

hard for their tools, would be left alone by the workmen. This is the only way of explaining how it comes to be thus disposed in enormous lumps on the abrupt sides of a valley more than 200 feet deep. The excavations which we made at the base of the sculptured rocks taught us nothing as to their origin. I do not think that the works are those of the Stone Age; but I believe it can be proved that in this very limited space of ground we may see the remains of the industry of those races which have successively inhabited the country: (1) The men whose tools and the remains of whose food we have just described; (2) The Proto-Phœnicians, sculptors of the bas-reliefs and the archaic figures. (3) The Phœnicians of historic times, who had cut and hollowed on the rocks their subterranean chambers, their presses and their oil mills, so learnedly described by Renan.

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### THE SURVEY OF WESTERN PALESTINE.

THE following Extracts from some of the notices of the Great Map will be read with interest.

*From the "Times" (September 7th, 1880).*

The importance of this map to the study of the Bible can scarcely be exaggerated. All previous maps have been constructed from the imperfect observations of individual travellers, and distances and names were given for the most part conjecturally and at random. Now we have a survey of the country executed by English Engineer officers, and setting forth the topography and nomenclature with as impartial accuracy as an Ordnance map of an English county. It is now for the first time possible to read the narrative of Joshua's marches, of Judas Maccabæus, &c., and to follow the Biblical histories generally, in an intelligent way, mountains, valleys, roads, villages, and towns being for the first time accurately laid down.

About 10,000 names incorporated in this map were found by Lieutenants Conder and Kitchener, the officers to whom the survey was intrusted, and the memoirs include a number of others discovered by the French and German explorers, Guérin, Renan, Sepp, and others. Among all these exist in some form or other all the Biblical names, only 622 in all, of Western Palestine. These older Hebrew, Canaanitish, and Phœnician names, although they never disappear and leave no trace behind, are often very difficult of recovery, and their satisfactory identification is impossible without the aid of a work like the present, where exact topography and authentic information as to the present nomenclature are available to supplement and verify the deductions of archæological and philological research. In some cases, and these are comparatively few, the old name has survived almost unaltered, such words as Beit-Lahm and

Bethlehem, Akka (Acre) and Akko, Bir Seba and Beersheba being such obvious survivals that, taken in conjunction with the collateral evidence from topography, no doubt whatever can be left as to their identity. Sometimes the older name has locally survived a later, though still remote, attempt to change it, as in the case of the ancient Bethogabra, which, though known for centuries as Eleutheropolis, is still called by the inhabitants Beit-Jibrîn, a form that is, if anything, older than Bethogabra itself. In other cases the identification is equally certain, though not by any means apparent to the uninitiated; for instance, Laish has in the Bible the superimposed name of Dan, meaning "a Judge," and the spot where we should naturally look for the remains of the town is called at the present day Tell el Kadi, "the Judge's mound." So Paneas became Cæsarea Philippi, but is yet known as Baneas. Sometimes an old name having some approximate signification in the ancient Semitic tongues is misunderstood by the modern Arabic-speaking population, the Hebrew *nahl*, "a stream or watercourse," being always confounded either with *nakhl*, "a palm-tree," or *nahla*, "a bee." It will readily be understood that a study of the name-lists will yield most interesting results to Biblical students. In spite of the previous identifications, some 200 out of 400 known places have been proposed by the Survey officers. The rest will no doubt, be recovered without much difficulty when the forms and meanings of the names here given have been thoroughly examined.

The geography of Palestine can now be rewritten, for the map of the Survey enables us to lay down the tribal boundaries, &c., accurately; and as the physical features of the country are here exactly set forth, what was before mere conjecture and hypothesis can now be stated as ascertained fact. It is not the religious interest alone that makes the comparatively small territory of Palestine so worthy of deep and careful study. In ancient times the traffic between East and West went of necessity through the country, which became the highway of the world, the focus of trade, and the ground on which rival nations contended for pre-eminence. Here Egyptian, Assyrian, Persian, Greek, Roman, and Moslem civilizations and religions by turns held sway, and traces of their influence and ruins of their magnificence are found at every step. Here is the origin not only of Christianity and Judaism, but of most of those ancient myths around which Grecian art, learning, and philosophy clustered. On the sea-coast by Joppa arose the cult and myth of the fish-god Dagon, which appears elsewhere in the legends of Perseus and Andromeda, of Set and Typhon, of St. George and the Dragon, and even of the Archangel Michael and the Devil. From the Tyrian shore, a little further to the north, set out Cadmus, who colonized Greece, and whose very name is perpetuated to-day in that of the river Casimiyel and the little Moslem shrine of Neby Casim, the Prophet Cadmiel or Casmiel. Close by is the shrine of Neby Mashûk, the Prophet "Beloved," which is nothing more or less than the Egyptian temple set up to the terrible Melkarth or Moloch, under the euphemistic title of Miamûn, or the Beloved of Amon. On to the

shore above Beirut flows the Nahr Ibrahim, the river of another "Friend of God," here identical with the well-beloved Tammûz or Adonis. And not only the ruins and the names, but the people themselves are curious and interesting objects of study, and Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hebrews, Tyrians are still to be easily identified among the Fellahin and Bedawin of the country; in fact, to the theologian, archæologist, ethnologist, and historian every foot of Palestine has matter for research and contemplation, and all this has been for the first time made available as a whole by the labours of the Palestine Exploration Fund. Of these most interesting departments of the subject we shall speak more fully when the promised volumes of the memoirs appear; to the present publication, the map of the Survey, we can give unqualified praise. It is the joint work of Lieutenants Conder and Kitchener, and was completed in circumstances of exceptional difficulty, the disturbed state of the country in 1877 making it necessary to work day and night (Sundays included), often in the face of considerable personal danger.

The survey was commenced in January, 1872, and finished in 1877; it has cost during that period about £20,000, of which a large sum was expended from time to time in printing reports, &c. The necessary money was raised principally through the energetic action of the secretary, Mr. Walter Besant; but it must have been relinquished had not Mr. Morrison, the treasurer, himself advanced funds from time to time to carry on the operations at certain critical periods of the Fund's finances.

The earliest Palestine Exploration Society in this country was founded in 1804, but attracted little support. In 1808 the committee published a volume entitled, "A Brief Account of the Countries adjoining the Lake of Tiberias, the Jordan, and the Dead Sea" (Hatchard, Piccadilly), which was, however, only a translation of some rough notes made by the well-known traveller, Seetzen. Two travellers were then sent out by the Society for the purpose of exploring the country, but owing to the accounts they received of the dangerous state of the country they did not proceed further than Malta.

The Society after this lapsed into inactivity and its very existence was forgotten until 1834, when all the books, papers, and funds were handed over to the Geographical Society. In 1840 a fresh association was founded, with no better results than the former; but in 1864 a survey of Jerusalem was made under the direction of the Ordnance Survey Department by Captain (now Lieutenant-Colonel) Wilson, Baroness Burdett-Coutts supplying the required funds. This called general attention to the defective state of information respecting the country, and in May, the next year, the present Society was formally constituted, principally through the efforts of Mr. George Grove, under the name it now bears, "The Palestine Exploration Fund." Captain Wilson, who had completed his survey, was again sent out in company with Lieutenant Anderson, and the exploration of the country was commenced in earnest. In 1867 Captain Warren commenced the excavations in Jerusalem itself, the progress of which was watched with great interest by the public, and resulted in adding largely

to our knowledge of the subject and deciding several weighty problems concerning the sites of the Holy Sepulchre and the Temple. In 1869-70 Mr. (now Professor) E. H. Palmer, accompanied by Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake, made a journey of exploration through the Desert of the Exodus for and at the expense of the fund. On his return the survey of Western Palestine was commenced and continued till its completion last year. Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake, who had an extensive acquaintance with the Arabic language and manners, accompanied the officers in the field and afforded most valuable aid in obtaining the correct nomenclature and other information from the natives; his death at Jerusalem in 1874 was a great loss to the Society and to geographical science. M. Clermont Ganneau, a well-known French archæologist, was also employed for a long time by the Society, and his labours in the country are of the greatest practical importance. The archæological and philological information obtained by these gentlemen is embodied in the work of the Society and immensely increases its value.

It must not be imagined that with the publication of the map and memoirs the work of the Society is at an end. Much that is very important remains to be done, especially the survey of the country east of the Jordan (of which an American association has already completed a reconnaissance map), and the exploration of the cities and remains of the Hittite Empire, to the existence and importance of which attention has lately been called in *The Times*. The work produced by the Palestine Exploration Fund during the 14 years of its existence is of such a character as to merit the continued support of all those who are interested in explorations which yield so much that is important to religion, history, and science.

## II.

*From the "Builder" (July 17th, 1880).*

By the completion of the map and the accompanying memoirs, the position of the Palestine Exploration Fund towards the public will be wholly changed. Instead of coming forward as a body appealing for subscriptions and furnishing, in their quarterly reports, somewhat meagre results of the application of the funds, varied as they have been from time to time, they will hold the status of an association which has succeeded in endowing the scientific world with one of the most successful outcomes of the patient toil of the explorer. It is one thing, moreover, to explore, and another to survey. Any one can do the first,—after a fashion. Few people can do the second,—in any fashion. And of those few, perhaps the officers of our Royal Engineers comprise the greater number,—so far as those who speak our own language is concerned. The Ordnance Survey of England, yet unfinished, and that of India, with its magnificent lines of triangulation, are large operations compared to the construction of the map of Palestine. But they are neither more scientific nor more accurate, within the required limits; neither more original nor more exhaustive. The latest improvements in

the technical work of the surveyor and the map-maker have been introduced in the survey of the Holy Land. The officers who executed it braved danger, ill-health, and hostile attack. Literally, they shed their blood in the service; and that with as much devotion as did the crusading knights. All the party suffered seriously in health. One member of the exploration actually sank beneath the toil and the climate. Judged by this kind of cost,—a cost that no money can repay,—the survey is a costly affair. Judged by the outlay of money, on the one hand, and by the graphical and literary results on the other, it must be considered wonderfully cheap. In the actual state of the East, the map has a daily increasing value. Were it not actually in the hands of the subscribers, very conclusive reasons might be urged against its publication at the present moment. As, however, it is now so far before the world, the best thing to do is to let all those who are interested in the East know of what a valuable document they may become possessed. One of the most venerable of English scholars connected with Bible study, recently said that “he blessed God that he had lived to see the completion of this map.” It is a work done once for all,—well done, and worthily done; and we trust that all concerned in its production will receive their due share of the recompense for faithful and long-sustained labours. We need name no names. Honour is rendered to whom it is due in the title and signature of the map, and in the details of the memoir; and we think it will be felt that Christendom owes a debt of gratitude to all the faithful labourers who have combined to produce this important monument.

### III.

*From the “St James’s Gazette.”*

Some great Asiatic power has long had its capital on the Orontes. At the early date before indicated this northern power was that of the Khita, or Hittites, whose capital was at Kadesh, near Homs. After the death of Alexander the Great, the Seleucidæ, or Greek kings of Asia, founded Antioch and Seleucia, and fixed their capital at the former city. Under different names, and successive dynasties, history has repeated itself. The struggle of the kings of the eighteenth Egyptian dynasty with the kings of the Khita was continued, 1,500 years later, by the wars between the Ptolemies and the Seleucidæ. In the long interval, the Powers that successively became supreme on the Euphrates and Tigris Valley—the Kings of Elam, of Nineveh, of Babylon, and of Persia—extended their conquests to Egypt. On each of these occasions the shore line of road from Tyre to Gaza and on to Pelusium formed the line of military advance and communication. So it was when the Romans came on the scene; when the Parthians, in the days of Herod, took Jerusalem; when, one after the other, the Persians under Chosroes, the Saracens under Omar, the Turks under Melek Shah, the Egyptian Caliphs, and the Crusaders under Godfrey of Bouillon became masters of the Holy City. The importance of Jerusalem itself was rather

religious than military ; but the command of the roadway through Phœnicia and Philistia to the East was always one of the main objects sought by those who aspired to ascendancy.

Precisely the same value now attaches to this region. This was clearly understood by the first Napoleon, as was shown by his attack upon Acre. The opening of the waterway through the Suez Canal, in substitution for the long voyage to India by the Cape, only increases the strategical importance of the coast-line of the Levant. Under any stable government, or in the case of any return of prosperity to the East, there can be no doubt that the considerable traffic which even at the present time is carried on from Antioch to Aleppo would be largely increased ; and that thus the ancient route through Mesopotamia to the Persian Gulf would be reopened. The key of the Orontes—the northern gateway, as Port Saïd is the southern gateway, of the roads from Europe to India—is now kept in the isle of Cyprus. The masters of Antioch and of Aleppo will command one line of Eastern traffic, as the masters of Alexandria and Port Saïd will command the other. The strategical importance of Acre, flanking both these great lines of international communication, it is now hard to disguise. It follows from this glance at the character of the position which Palestine has ever held, and continues to hold, as the gateway between the East and the West—or rather as the barbican which commands the two avenues of the Euphrates and Red Sea lines of communication—that the importance of such a knowledge of the country as may be attained by the military surveyor may at any time prove to be critical. In case of a struggle for the mastery of Palestine, the same physical causes which determined the site of decisive battles in past times are still active. An army advancing from Damascus on Port Saïd would cross the Jordan Valley near the Sea of Galilee, and would advance with the greatest ease up the broad highway of the Valley of Jezreel, to the point where now exist the ruins of Mujeddá. This spot is identified by the officer in command of the survey with the Megiddo of the Second Book of Kings—the Ar-Mageddon of later sacred writers. In the 23rd regnal year of Thothmes III., as we learn from an inscription on the wall of a temple in Thebes, the hostile King of Kadeshu, with his Phœnician allies, waited for the King of Egypt in Maketha (Mujeddá). The result of the battle which then took place may be read in Brugsch's "Egypt Under the Pharaohs." A thousand and four years later Neco, King of Egypt, taking advantage of the war between the Kings of Assyria and Babylonia, marched towards the Euphrates. At Mujeddá he fell upon Josiah, King of Judah, who opposed his passage ; and the virtual overthrow of the Jewish monarchy took place upon the field of battle. At no period of time since the date of the eighteenth dynasty of Egypt has Palestine been united under a ruler able to hold a thoroughly independent position between the Asiatic and African monarchs. It is probable that the most brilliant period of the Israelitish power was the reign of Herod the Great. But Herod was an Edomite, not a Jew ; and although

acknowledged as king, he was nominated by the Roman Senate, and was in fact dependent on Rome. From his reign the imagination flies back to that of Solomon, still famous in Eastern legend. But if Solomon ruled "from sea to sea," from the Lake Asphaltites to the Mediterranean, and "from the river to the end of the land"—that is from the Egyptian frontier to the northern limits of Palestine—and pushed his boundaries to Hamath and to Tadmor, he did not rule either Phœnicia or Philistia. In the former part of the country the King of Tyre treated with the King of Israel on equal terms. "Even unto the land of the Philistines" is a limit fixed in the Book of Chronicles; and Gaza was taken from the Canaanites by the King of Egypt far on in the reign of Solomon. Thus but little of the coast could have been under the sway of the wise king. In the time of his son the Egyptians mastered a great part of the territory of the King of Judah, and the division between the Jews and the Samaritans reduced the kings of either division of Israel to a very feeble condition. The seaports of Tyre and of Sidon are the points which would have offered the surest stay for a permanent autonomous rule of Palestine; but none such is known to history.

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## HISTORY OF THE HITTITE INSCRIPTIONS.

ABOUT eight years ago, the Hamath tablets, one of which had been seen by Burckhardt, were practically offered to the attention of Orientalists, in the shape of a re-discovery, by Burton and Drake. Squeezes, photographs, and hand copies were, I believe, at once attempted with more or less success, and the copies being sent to England were printed by the Anthropological Society, and were said to contain 500 different letters.

It is not fair to judge those early copies by our present knowledge, and those who laugh at their uncouth appearance would do well to remember that even as it was, the stones containing them were very nearly broken up by the villagers of Hamath. Had they been thus destroyed, nothing that has been found since would have been equally useful, for even in their then state I was soon able to see there were four peculiar tablets built up on one and the same plan, yet differing in what I supposed to be certain names, which names I, not unnaturally at the time, supposed to be those of Kings. This fact gave a solid starting-point, and all subsequent progress has been due in fact peculiarly to them. These four will often recur when men begin to investigate this subject, and I propose to call them A1, A2, A3, and A4. Besides these, there were three others which I call B, C, and D. All these came from Hamath.

Three or four years after this, our lamented George Smith copied an inscription across the back of a decapitated priestly-looking figure at Jerebis or Europus.\* The figure still lies, I believe, at Jerebis, "un-

\* Possibly Carchemish, but I know of no proof.