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THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

WE have received, too late for the *Quarterly Statement*, a most important packet from Herr Schumacher, a note concerning which appeared in the January and April numbers. It contains a map covering about 200 square miles of a part of the Jaulan, that little known and extremely interesting country lying east of the Lake of Galilee, formerly Gaulanitis after the hitherto undiscovered city of Golan (Josh. xxx, 8, and xxi, 27), one of the three cities of refuge in the East. It has been traversed by Burckhardt, Porter, and Welzstein, Mr. Cyril Graham, Mr. Laurence Oliphant, and Dr. Selah Merrill. Herr Schumacher, however, is the first who has surveyed any part of the country, and planned and sketched its ruins. The results of the work are very briefly summed up in the report of the Executive Committee below. He has discovered, almost beyond possibility of doubt, the Biblical Golan. He suggests a new identification for Argob. He has found a vast field containing something like 500 dolmens; he has partially planned the most curious subterranean city of Dera, and he has planned and described all the monuments and buildings in the places which he visited, including the very interesting place round which are gathered the traditions of Job. He has also given a most valuable general description of the country, and has gathered a good collection of Arabic names. It is sufficient commendation of the work to state that its places may be placed side by side with those of Captains Conder and Kitchener in the "Memoirs of the Survey of Western Palestine."

The Committee have decided to produce this work separately and to present a copy of it, post free, to every subscriber of the Fund who may make application for it. A form of application is enclosed. The book will be set up uniform with the cheap editions of "Heth and Moab" and "Tent Work," and will form a volume about half the size of these books. It will be issued with the October *Quarterly Statement*.

We are enabled by the courtesy of the Proprietors of the *Pictorial World* to present with this number a portrait of Sir Charles Wilson, who has now returned from Egypt.

The interest attaching to Herr Schumacher's work will be increased by the paper presented to the Society, and published in this number, by Mr. Guy le

Strange. It is an account of a short journey east of the Jordan, and of a visit to Pella, the Kalat el Rukud, which is outside the part surveyed by Captain Conder; Jerash, the Wâdy Zerka, Yajuz, and Ammân. Mr. le Strange carries with him in his Eastern travels a rare acquaintance with the works of Arabian and Persian travellers. He has undertaken to translate and to annotate for the Pilgrims' Text Society, the Travels of Mokaddasi.

The notes by Mr. Laurence Oliphant and by Herr Hanauer are curious and interesting. The Rock Altar close to the site of Zorah strongly suggests the story of Judges xiii, 19, and the altar of Manoah. It seems to be, at any rate, of extreme antiquity.

On Sunday evening, June 21st, died suddenly, at his residence in Cheyne Walk, Mr. W. S. W. Vaux, F.R.S., formerly Keeper of Coins in the British Museum, and latterly Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society. Mr. Vaux became a member of the Committee of this Society on its foundation, May 12, 1865, for the whole period of its existence he remained a member, and attended nearly every meeting of the Committee. His loss is one which will not be easily filled up.

And on Tuesday, the 23rd, died, at his residence at Penzance, another of the Society's oldest friends and supporters, A. Lloyd Fox, a member of the General Committee, and the Society's Hon. Secretary for Falmouth.

Professor Hull's work, "Mount Seir," is now ready. New editions have also been issued of "Tent Work" and "Heth and Moab" at six shillings each.

Light upon the ancient customs of Palestine has been thrown from a very unexpected quarter, namely, Russian Central Asia. Dr. Lansdell ("Russian Central Asia," Sampson Low & Co.) has discovered as far to the east of Palestine as London is to the west, and among an Iranian population, many Semitic customs described in the Sacred Books, especially those written after the Captivity. These customs may have had a common origin, or, as Dr. Lansdell suggests, they may have been taken eastwards by the Ten Tribes.

The income of the Society, from March 17th inclusive, was—from subscriptions and donations £260 9s. 6d., from all sources £481 18s. 5d. The expenditure during the same period was £382 1s. 6d. On June 24th the balance in the Banks was £351 12s. 1d.

It is suggested to subscribers that the safest and 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 by publishing them in the *Quarterly Statement* they neither sanction nor adopt them.

The only authorised lecturers for the Society are—

- (1) The Rev. Henry Geary, Vicar of St. Thomas's, Portman Square. His lectures are on the following subjects :—

The survey of Western Palestine, as illustrating Bible History.

Palestine East of the Jordan.

The Jerusalem Excavations.

A Restoration of Ancient Jerusalem. Illustrated by original photographs shown as "dissolving views."

- (2) The Rev. James King, Vicar of St. Mary's, Berwick. His subjects are as follows :—

The Survey of Western Palestine.

Jerusalem.

The Hittites.

The Moabite Stone and other monuments.

- (3) The Rev. James Neil, formerly Incumbent of Christ Church, Jerusalem.

- (4) The Rev. George St. Clair, formerly Lecturer to the Society, is about to organise, by arrangement with the Committee, a course of lectures this winter on the work of the Society.
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