

MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

THE Annual Meeting of the General Committee was held at the Office of the Society on Tuesday, June 21st, at 4 o'clock.

The Chair was taken by Mr. JAMES GLAISHER, F.R.S.

The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he held in his hand many letters regretting inability to attend, including one from Sir Moses Montefiore, who forwarded a cheque for £10 (the second donation this year) for the funds of the Society. The Secretary then read the Report of the Executive Committee for the last year, which was as follows :—

“MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“Your Committee elected at the last General Meeting, held on March 16th, 1880, have, on resigning their trust, to render to you an account of their administration during the last year.

“1. The Committee have held thirty-two meetings since their last election.

“2. The subjects which have occupied their attention have been the following :—

“I. The publication of the Map, and “Memoirs.”

“The first edition of the Map was ready in May, 1880 : a second edition followed in the autumn. These two editions were prepared by the Ordnance Survey Department, Southampton. The plates were then placed in the hands of Mr. Stanford, by whom a third edition has been issued. The whole number printed has been 800, of which 699 have been sent out to subscribers, three have been used for office purposes, 17 have been given away, and the rest have been taken by the agent. A fourth edition is now ready.

“The first volume of the “Memoirs” is now ready, and has been issued to subscribers.

“The next two volumes, viz., the “Special Papers,” and the “Name Lists,” are very nearly ready, and will be sent out next month.

“II. The Reduced Map.

“The plates of this map have been completed, and have been sent back for certain additions. The map will be ready for printing in a few weeks. The following testimony from a recent traveller in Palestine, the Rev. A. G. Girdlestone, to the value of the small map, will be interesting :—

“I desire to thank the Committee for having kindly placed at my disposal in January an advance proof of their reduced map. And I cannot do so without testifying to its great utility for travellers. I had special opportunities for testing it, as I walked by its aid from Jaffa to Jericho right across the country, and from Hebron to Bania, through nearly its whole length. I was frequently without any other means of finding the way, and it proved invaluable. Its great advantage was most manifest when we walked beyond its limits and lost its aid. I walked through large portions of Moab and Gilead, east of Jordan, and found the existing map nearly useless. And similarly in passing northwards from Bania, we sorely missed its aid.”

“III. The publication of the reduced map in two forms, adapted to the geography of the Old and New Testament.

“It was found that many of the subscribers were disappointed at the prospect of receiving only a modern map of the country. But as the Committee could not, as a body, make identifications and lay down boundaries, it was thought best to entrust the work to a geographer. Mr. Trelawney Saunders accepted the invitation of the Committee to undertake these maps. They are now far advanced, and will it is hoped be ready in the autumn. The Society will therefore possess four maps of Western Palestine, viz., the great map on the scale of one inch to the mile, the reduced map of Modern Palestine three-eighths that scale, and the two reduced maps on the same scale of Ancient Palestine.

“IV. Mr. Saunders has also written for the Committee a work entitled an ‘Introduction to the Survey of Western Palestine.’ This geographical account of the country is based upon the water basins, and is therefore withheld until these have been laid down for the engraver.

“V. The expedition to survey the East of the Jordan. This expedition, necessary for the completion of the Survey of Palestine, was first formally considered at a meeting of the Committee held on October 19th, 1880. A meeting of the General Committee was convened on November 30th in order to discuss the proposed survey. This was held by permission of the Dean of Westminster in the Jerusalem Chamber. The chair was taken by the Dean, and the meeting was addressed by Mr. Glaisher, Mr. Macgregor, Mr. Douglas Freshfield, Colonel Warren, Mr. Eaton, Rev. Dr. Ginsburg, Professor Palmer, Professor Hayter Lewis, Lieutenant Conder, and the Chairman. The following resolution was unanimously adopted :—

“That it is now desirable to undertake without delay the Survey of Eastern Palestine, under conditions similar to those which proved to have been thoroughly successful in the case of Western Palestine.’

“A prospectus was therefore drawn up, showing what is the present state of our knowledge, what is required to be done, and the means by which the Society propose to perform the work.

“The Prospectus was sent to all former supporters of the Fund, with results which have been, so far, encouraging; that is, to say, although the Committee hardly hope to reach the sum they asked for the first year, it has been proved that a great deal of interest has been aroused in the project, and the Committee have felt justified in sending out their party.

“They have been so fortunate as to obtain the services of Lieutenant C. R. Conder, R.E., the officer who was in command during the greater part of the former survey, and of Lieutenant Mantell, R.E. They have also received permission from the War Office to engage the services of Messrs. Black and Armstrong, formerly of the Royal Engineers, who were with Captain Stewart at the commencement of the survey in the year 1872. The expedition started in April, and have already done some preliminary work on the western side, including the very interesting recovery of the ancient sacred city of the Hittites, Kades on the Orontes. The general instructions to the officers in command are as follows :—

- " 1. To produce an accurate map on a scale of one inch to a mile.
- " 2. To draw special plans of important localities and ruined cities.
- " 3. To make drawings or take photographs of buildings, sites, tombs, &c.
- " 4. To collect all the names to be found.
- " 5. To collect geological specimens, antiquities, &c.
- " 6. To make casts, squeezes, photographs, and copies of inscriptions.
- " 7. To collect legends, traditions, and folk-lore.
- " 8. To observe and record manners and customs.
- " 9. To excavate if time and opportunity permit.

"VI. Meetings in support of the newsurvey have been held at Edinburgh, Manchester, Belfast, Liverpool, Hull, Bolton, Cardiff, Winchester, Romney, Newport, Abergavenny, and other places.

"The Committee have next to ask that a vote of thanks be passed (1) to the Rev. Professor Sayce for placing at their disposal his valuable reading of the ancient inscription recently found at the Pool of Siloam ; (2) to the Rev. C. W. Barclay for sending to them a drawing of the ancient mouths of Jacob's Well, which he succeeded in uncovering ; (3) to Mr. Laurence Oliphant for valuable advice and information in the present state of Eastern Palestine ; (4) to the Royal Geographical Society for a grant of 100*l.* towards the purchase of instruments ; (5) to the Rev. Greville Chester, the Rev. Dr. Porter, Mr. St. Chad Boscawen, M. C. Clermont Ganneau, the Rev. W. F. Birch, Mr. Trelawney Saunders, and Mr. Dunbar Heath for papers communicated to the *Quarterly Statement* ; (6) to the Rev. Dr. Porter, Mr. William Adams, the Rev. W. F. Birch, the Rev. J. L. Carrick, Mr. William Dickson, Mr. George Monk, and all those who have promoted the success of meetings in aid of the Society ; (7) to Miss Peache, the Rev. H. Hall Houghton, Miss Wakeham, Mr. E. Gotto, Mr. F. Story, Mrs. Wolff, Mr. Burns, Rev. C. Watson, Mr. Fordham, Professor Pusey, Mr. C. F. Fellows, Rev. F. E. Wigram, Rev. M. T. Farrer, Mr. Ormerod, Mr. Budgett, the Dean of Lincoln, Sir Moses Montefiore, Rev. Canon France Hayhurst, Mr. Oliver Heywood, Miss Borrer, Mr. Dykes, Miss Buxton, Lady Tite, Lord Clermont, Mr. Herbert Dalton, Rev. W. H. Walford, Miss Bridges, Mr. Eustace Grubbe, Miss Ward, Mr. Lloyd, Miss Edwards, Sir Charles Wilson, Mr. S. Montagu, Mr. Cyril Graham, Mr. F. D. Mocatta, Rev. Joseph Lyon, Messrs. Rothschild & Co., Mr. A. F. Govett, Sir Julian Goldsmid, Mr. Lewis Biden, Messrs. Sassoon & Co., Mr. Nathaniel Montefiore, the Bishop of Lichfield, Mr. G. Raphael, Mr. E. Trimmer, Mr. E. L. Raphael, Captain Burke, Mr. Middleton, Mr. Bevan, and Mr. Dent for donations varying from 100*l.* to 5*l.* ; and (8) to all Honorary Secretaries and others who have given their assistance for nothing.

"VII. The Committee have to regret the loss by death during the last twelve months of—

M. de Saulcy.

Mr. Edward Miall.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe. Mr. George Wood.

"VIII. In accordance with the powers conferred upon them at the General Meeting of Tuesday, March 29th, Mr. Lawrence Oliphant and Mr. Van de Velde have been invited to join the General Committee, and have accepted the invitation.

"IX. The following is the Balance Sheet of the year 1880:—

		<i>Cr.</i>		
		£.	s.	d.
1880.				
Jan 1.	Balance	893	10	1
	Less unpaid account ..	249	13	11
		643 16 2		
Dec. 31.	Subscriptions		1,454	7 8
	Lecture account		42	5 4
	Publications		101	16 0
	Photographs		28	1 3
	Maps and Memoirs		1,392	7 0
	Balance of unpaid account ..		260	15 3
		3,923 8 8		

				<i>Dr.</i>
		£.	s.	d.
1880.				
Dec. 31.	Maps and Memoirs	1,236	7	8
	Salaries, Wages, Rent, Change of Office, Advertising, Insurance, Stationery, and Sundries	717	17	5
	Printing	448	7	10
	Postage and carriage of Parcels	144	19	2
	Law Expenses	10	12	6
		2,558 4 7		
	Balance	1,365	4	1
		3,923 8 8		

Examined and found correct,
W. MORRISON.

“The Society, therefore, commenced the operations of the year with a balance, deducting the unpaid accounts, of 1,100*l.*; the subscriptions received up to the present date are 1,638*l.*; the current expenses are about 300*l.* a month; the balance in hand at this date is 1,068*l.* 9*s.* Of this sum about 200*l.* is due for instruments and outfits.

“X. It was with a feeling of deep responsibility that the Committee decided on sending out the expedition to the East of the Jordan. The heavy expenses which it will entail for four years at least have not yet been fully guaranteed by an increase in the number of annual subscribers. At the same time so great is the interest shown in the enterprise, that up to the present time a larger amount of subscriptions have been sent in than during the whole of the last year. It is therefore reasonable to hope that the money will be found, as in the preceding Survey, by the voluntary efforts of the subscribers. The sum of 2,000*l.* is asked for before the end of the year, and the Committee will gratefully receive promises of assistance towards that amount.

“XI. The Committee have to express their satisfaction at the appointment of M. Clermont Ganneau to an official post in Palestine, where his great knowledge and archæological zeal will no doubt enable him to make valuable discoveries.

“The Committee have now to resign into your hands the trust committed to them at the last meeting.”

This report was adopted unanimously.

It was proposed by Professor DONALDSON, and seconded by Lord TALBOT DE MALAHIDE, that the Executive Committee be re-elected for the ensuing year.

This was carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. HENRY MAUDSLAY, and seconded by Mr. William SIMPSON, that the following gentlemen be invited to join the General Committee :—

The Bishop of Liverpool.	Sir Albert Sassoun, C.S.I.
Mr. William Adams.	Mr. William Dickson, F.R.S.E.
Mr. Douglas Freshfield.	Mr. Oliver Heywood.
Rev. Professor Sayce.	Mr. E. Thomas.
Mr. W. Aldis Wright.	Rev. William Wright.
Colonel Yule, C.B., R.E.	

The CHAIRMAN then called the attention of the General Committee to the signal services rendered to the Society during the last twelve months by Colonel Warren, C.M.G., R.E. It was resolved unanimously that a special vote of thanks be passed to Colonel Warren in acknowledgment of those services.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Meeting was adjourned.