

THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

On the 22nd of June last, the Fund completed twenty-five years of existence. During this period a large amount of important work has been done. Western Palestine, as far north as the Nahr el Kâsimiyeh, has been completely surveyed, and fifteen hundred square miles of the country east of the Jordan. Important excavations have been made in and around Jerusalem, and at Tell Hesÿ. Besides a series of accurate maps of the Holy Land, an immense number of drawings, photographs, and plans has been produced and published, together with memoirs of the surveys, name lists, and other valuable matter, whilst the *Quarterly Statements* have afforded the means of publishing many new discoveries by the officers of the Fund and other travellers, and the views and arguments of scholars and explorers with reference to disputed sites and other points of interest. It is satisfactory that the fund has lost none of its vitality. No less than 187 new members were added during the past year, and the vigour with which the work is carried on where openings for it present themselves, is shown by the recent important excavations of Mr. Flinders Petrie, in the western plain; the researches of Herr Schick at Jerusalem; and of Herr Shumacher in the north and north-east.

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In the present number will be found two important communications from Mr. Flinders Petrie, one being notes on places visited by him in Jerusalem, and the other a short and condensed report of his excavations at Tell Hesÿ.

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The latter have already proved of the greatest interest and importance. A wall, 28 feet 8 inches thick, of clay bricks, unburnt, which has been uncovered, is believed to be that of the ancient Amorite city of Lachish, erected probably 1,500 years before Christ. Phœnician pottery of about 1100 B.C. was found above its level. Later constructions found on the spot are the supposed wall of Rehoboam, and remains of the fortifications made in the reigns of Asa, Jehoshu-

phat, Uzziah, Jotham, and Manasseh. In one building, probably of 900 B.C. or 1000 B.C., was found a curious form of decoration—a shallow pilaster, with very sloping side, resting on a low cushion base, and with a volute at the top. “We are here,” Mr. Petrie writes, “face to face at last with work of the earlier Jewish kings, probably executed by the same school of masons who built and adorned the Temple of Solomon.”

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The discoveries of pottery are most valuable. Some fragments have inscriptions of very ancient form. “We now know for certain the characteristics of Amorite pottery, of earlier Jewish, and of later Jewish, influenced by Greek trade. In future all the tells and ruins of the country will at once reveal their age by the potsherds which cover them.”

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The work of Mr. Guy le Strange on “Palestine under the Moslems” was published in April.

For a long time it had been desired by the Committee to present to the world some of the great hoards of information about Palestine which lie buried in the Arabic texts of the Moslem geographers and travellers of the Middle Ages. Some few of the works, or parts of the works, have been already translated into Latin, French, and German. Hardly anything has been done with them in English, and no attempt has ever been made to systematise, compare, and annotate them.

This has now been done for the Society by Mr. Guy le Strange. The work is divided into chapters on Syria, Palestine, Jerusalem, and Damascus, the provincial capitals and chief towns, and the legends related by the writers consulted. These writers begin with the ninth century and continue until the fifteenth. The volume contains maps and illustrations required for the elucidation of the text.

The Committee have great confidence that this work—so novel, so useful to students of mediæval history, and to all those interested in the continuous story of the Holy Land—will meet with the success which its learned author deserves. The price to subscribers to the Fund is 8s. 6d.; to the public 12s. 6d.

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The new map of Palestine, so long in hand, is now ready. It embraces both sides of the Jordan, and extends from Baalbek in the north to Kadesh Barnea in the south. All the modern names are in black; over these are printed in red the Old Testament and Apocrypha names. The New Testament, Josephus, and Talmudic names are in blue, and the tribal possessions are tinted in colours, giving clearly all the identifications up to date. It is the most comprehensive map that has been published, and will be invaluable to universities, colleges, schools, &c.

It is published in 21 sheets, with paper cover; price to subscribers to the fund, 24s., to the public, £2. It can be had mounted on cloth, rollers, and varnished for hanging. The size is 8 feet by 6 feet. The cost of mounting will be extra.

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Mr. Henry A. Harper's work, on "The Bible and Modern Discoveries" was published last December. It is an endeavour to present in a simple but yet connected form the Biblical results of twenty-two years' work of the Palestine Exploration Fund. The writer has also availed himself of the discoveries made by the American Expeditions and the Egyptian Exploration Fund, as well as discoveries of interest made by independent travellers. The Bible story, from the call of Abraham to the Captivity, is taken, and details given of the light thrown by modern research on the sacred annals. Eastern customs and modes of thought are explained whenever the writer thought they illustrated the text. To the Clergy and Sunday School Teachers, as well as to all those who love the Bible, the writer hopes this work will prove useful. He is personally acquainted with the land, and nearly all the places spoken of he has visited, and most of them he has moreover sketched or painted. The work is in one large, handsome volume of 600 pages. It is illustrated with many plates, and a map showing the route of the Israelites and the sites of the principal places mentioned in the sacred narratives. The work has had a very gratifying reception. The Third Revised Edition is now nearly exhausted. It should be noted that the book is admirably adapted for the school or village library.

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An interesting note from Rev. J. E. Hanauer is inserted in this *Statement*, which will set at rest the many conflicting statements as to whether or not the Dead Sea is visible from Jerusalem.

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Mr. Hanauer has forwarded a series of photographs of the rock-hewn altar near Süráh, of sculptured stones found at 'Artúf, of the interesting sculptured figures in the cave near Saris (taken by magnesium light), and of stones with inscriptions recently dug up near the supposed St. Stephen's Church, north of Damascus Gate.

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From Mr. G. R. Lees, F.R.G.S., Head Master of the Boys' School of the London Jews' Society at Jerusalem, has been received an account of further observations on rock-hewn chambers at Silwán, which appear to have been chapels. Herr Schick has also sent elaborate drawings and reports of the same, as well as an account of discoveries of mosaics, &c., at the so-called House of Caiaphas, of a newly opened tomb near Bethany, &c.

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Mr. Lethaby, of Kerak, has sent two fragments of soft limestone with sculptured figures of animals, which were found in digging the foundations of a house.

The projected railway between Jaffa and Jerusalem was begun in March. The Governor of Jerusalem and other notabilities went down to Jaffa to see the work commenced. It is believed that the line will run past Ramleh and up the Wady Surar. It is reported that a concession has also been given for a line between Haifa and Damascus.

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The first volume of the "Survey of Eastern Palestine," by Major Conder, has been issued to subscribers. It is accompanied by a map of the portion of country surveyed, special plans, and upwards of 350 drawings of ruins, tombs, dolmens, stone circles, inscriptions, &c. The edition is limited to 500. The first 250 subscribers pay seven guineas for the three volumes; subscribers to the "Survey of Western Palestine" are privileged to have the volumes for this sum. The price will be raised, after 250 names are received, to twelve guineas. The Committee *are pledged never to let any copies be subscribed under the sum of seven guineas.* Mr. A. P. Watt, 2, Paternoster Square, is the Sole Agent. The attention of intending subscribers is directed to the announcement on the inside of the cover of this number.

Considerable progress has also been made with the second volume, which consists of M. Lecomte's beautiful drawings, illustrating the Mission of M. Clermont-Ganneau in 1874. The illustrations for the third volume, Mr. Chichester Hart's "Fauna and Flora" of the Wâdy Arabah, are nearly ready.

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The Committee have added to their list of publications the new edition of the "History of Jerusalem," by Walter Besant and E. H. Palmer (Bentley & Son). It can be obtained by subscribers, carriage paid, for 5s. 6d., by application to the Head Office only. The "History of Jerusalem," which was originally published in 1871, and has long been completely out of print, covers a period and is compiled from materials not included in any other work, though some of the contents have been plundered by later works on the same subject. It begins with the siege by Titus and continues to the fourteenth century, including the Early Christian period, the Moslem invasion, the Mediæval pilgrims, the Mohammedan pilgrims, the Crusades, the Latin Kingdom, the victorious career of Saladin, the Crusade of Children, and many other little-known episodes in the history of the city and the country.

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The books now contained in the Society's publications comprise an amount of information on Palestine, and on the researches conducted in the country, which can be found in no other publications. It must never be forgotten that no single traveller, however well equipped by previous knowledge, can compete with a scientific body of explorers, instructed in the periods required, and provided with all the instruments necessary for carrying out their work. The books are the following (*the whole set can be obtained by application to*

*Mr. George Armstrong, for £2, carriage paid to any part in the United Kingdom only):—*

By Major Conder, R.E.—

- (1) "Tent Work in Palestine."—A popular account of the Survey of Western Palestine, freely illustrated by drawings made by the author himself. This is not a dry record of the sepulchres, or a descriptive catalogue of ruins, springs, and valleys, but a continuous narrative full of observations upon the manners and customs of the people, the Biblical associations of the sites, the Holy City and its memories, and is based upon a six years' experience in the country itself. No other modern traveller has enjoyed the same advantages as Major Conder, or has used his opportunities to better purpose.
- (2) "Heth and Moab."—Under this title Major Conder provides a narrative, as bright and as full of interest as "Tent Work," of the expedition for the *Survey of Eastern Palestine*. How the party began by a flying visit to North Syria, in order to discover the Holy City—Kadesh—of the children of Heth; how they fared across the Jordan, and what discoveries they made there, will be found in this volume.
- (3) Major Conder's "Syrian Stone Lore."—This volume, the least known of Major Conder's works, is, perhaps, the most valuable. It attempts a task never before approached—the reconstruction of Palestine from its monuments. It shows what we should know of Syria if there were no Bible, and it illustrates the Bible from the monuments.
- (4) Major Conder's "Altaic Inscriptions."—This book is an attempt to read the Hittite Inscriptions. The author has seen no reason to change his views since the publication of the work.
- (5) Professor Hull's "Mount Seir."—This is a popular account of the Geological Expedition conducted by Professor Hull for the Committee of the Palestine Fund. The part which deals with the Valley of Arabah will be found entirely new and interesting.
- (6) Herr Schumacher's "Across the Jordan."
- (7) Herr Schumacher's "Jaulân."—These two books must be taken in continuation of Major Conder's works issued as instalments of the unpublished "Survey of Eastern Palestine." They are full of drawings, sketches, and plans, and contain many valuable remarks upon manners and customs.
- (8) "The Memoirs of Twenty-one Years' Work."—This work is a popular account of the researches conducted by the Society during the past twenty-one years of its existence. It will be found not only valuable in itself as an interesting work, but also as a book of reference, and especially useful in order to show what has been doing, and is still doing, by this Society.

- (9) Herr Schumacher's "Kh. Fahil." The ancient Pella, the first retreat of the Christians; with map and illustrations.
- (10) Names and Places in the Old and New Testament and Apocrypha, with their modern identifications, with reference to Josephus, the Memoirs, and *Quarterly Statements*.
- (11) Besant and Palmer's "History of Jerusalem," already described.
- (12) Northern 'Ajlûn "Within the Decapolis," by Herr Schumacher.

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To the above must now be added Mr. Henry A. Harper's "The Bible and Modern Discoveries." Price to the public, 16s.; to subscribers to the Palestine Exploration Fund, 10s. 6d., carriage included. And Mr. Guy le Strange's important work "Palestine under the Moslems," price to the public, 12s. 6d.; to subscribers to the Fund, 8s. 6d.

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Branch Associations of the Bible Society, all Sunday School unions within the Sunday School Institute, the Sunday School Union, and the Wesleyan Sunday School Institute, will please observe that by a special Resolution of the Committee they will henceforth be treated as subscribers and be allowed to purchase the books and maps (by application only to the Secretary) at reduced price.

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The income of the Society, from March 20th to June 20th inclusive, was—from annual subscriptions and donations, £132 18s. 6d.; from donations for excavations, £174 18s. 0d.; from all sources, £609 9s 7d. The expenditure during the same period was £1,025 1s. 1d. On June 20th, the balance in the Bank was £772 17s. 0d.

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Subscribers are begged to note that the following can be had by application to the office, at 1s. each:—

1. Index to the *Quarterly Statement*, 1869-1880;
2. Cases for Herr Schumacher's "Jaulân;"
3. Cases for the *Quarterly Statement*, in green or chocolate.
4. Cases for "Abila," "Pella," and "'Ajlûn" in one volume.

The following gentlemen have kindly undertaken to act as Hon. Local Secretaries :—

The Rev. Vincent Joseph Higgins, Ashworth Vicarage, for Nottingham.

John Nanson, Esq., for Ambleside.

Rev. T. F. Wright, for Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

W. Clarkson Wallis, Esq., for Brighton.

Rev. R. Raikes Bromage, M.A., F.R.G.S., Keyford Parsonage, for Frome,  
in place of C. W. Le Gros, Esq., resigned.

Norman Penney, Esq., for Gloucester.

A. Kemp Brown, Esq., M.A., owing to his leaving Leeds, has resigned his appointment as Honorary Secretary.

The Committee will be glad to communicate with ladies and gentlemen willing to help the Fund as Honorary Secretaries.

Early numbers of the *Quarterly Statement* are very rare. In order to make up complete sets, the Committee will be very glad to receive any of the following numbers :—

No. II, 1869; No. VII, 1870; No. III, 1871; January and April 1872; January, 1883, and January, 1886.

It having again been reported to the Committee that certain book hawkers are representing themselves as agents of the Society, the Committee have to caution subscribers and the public that they have no book hawkers in their employ, and that none of their works are sold by itinerant agents.

While desiring to give every publicity to proposed identifications and other theories advanced by officers of the Fund and contributors to the pages of the *Quarterly Statement*, the Committee wish it to be distinctly understood that by publishing them in the *Quarterly Statement* they neither sanction nor adopt them.

Subscribers who do not receive the *Quarterly Statement* regularly are asked to send a note to the Secretary. Great care is taken to forward each number to all who are entitled to receive it, but changes of address and other causes give rise occasionally to omissions.

The only authorised lecturers for the Society are—

- (1) Mr. George St. Clair, F.G.S., Member of the Anthropological Institute and of the Society of Biblical Archæology.

His subjects are :—

- (1) *The Buried City of Jerusalem, and General Exploration of Palestine.*
- (2) *Discoveries in Assyria, Chaldea, and Palestine.*
- (3) *The Moabite Stone and the Pedigree of the English Alphabet.*
- (4) *Jerusalem of David, Nehemiah, and Christ.*
- (5) *Sight-seeing in Palestine: a Narrative of Personal Experiences.*
- (6) *Israel's Wars and Worship, illustrated by the new Survey.*
- (7) *The Gospel History in the light of Palestine Exploration.*

Address : Geo. St. Clair, Bristol Road, Birmingham, or at the Office of the Fund.

- (2) The Rev. Henry Geary, Vicar of St. Thomas's, Portman Square. His lectures are on the following subjects, and all illustrated by original photographs shown as "dissolving views:"—

*The Survey of Western Palestine, as illustrating Bible History.  
Palestine East of the Jordan.  
The Jerusalem Excavations.  
A Restoration of Ancient Jerusalem.*

- (3) The Rev. Thomas Harrison, F.R.G.S., Member of the Society of Biblical Archæology, 38, Melrose Gardens, West Kensington Park, W. His subjects are as follows:—

- (1) *Research and Discovery in the Holy Land.*
  - (2) *In the Track of the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan.*
  - (3) *Bible Scenes in the Light of Modern Science.*
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