

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

DEPARTURE OF THE NEW EXPEDITION.

THE preparations for the new expedition to the East of the Jordan have occupied the Committee since the beginning of the year. The Secretary of State for War has granted the services of Lieutenants Conder and Mantell, of the Royal Engineers, for this special service. The Society are fortunate in securing for their new Survey the experience and skill of the officer who executed so large a part of the former work. Lieutenant Mantell is a young officer who has gained great distinction during his Woolwich course. Permission has been also accorded to Pensioners (formerly Sergeants) Black and Armstrong to serve upon the Survey, and to draw their pensions while in Palestine. Thus the New Survey will not only be carried out by the same officer who did most of the work on the western side of the Jordan, but the same two surveyors, Black and Armstrong, who measured the base line and began the triangulation in December 1871 will also begin the new work. At a meeting of the Committee called for the purpose on March 15, 1881, the officers received their final instructions, and started the same evening to carry out the next portion of the great work of the Society,—the Survey of the Holy Land. The two Surveyors followed a week later. The good wishes of all who read this announcement must be with them. They have begun a work which is full of peril and anxiety; it is for their friends at home to see that they are at least supplied with the necessary funds.

The total cost of the expedition, including the printing and circulation of Lieutenant Conder's reports, &c., will amount to about £3,500 or £4,000 a year. It has been proposed that the Honorary Secretaries of the various towns where there is a branch of the Society shall invite their people to raise a certain sum yearly. The whole amount is a comparatively small one, and there should be no difficulty in getting it together. The earlier in the year subscriptions are paid the more convenient it will be for the Committee. In the present appeal for assistance,

the Committee do not, as before, ask their friends to give in faith, because they have now their great and splendid map to show as an earnest of the future. What has been done for Western Palestine shall be done, if possible, for the East.

Letters and reports from Lieutenant Conder may be expected about the middle of April. In order to meet the wishes of a great many subscribers, paragraphs of intelligence will be sent to all the principal papers.

M. Clermont-Ganneau, who arrived in Jaffa in February, had proposed to visit Jerusalem immediately on his arrival in order to examine the newly found inscription in the Pool of Siloam; but he has unfortunately been laid up with an attack of fever, therefore we have not yet received any of his promised letters.

Professor Sayce, however, has sent the translation of part of it to the *Athenæum*. His reading will be found on p. 72, together with a *fac-simile* of the copy sent by Dr. Chaplin to the Committee.

A remarkable illustration of the destruction of ancient monuments which sets in with every improvement in Syria, is illustrated by the "note" from the Rev. H. D. Rawnsley, published on p. 124. The Temple of Kades is now pulled down and destroyed. The ruins which have survived the violence of Romans, Jews, Christians, Saracens, and Crusaders, are gone to make foundations for a cotton store. The Temple and the sarcophagi are figured and described in the first volume of the "Memoirs."

Mr. William Dickson, F.R.S.E., has accepted the post of Honorary Secretary, with the Rev. Lindsay Alexander, D.D., and Mr. T. P. Johnston, for Edinburgh. Mr. W. J. Janson (the Close, Croydon), has accepted the post of Honorary Secretary at Croydon. The Rev. W. Walmsley has undertaken to act with the Rev. Canon Hornby at Bury.

It is matter of great regret that so many delays have occurred in the issue of the next edition of the map and of the Memoirs. As regards the former it will be delivered to those who are waiting for it in the course of a fortnight beginning about April 25th. The first volume of the Memoirs will be ready at the same time. It is also hoped to get out the next two volumes, namely, that of the Name Lists, and that of Special Papers by the end of May. The reduced map is also nearly completed, and the first edition will be ready for issue about the end of April. The price to subscribers, *by application to the Central Office only*, will be 6s. 6d. To the general public the price will be 12s. 6d.

The income of the fund from all sources from December 13, 1880, to Marc 16th, 1881, was £1,229 10s. 9d. The amount in the hands of the Committee at their meeting of the 15th, was £1,800 15s.

Mr. Saunders's "Introduction to the Survey of Western Palestine" is now completed, and will be published immediately. Its history has been already told. Mr. Saunders was asked to write a pamphlet on the Physical Geography of Western Palestine from the Great Map. He undertook the work, which, it is unnecessary to explain, had been impossible before for want of such a map. But the pamphlet became a book, and the description has swollen into a detailed examination of the country, which is the most important result yet obtained from the Survey. It was intended to present the pamphlet to all those who asked for it. The book will be sent free, therefore, to all who up to this date (*April 4th*) have asked for it, but to no others.

It is most desirable on all accounts that the Map and Memoirs should have as wide a circulation as possible. The Subscribers to the Fund may greatly assist in this object by advising that they be placed in public libraries, school and college libraries, and institutions.

It is also greatly desired that all those whose contributions have enabled this great work to be completed, may have an opportunity of seeing it. Arrangements have been made with the Rev. James King, of Berwick, for explaining and lecturing on the Map and its uses. The Rev. Henry Geary is also ready to give one evening in every week to the Society, provided he be not invited to go too far from London. The Rev. Horrocks Cocks, Egham, has also kindly offered services in lecturing on the work of the Society.

A Cheap Edition of "Tent Work in Palestine," has been published by Messrs. Bentley and Son. All the small illustrations which were in the Library Edition, and two of the full-page drawings, will be found in the new Edition, which has been carefully revised by the author. An additional chapter has also been added on the "Future of Palestine." The work will be read with greater interest now that the progress of the Survey may be followed on the Map.

It is suggested to subscribers that the safest and the most convenient manner of paying subscriptions is through a bank. Many subscribers have adopted this method, which removes the danger of loss or miscarriage, and renders unnecessary the acknowledgment by official receipt and letter.

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.

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 these rest solely upon the credit of the respective authors, and that by publishing them in the *Quarterly Statement* the Committee neither sanction nor adopt them.
