledge that one accident may lead to another accident: for instance, few can doubt that the recent discovery of that remarkable Phœnician inscription in the Pool of Siloam at Jerusalem, is due in a measure to the eyes of persons having been opened by the discovery of the Moabite stone.

I must congratulate the Committee upon the favourable circumstances under which it will now commence its third, or I may say, fourth expedition. Fourteen years ago, it was a society little known, and without money. Ten years ago it had become very well known, and had considerable credit; at the present time it is not only well known, and its reputation established, but it has a fixed income by subscriptions, which, if supplemented in a small degree—it only requires to be supplemented in a small way—will enable the Committee to carry out the work creditably to the reputation of the Society, and to the satisfaction of the public. (Applause.)

Professor HAYTER LEWIS. After what has been said by the different speakers of the architectural remains on the east side of the Jordan, and with the photographs about the room to give force to their remarks, I feel that there is really very little for me to add upon the subject. I will, however, call your attention to one or two points which have struck me very forcibly in considering what we should be likely to find on the east bank. There have been made quite recently one or two discoveries which may be regarded as remarkable. We knew of course from Irby and Mangles and others that scattered over the land, in different parts, there existed stone-monuments which you call prehistoric or unhistoric, according to the nomenclature you may prefer—but I think very few people indeed realized or knew much about them until the publication of Professor Palmer's and Canon Tristram's journeys. Few imagined that, scattered to a large extent through the land, were large monuments, stone circles, etc., just as one sees on the mountains of Wales and the hills of Scotland, the names and dates and everything connected with which are at present entirely unknown; and we may hope, after careful exploration (for I think few of them have been examined, and none of them have been carefully explored), to find some certain clue to the date, and the purpose for which these curious monuments were erected. The second surprise, I may say, to which I may allude in our time, was the exploration of the Haurán, described in that wonderful book of De Vogüé's to which Mr. Douglas Freshfield has alluded, and which can scarcely be praised too much. So far as it goes it is perfect. But it does not cover, or anything like, the ground we hope to cover, and I have no doubt whatever, that we shall find when the ground comes to be explored, remains which will amply repay in an archæological point of view, the cost, the time and trouble of exploration.

I do not say that it was a discovery, because of course we knew from Burckhardt, who was I think, the first who went there; and likewise from Cyril Graham and others, that these remains did exist, but it was an exceedingly cloudy sort of view that we had of them. Dr. Porter describes these cities, and many considered that we had in them the actual cities of Bashan; we now know them to date very shortly after the Christian era. A remarkable series of monuments, of which I say we had simply the most imperfect description in Burckhardt's and other works, have been brought to light. The stone doors have been alluded to by Mr. Eaton, but I think very few persons know that we have one of them in the British Museum. I have been to the Museum over and over again with persons of scientific and archæological knowledge, but I never yet met with any one who had seen it. It is just at the entrance of the Egyptian room, and affords a specimen of the curious work which Mr. Eaton has mentioned.

Then a real discovery in our time, and one of the most valuable kind, was that made by Dr. Tristram in the palace of Chosroes at Mashita. It reveals to us a new style of work. It shows that in a desert—or at least in a place that no one seems to have visited before—we have one of the most magnificent remains of the particular time of Chosroes.

Now these few works that I mention give a sort of insight, I think, as to what we may expect to find when the country is carefully surveyed. At the present moment, to begin with, we have no remains, so far as I am aware, that you can call Phœnician architecture. That it was grand we may suppose from the description in the Bible of the work of the architect sent by the Phœnicians to do Solomon's work; but except from the sarcophagi I think we are almost thoroughly ignorant of it. I have seen what there are of remains in the museum at Algiers. Of course there is to be seen at that museum a very large collection of Phœnician remains; but all may be summed up in one line—a few inscriptions. There is nothing whatever beyond that. There is scarcely an architectural fragment; in fact, I think I may say that there is not one. At Carthage, I believe it is the same. But one must certainly hope very strongly that if we begin to excavate under these buried cities we may find some clue to what was the character of the ancient architecture of the Phœnicians; and more than that, I do hope that we may discover some clue likewise to what was, I will not say the architecture of the Jews, but the style of work which was practised by them. At present we know scarcely anything. Even the outline and the decoration of these two grand pillars which are described so often as being at the entrance of the Temple are simply matters of guess, and it is just possible that we may find in some of the *bas-reliefs* something which will help us to explain the most interesting problem about the Temple. I need scarcely remind any one here of the finding, as I may call it, of the seven-branched candlestick on the Arch of Titus. We all know how many drawings and restorations have been made of that seven-branched candlestick, and how entirely the whole were found to be incorrect when some genius suggested that we might on the Arch of Titus

find a correct representation. This was found, and we know it perfectly agrees with all the descriptions in the Bible, and it does not agree, so far as I am aware, with any representation which had been formed by guess.

I will not detain you any further ; there are other gentlemen who wish to address you, and who will speak with greater knowledge of the country than I can.

Rev. Dr. GINSBURG. Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: It is with peculiar pleasure that I hear from such an authority as Mr. Glaisher and from others that we are seriously intending to explore the eastern side of Palestine. I was in that country, as probably some of you know, about six years ago. My experience there was not of the best kind. Probably we ought to thank ourselves for much of the inconvenience which we suffered from.

I have not the slightest doubt that remains are to be found in Moab, and in the whole region round about there, which will illustrate, not only the geographical and the narrative, but especially the linguistic part of the Bible. I have read some of the inscriptions that have been found. I must say that no inscription has ever been discovered which is of such extraordinary importance to the elucidation of the language of the Old Testament as the Moabite stone. For myself, I am convinced that the nation which dwelt in the place where such a stone has been found, must have been in the habit of erecting such stones to commemorate events ; that the erection of such a stone could not have been an isolated example, but that it must have been a regular custom among the people to erect such stones ; and therefore, though it was simply by an accident that this stone was discovered, there can hardly be any doubt that if travellers could sojourn in the place quietly, and live with the Arabs as the Arabs live, and not by their costly style of living, arouse the cupidity of the Arabs for bakshesh or the price of redemption (which was what they expected from us and was the reason why they took us captives) many valuable discoveries might be made. I met the late lamented Mr. Drake and others of this Palestine Exploration Fund, living like Arabs—simply, unpretentiously—and I believe if the same thing is done on the eastern side of the Dead Sea it will be quite as successful generally, and far more successful from a topographical point of view, and from a linguistic point of view, than on the western side. The Moabite stone more nearly approaches to biblical language, than anything I have ever seen. I speak with all humility when I say that any one who knows Hebrew would be able to read the inscription upon the Moabite stone, without the aid of a dictionary even. This is the first time we have ever discovered anything in the work of a kindred nation which comes so near the language of the Old Testament as the language of the Moabite stone. It will prove of the greatest service to biblical students, and to those who write on grammar and lexicography. Many terms which have come down to us as later Hebrew terms have now been established beyond doubt from the Moabite stone as belonging to an earlier period of the Hebrew language, and of biblical language ; and a great deal might be done in that way if the Society would only at the

same time take the hint which the Professor opposite me has given to examine into things that exist in museums in Europe. If this Fund were to make it a branch of its work to employ its members, or to ask its friends to look after these things, we should find that discoveries have been made entirely within our reach illustrative of Palestine. Only a few days ago a gentleman engaged in the British Museum, taking casts of coins, brought to me a coin which has been in the Museum for years, and which, if the Palestine Exploration Fund had known of it, would no doubt have sent some of its accomplished members to examine; and on this coin—I submit it to you, Mr. Chairman—we have, as far as I can decipher, Jehu in his carriage. There he is, and the name Jehu in the old Hebrew characters exactly resembling the letters on the Moabite stone, only in fact more perfectly written. You will find Jehu consisting of three letters. On the right-hand side is *Yod* and *He*, and on the left-hand side of the figure is the vowel *Vau*, making Jehu. Then you have the chariot; and I have the authority of the gentleman at the head of the numismatic department of the British Museum for saying that is the only winged chariot that has ever been discovered on any coin. Putting the date at the very latest, the period of this coin would be about 400 years before Christ. Now if we were to work on the spot carefully, and if the gentlemen who go there were to put themselves on friendly terms with the Arabs and the Bedouins, who knows how many coins of that or a similar description might be found, for it is well known that the Arabian and the Bedouin ladies wear their coins round their heads as ornaments; and thus a whole vocabulary, and a whole list of biblical names might be discovered.

Professor Lewis has spoken of the want of knowledge on our part of Phœnician architecture. Here you have a specimen of Phœnician coinage, as I suppose it must be taken to be. The gentlemen at the British Museum think the coin must come from Gaza, and here you have a specimen of the way in which they have struck their coinage. The coin itself, as seen in the British Museum, is one of the best things of that period. How many such things await discovery in the unexplored and beautiful country which is to be the scene of the future labours of the Society! The ravines are, it is true, very rough, but it does not take very long to get from the ravine to the top of the hill; and, though you may in the ravine, experience a tropical climate, the moment you get on the hill, after three or four hours' climb, you are in a cold climate, where you can sojourn for the night, and be recruited for the work of the following day.

I therefore rejoice most heartily to hear that the Society has at last determined to go to work on the eastern side of the Dead Sea, and I have no doubt that the Society will stick to its resolution, and will manifest its determination and its zeal in a similar way to that manifested by the Society in exploring the western side of Palestine; and I have no doubt that those of you who can advocate the cause of this Society in its exploration of the eastern side of the Dead Sea, will only too gladly help in that

way, and in other ways seek to bring about the accomplishment of this great work.

Professor E. H. PALMER. Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: Much has been said by the previous speakers as to the important discoveries that we are likely to make on the eastern side of the Jordan in archæology, topography, and inscriptions, and with this I fully agree; but I should like to call your attention to possible discoveries which may be made in other directions—I mean in those of ethnology and philology generally, but especially as elucidating the Bible. During my own short sojourn Moab, I came across several very remarkable things. For instance, one of our own camel men bore the odd name of Fa'ūr, a name that does not exist in Arabic, that certainly is not Mahomedan, but is really letter for letter identical with the name of the old Moabite idol, Baalpeor. Again, I constantly heard from the Arabs the word Hâreth, which means in ordinary Arabic, a ploughman, but which in Moab is always applied to the hills upon which most of the Moabite towns are built. In the Bible, we find the capital of Moab called Kir-Hareseth. Hareth in Arabic, and Hareh in Hebrew, are identical in orthography. I believe I am right in saying that the name Hareseth somewhat puzzled the commentators, but if it were read according to the local meaning of the word—the city of the hill, *par excellence*, we see at once the reason for its appellation, and we also find the curious fact of a local Moabite word existing in the colloquial discourse of the Arabs of the present day.

Another curious thing I found there, and which I have mentioned in my account of the country there—the so-called statue of Lot's wife, a curious rock by the shore of the Dead Sea, bearing, when seen from the distance, a curious resemblance to an Arab woman. This is called by the natives Bint Sheikh Lût—the daughter of Sheikh Lot—and it is a curious fact that in Moab the word Bint, which properly means daughter, is by the Arabs of the present day, nearly always applied to a wife. I do not lay much stress upon that, but it affords a significant comment upon the well-known story in the Bible of Lot.

Another thing is, that amongst the Arabs, those who have undoubtedly lived in the country for long generations, we find many names illustrating the old scripture records; as for instance, in Judges we find that two princes were slain, Oreb and Zeeb. In that very country to the present day, the ruling family of the sheikhs of the Adwan, the elder branch is called Deab, which is exactly the same as the Hebrew name in spelling, and means also “wolves.” The other name Oreb in Arabic, Ghoráb, is likewise a common Arab tribal name. So I think we may hope to find even among these tribes many things which will shed light upon the scripture history.

What M. Ganneau has mentioned about the connection between names of places and biblical-historical characters also struck me in many instances. I only at this moment remember one—the ruined city of Shiha bearing the same name virtually, as Sihon the King of Moab. I

hope that when the expedition is sent to these parts its work will not be confined merely to the study of the Jordan district but that the survey may be carried further southward—on the Eastern side of Arabia, where so much that is of intense interest lies, and where so many discoveries may, it is to be hoped, be made. Poor Drake and I, when we went through Petræa and worked our way up to Moab that way, came across more than one queer old town cut in the rocks—smaller examples like the large rock-cut city Petra—the Sela of the Bible—the city of the rock. There also in the neighbourhood of Petra lived a tribe of Arabs, or of fellaheen—half Arab, half fellaheen, who are called the Liyd theneh. Their lineaments, their habits, everything about them shows that far from being of the same stock as the other Arabs, by whom they are surrounded, they are nothing more or less than of Hebrew descent—in all probability a remnant of one of those numerous Hebrew tribes, who, after the dispersion of the Jews which followed the Roman conquest, fled into Arabia, and who played so important a part in the early history of Islam. To move among these people, to get from them their folk-lore, their language, and their idioms, could not fail to throw very great light both upon the language and the manners of the Bible. In the whole of the Eastern side of the Jordan, as Professor Lewis has remarked, we may hope to discover more of those wonderful Persian ruins of which Mashita is a specimen; and I may just note in connection with this subject, that the Arab histories tell us very explicitly that the great palaces of Chosroes on that side of the Jordan were robbed to build the new city of Bagdad; and I think it would be at least interesting if some of the travellers who go that way were asked to look amongst some of the ruins of the old Kaliphs' palaces to see if there might not be something that may have come from the other side of Jordan, and which may contain not merely relics of Persian civilization, but older material—Phœnician and Moabitic work which had been worked up by the Persians, and afterwards stolen and carried off to Bagdad. I will not detain you longer than to say that I think an expedition to that part of the Jordan cannot fail to be attended with the very greatest success so far as discoveries go, in topography, architecture, archæology, and in philology. As for the difficulty of dealing with the natives, I do not for my own part believe that there exists any at all. I found them perfectly easy to manage when I was there—much more easy to deal with, in fact, than the fellaheen in the villages on the other side. The Arabs have some peculiar customs; for instance, what they call the blood-feud, and the making a man dakheel, that is to say getting from some one a guarantee of your safety which he must answer for with his own blood; and if the traveller does but learn these few things, and deal with the Arabs as they deal with each other, he may go from one end of Arabia to another without running the smallest risk of any personal harm; and as for robbery and extortion he need fear very little of that, if, as has been suggested by Dr. Ginsburgh, he only has the good sense not to parade his riches, but goes about in a simple manner. I think that there would be no difficulty whatever in travelling in the country.

I can quite endorse all that has been said about the healthiness of the place, for I found it was quite possible to get from a very hot valley up into a mountain, and be snowed up there for a fortnight; and surely where one can count upon that elevation, and generally upon some snow, at any rate in winter, one need have very little fear of fever. There is nothing then, either in the country itself, or in the character of the natives, to throw difficulties in the way of the expedition, while the results may, I think, be expected to be even greater than on the other side—greater especially because as the country has remained comparatively deserted for so long, and has had, comparatively speaking, so few inroads and incursions from other nations that it has remained longer *in statu quo* than the country on the other side, where a continuous population has always lived, and where there have been so many immigrations and incursions and journeys of people, that Western Palestine was, for so many centuries, the highway between the East and the West.

Lieutenant CONDER. Mr. President and Gentlemen: I feel that after so many distinguished gentlemen have spoken, that I have very little to say, especially as I have not been over the Jordan; but I think perhaps a few words as to the method upon which the survey might be carried out may be of interest. But first I should like to thank the Chairman of the Executive Committee and the other gentlemen who have spoken, for the very kind way in which they have spoken of my work, and for the appreciation which they have shown of the Map of Palestine. I thank them, but I cannot say that I altogether agree with them. I have very good reason to know that the Map of Palestine is a work that is far from complete. We know that there are many defects in the map from the top to the bottom, and I feel that if I were called upon to write a critique on my work I could write a very scathing one; but at the same time I think that I am right in saying that each and all my companions, including Mr. Drake—whose death we so greatly deplore—Lieutenant Kitchener, Sergeant Black, Sergeant Armstrong, as I know from personal experience, did his work thoroughly conscientiously, striving night and day and at all times to overcome the difficulties of the task, and that it was not for want of good-will and earnest endeavour on our part that the map remains in some particulars deficient. And this, I think, I may safely say with regard to the Map of Western Palestine, that although others may add to it, they will find very little that they will feel called upon to alter. Our object all through was not so much to be absolutely exhaustive, which would have been impossible, as it was to ensure that what we did put down was founded upon thoroughly good authority. The difficulties that we had to encounter I need hardly detail to the explorers who are present, who know thoroughly well that theoretical expectations at home are not always borne out by practical experience abroad, and who also know that what appears so hopeful and easy before one goes out is found to be surrounded with every sort of difficulty when one is on the spot. There are difficulties from the climate, difficulties from the suspicions of the

people, difficulties with the transport, and difficulties at almost every step you take. We had in the first instance, to overcome our own ignorance of the subject, and secondly, we had to overcome the suspicions of the natives and to make allowance for their extremely untruthful habits. Even in England we know that the Ordnance Survey encountered the greatest difficulty in settling the nomenclature of the maps in a satisfactory manner, and with these additional difficulties we found it one of the hardest of all the Survey tasks to procure names accurately. For that reason it was made a rule that, however tempting a name might be, it was not to be accepted unless it was proved by the concurrent testimony of more than one person; and I think we may say that we had the most satisfactory instance of the nature of the nomenclature in the case of Adullam. M. Clermont Ganneau, whose discoveries are very well known to you all—who has shown a greater aptitude for the recovery of ancient sites than anybody else, and whose identifications are probably sounder than those of any one who has been in the country since Robinson discovered the site of Adullam and recognised it under the name of 'Aid el Mâ. He gave me that information; and when the tracing of that part came in I listened with great interest to hear whether the name 'Aid el Mâ would turn up. I found that my sergeant had discovered the name on the place indicated, and I went to the place the next day, and I met a group of Mussulmen there; they refused to tell me the name; they told me we knew the name better than they did. After this party were gone we came across the shepherds, who were really the best authorities upon the point, and from whom I again obtained the name. In that case the men who had discovered the name did not know that I knew it; and yet that name was satisfactorily recovered; and I think we may say of the majority of important sites, that we obtained the real ancient names which are testified to by more than one person. There is no doubt that we learned a great many lessons in working out the Survey of Western Palestine. We learned the ways of the people, and even in the technical work we learned one or two points; and I hope, if the Survey of Eastern Palestine is accomplished by the party of explorers whom I had the honour of leading, it would probably be more satisfactory as a whole, than the Survey of the West. With regard to the difficulties of the country, and of the nationalities to the east of the Jordan, I think it was Mr. Freshfield who intimated that we should find the Druses very intelligent allies; and we should in the south be able to obtain the assistance of the Adwân Tribe, who are accustomed to Europeans, and who are one of the dominant tribes in the district of Moab. The only country I have not a clear idea about is Mount Gilead, but that is a comparatively small district, and I think there would be very little difficulty in dealing with either of those three great districts which comprise the survey which it is proposed to take. Most of the gentlemen who have spoken hitherto appear to have confined themselves to the consideration of the scientific part of the work. Perhaps I might be allowed to say that it appears to me that the scientific

side of the work is not that which has obtained the support which the Palestine Exploration Society have gained from the public. The reason why the public have supported the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund appears to me to be the illustration of the Bible. We know that the study of the topography of the country, of its natural products, and indeed the study of Palestine generally, has led to very important illustration of the Bible, and I have no doubt from what I have seen that the feeling on the part of the public that this is the work of the Fund is the reason of the great interest which has been excited ; and it is perhaps because it is supposed that on the Eastern side of the Jordan there is less biblical interest, that more importance has been attached to the scientific side of the work. But we must remember that, although only one-fifth of biblical names are associated with places on the East side as compared with the West, yet that the majority of those names on the East are those of unknown sites. Those in the West belonged often to sites that were known before the work commenced, and for that reason there is, I believe, a greater field for identification on the East than on the West. Then too, some of the most interesting and romantic episodes of the Old Testament are connected with the East. We have the pursuit of Gideon to Karkor ; we have the retreat of David to Mahanaim ; we have the wood of Ephraim, where Absalom was killed ; we have perhaps half-a-dozen of these histories which are full of topography, and which require elucidation to a very great extent. We have to find the site of Mahanaim ; we have to find the site of Ashtaroth Karnaim where the great temple of the two-horned Astarte was situated ; we have to find the site, or at all events verify the position of the site of Succoth where Jacob crossed ; we have to find the site of Jegar Sahaduta where his monument was placed, and the memory of which was kept alive in the City of Ramoth. In addition to this, the Eastern portion is very interesting from the New Testament point of view. We may say that Galilee is the land of the New Testament, but we must remember that on the Eastern side is the country of the Gadarenes, and so many places that are connected with the history of Our Lord, and we may say that the Map of Palestine cannot be considered perfect until at all events the Eastern shores of the Sea of Galilee have been laid down. Although we may not all have the enthusiasm of M. Ganneau, for which he has ample justification in the work he has done, we may expect that some relics of very early Ebionite Christianity may be discovered in the district of Bashan and on the Eastern shores of the Sea of Galilee and as far down as Pella.

With regard also to the recovery of monuments similar to the Moabite stone, I should like to remark that when I was in Jerusalem, in 1874, the American Consul-General there, who had recently taken a journey through Moab, informed me that he had seen inscribed stones similar to the Moabite stone among the ruins of some of the Moabite cities, so that there is a reason, at all events, to take very great care in exploration in the district surrounding Hesban.

The DEAN of WESTMINSTER. After the very interesting speeches we

have heard, I am unwilling to occupy your time any longer. I have only to say that when the Palestine Exploration Fund was first set on foot by my friend Mr. Grove, though I sympathised heartily with the proposal, I felt what Mr. Freshfield has expressed as his feeling also, that the point at which every effort ought to be directed, was the exploration of Eastern Palestine. Beautiful as that map of Western Palestine is, and great as has been the light which has been cast by the explorations, that light is as nothing compared with the light that can be thrown upon the eastern district of Palestine. Of all the features of interest that struck me when I first went to Palestine—a feature altogether undescribed, and of which I had not the least idea till I went there, of which no book of travel had given the slightest information—was the constant view of the mountains of Moab, and the great wall of the east of Jordan. Wherever we went, that wall, rising up from the purple chasm which separated us from it, was a beautiful source of mystery and of tantalization, filling us with a sense of ignorance, and with a desire to know what there was beyond it. I feel pleased and delighted beyond measure that that desire is now about to be satisfied. True, there are not nearly so many interesting places; but still there are very many. Once before I mentioned a place, and I think Lieutenant Conder has mentioned it—which I would go any distance to see, and that is the Mahanaim.

I think I need hardly say anything more. Everything has been discussed from so many points of view that there is nothing further to be said. I am sure the Archbishop of York, who is recruiting his health elsewhere, will be very glad to hear of this successful meeting, and I am very glad to have been able to take his place.

There is one remark I should like to make about the photographs. All the photographs of Palestine should be invariably photographs of buildings and of ruins; photographs of landscapes appear to me always nearly worthless. I beg Lieutenant Conder if he has any influence over the photographer who is with him, to induce him to spend all his efforts upon the buildings, and none upon landscape.

The Dean then put the following resolution: "It is now desirable to take without delay the Survey of Eastern Palestine under conditions similar to those which proved to have been successful in the case of Western Palestine."

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. MAUDSLAY. I must be excused if I ask one word, and that is how we stand with reference to the exploration of the eastern side of the Jordan with regard to the Americans, and the nature of the arrangements by which it is proposed we should carry out what they had undertaken. The public may possibly be under the impression that the Americans have surveyed the country, and I think a few words should be said in this room in explanation as to the character in which we go to the East of the Jordan. Perhaps Mr. Glaisher will clear up this point.

Mr. GLAISHER. As Mr. Maudslay says, an arrangement was made that the Americans were to take the eastern side, and we the western side; but

they have not surveyed the country ; the result of their reconnaissances is in fact, this map which I hold in my hand ; and it is now distinctly understood by them that we are to take up the real survey. Colonel Warren made some reference to the money that we should want, and as I am on my feet, perhaps it would be well that I should state that we are entirely out of debt, and we have at the bankers' more than a thousand pounds. One other remark. We have heard read portions of an interesting letter of Mons. Ganneau. Though it is not quite arranged at present, we hope that Mons. Ganneau will become our monthly correspondent in Palestine ; and if he discovers anything there, we have a great hope that we shall soon know the result of his labours.

Rev. F. W. HOLLAND. I have great pleasure in rising to propose a vote of thanks to the Dean of Westminster for kindly presiding upon this occasion, also for allowing us the use of this room. We have very often had to thank the Dean for his kind assistance at our meetings, and in other ways ; and I can only express the hope that he will feel rewarded to-day by the character of this meeting, and that we shall bring our work to a happy conclusion.

Mr. GLAISHER. It is my pleasing duty to second that. Ten years ago, in this room, the Dean was here ; the Archbishop was in the chair ; and to see the Dean still taking that same lively interest in Palestine that he expressed then, is a great pleasure, and you may readily know how gratified I feel at performing the duty of seconding this motion.

The DEAN of WESTMINSTER. I accept your resolution with thanks, and re-echo your wish for the success of the undertaking.

The following is the Pamphlet referred to by Mr. Glaisher (p. 6). It is the Prospectus of the—

NEW SURVEY OF EASTERN PALESTINE.

THE following objects were proposed in the original prospectus of the Palestine Exploration Fund, issued in 1865 :—

- “1. *Archæology*.—To search *below the surface* in Jerusalem ; to examine the mounds and ruins which lie scattered over the whole country, and to gather from them the buried secrets which may help us better to understand the Sacred History.
- “2. *Topography*.—To complete the survey of Palestine, of which the coast-line is already accurately mapped in the Admiralty charts.
- “3. *Geology*.—Of which we still remain in comparative ignorance.