

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

ON June 6th, Mr. F. J. Bliss gave an address to a large audience at 20, Hanover Square, on his experiences of two years' digging at "Tell el Hesry" (Lachish). Professor Flinders Petrie, D.C.L., occupied the chair, supported by James Glaisher, F.R.S., Major Conder, D.C.L., R.E., Colonel Watson, C.M.G., R.E., Walter Morrison, Esq., &c.

The following account appeared in the "Manchester Guardian" from a correspondent:—

"A simple diagram on a blackboard explained the position of the stream, which, itself 220 feet above the level of the sea, has its course 60 feet below the bluff upon which the earliest of ten towns successively raised was built about 3,000 years B.C. The mound rises to a height of 60 feet above the bluff, and the theory of its growth held by Professor Flinders Petrie has been confirmed by the investigations of Mr. Bliss. The lecturer showed that the mud bricks of which the towns had been built readily formed a foundation for rebuilding, the process of reconstruction having been carried out in each case at an increased altitude of something like 4 feet, so that at the building of the tenth town, which was ruined in the fifth century B.C., the present height of the mound would be nearly reached. Mr. Bliss explained that before he began his work there was no sign of any ruin on the mound, which was covered with a crop of beans. His first step was to set 30 men digging, assigning to each a space 10 feet square, with two or three dozen helpers to carry away the refuse earth. The work had not gone on for half an hour before Mr. Bliss plainly saw that he was digging in no ordinary soil, numerous pots, lamps, beads, &c., coming immediately to light. The domestic habits of the people resident in the neighbourhood to-day help to throw considerable light on the discoveries, for they were accustomed to use the same utensils as their progenitors in past ages. The results met with in excavating the second town were better, because the ground was freer from moisture. A burnt barley store was met with at a depth of 8 feet. The explorers found much difficulty in distinguishing walls from *débris*, on account of the nature of the building materials, so much so that Mr. Bliss spent his first month at the Tell in crumbling brick to ascertain its composition. When the third level was reached certain parallel lines of stones with intermediary wallings revealed the site of some large public structure, the stones having formed the basis of pillars built of wood or brick. Thus the work proceeded through six levels, when a bed of ashes was met with 4 or 5 feet thick

and 100 feet square. Many days were spent in its removal by 80 to 100 men, until at last Mr. Bliss almost despaired. But at length occurred the discovery which gave the romantic side to Tell el Hesi, in the finding of the other end of the correspondence which had been brought to light in Egypt, including letters from consuls and governors of Syrian towns to the kings of Egypt. The find was made immediately below the bed of ashes just referred to. The tablets on which the letters were written belong to B.C. 1400, and they prove conclusively the use of cuneiform writing at that date between one town of Palestine and another.

"At the conclusion of the lecture, Professor Flinders Petrie congratulated the Society on the co-operation of so able an excavator as Mr. Bliss, who combined in a manner almost unique familiarity with Syria and with England alike, not to mention his scientific acquirements. His method was not to be surpassed for accuracy, precision, and thoroughness of record. In certain other cases an unscientific method of procedure had occasioned fearful losses. But in this instance there had been no loss, while Mr. Bliss had obtained for us through his discovery of arms, pottery, &c., knowledge of an ancient civilisation which heretofore had been to us but a name."

In the course of his lecture Mr. Bliss explained how he was led into mistaking the tablet of burnt clay for stone. He had been warned against taking squeezes and moulds of clay tablets for fear of destroying them, so fragile were they supposed to be. The Tell el Hesi tablet was hard, and suffered no harm from squeezes and moulds. But the moment he took into his hands the Tell el Amarna tablets at Cairo, he saw at once that not only the general size, shape, and form of letters were similar, but that the material—burnt clay—was the same.

Mr. Bliss is now preparing a memoir of his work at Tell el Hesi, which will be published in the autumn. After a preliminary chapter, showing how his work fitted into that of Dr. Petrie, and stating the clues by which he determined the various town-levels, he will describe the appearance of each town, beginning with the lowest and most ancient one, together with the objects found. The final chapter will include some account of the camp-life, work-people, Arabs, &c. The book will contain many plans and illustrations. A key plan will show how the eight plans of the town may be fitted one above another.

Herr Schick sends word that excavations at the traditional site of the house of Tabitha at Jaffa have led to the discovery of many tombs and inscriptions. His report will be published in the next *Quarterly Statement*.

A correspondent writes from Jerusalem:—"The Holy City sees many curious and interesting sights. The somewhat pompous entry of Cardinal Langenieux, Legate of the Pope, on the 13th May, was certainly very remarkable and suggestive. Some 200 monks of the Franciscan and Dominican orders headed the procession, and the Cardinal himself walked side by side with the Latin Patriarch, under a silken canopy supported by six gilded poles, blessing the people as he went. There was little response to His Eminence's courtesy, as

most of the spectators were Moslems, or Jews, or Christians of other confessions. It is said here that this is the first time Jerusalem has been visited by a Cardinal. An immense crowd of French ecclesiastics and lay pilgrims are here."

Dr. Chaplin writes from Jaffa that he has been shown there the skin of a crocodile said to have been recently killed at a place called Mastank'a el timsah, the pool of the crocodile, on the Nahr ez Zerka. The fellahin ate the flesh and preserved only the skin without the head or feet. The animal seems to have been 8 or 9 feet long. The skin is in possession of Mr. Alexander Howard, the well-known tourist contractor, who speaks of presenting it to the Museum of the Fund. Six crocodile's eggs have also been found in the same locality. One was broken, one was sent to Dr. Selah Merrill, of Jerusalem, and four are to go to Paris.

Dr. Chaplin also reports that the plaster with ancient frescos has been removed from the walls of the Church of the Convent of the Cross, at Jerusalem, and destroyed. Amongst the figures portrayed were those of Socrates and Plato, who are occasionally represented as having prepared the way for Christianity on the walls of the porches of ancient churches, as at Moscow and elsewhere.

Respecting the Akka-Damascus Railway, since the inaugural ceremony in December last considerable progress has been made with the construction, and now five miles of rail have been made along the foot of Carmel, starting from Haifa, and it is hoped that very shortly the first river—the Kishon—will be bridged, and its waters flow beneath the iron rail. Our readers may look forward to the Jordan itself experiencing the same fate before next spring.

No important archaeological discoveries have yet been reported to us, but there can be hardly room for doubt that such discoveries will be made during the construction of this, the most important line of the country.

The Rev. Theodore E. Dowling, Honorary Secretary for Jerusalem, reports that visitors will now find a stock of Maps and Publications of the Society in a conveniently situated room lately opened *within* the Jaffa Gate, exactly opposite the Tower of David.

In connection with Mrs. Finn's "Note" in the *Quarterly Statement*, October, 1892, p. 266, it is interesting to record that Dr. Chaplin, who for a quarter of a century was interested in "The Jerusalem Literary and Scientific Society," which was founded in 1849, and was the parent of the Palestine Exploration Fund, presided at a meeting of the Jerusalem Association on May 25th, when it was unanimously decided to request the Jerusalem Literary and Scientific Society to lend their Library and Curios to the younger Association, consisting of twenty-five members.

At Dr. Chaplin's suggestion the attention of our readers is drawn to the fact that only three numbers of the *Quarterly Statement* are required to complete the bound set belonging to the Jerusalem Association, and Mr. Dowling will

thankfully acknowledge the receipt of one or all of the following copies, viz. :—

1870.—No. 7.

1871.—April, July. (New Series.)

During the late tourist season lectures were delivered for the benefit of travellers by the following members of the Jerusalem Association of the Palestine Exploration Fund :—

Rev. A. Hastings Kelk, M.A., "Walks about Jerusalem."

Rev. John Zeller, "The Druzes."

Rev. J. E. Hanauer, "The Walls and Gates of Jerusalem and their Folklore."

G. Robinson Lees, F.R.G.S., "The Temple Area" (with lantern illustrations).

In reply to an invitation, the Rev. A. H. Kelk lectured at the Grand New Hotel and Howard's Hotel, where travellers were detained by stress of weather. At the latter place the Earl of Lathom took the chair, the Rev. J. E. Hanauer and Mr. Lees attended to answer questions on behalf of the Fund.

A further series of lectures are in preparation for the next season, and the Rev. Theodore E. Dowling, the Hon. Secretary, is ever ready to give information to all enquirers.

Unusually violent storms raged in Syria and Palestine far into April. It is reported that 25 pilgrims were buried in one day at Ramallah, their deaths having been occasioned by exposure to the weather in the course of their pilgrimage.

The Rev. J. R. Macpherson, B.D., Kinnaird Manse, Incbture, N.B., who translated into English from the original texts the Pilgrimages in the Holy Land of Arculfus (670 A.D.) and Fetellus (1130 A.D.) for the Pilgrims' Text Society, has been appointed Lecturer for the Palestine Exploration Fund in Scotland. His subjects will be found under the heading of Lecturers.

Index to the *Quarterly Statement*.—A new edition of the Index to the *Quarterly Statements* has been compiled. It embraces the years 1869 (the first issue of the journal) to the end of 1892. Contents :—Names of the Authors and of the Papers contributed by them; List of the Illustrations; and General Index. This Index will be found exceptionally useful. Price to subscribers to the Fund, 1s. 6d., post free; non-subscribers, 2s.

Raised Map of Palestine.—The want has long been felt, and the wish often expressed, that a map showing the physical features of the Holy Land on a scale sufficiently large to show at a glance the relative proportions of the mountains, valleys, plains, &c., should be produced on the basis of the Surveys of the Palestine Exploration Fund.

This has now been accomplished by Mr. George Armstrong, Assistant Secretary to the Fund. The Raised Map embraces the whole country from Bualbek to Kadesh Barnea, and shows on the east of Jordan nearly all that is known. It is a reproduction in bold relief of the recently issued map, on the scale of three-eighths of an inch to the mile.

The seas, lakes, marshes, and perennial streams are in blue, the watercourses on the plains and main roads are marked by a grooved line, the Old and New Testament sites in red, and the plains and hills are in white.

Names are given to the coast towns and a few of the inland ones; the others have numbers corresponding with a reference sheet. The map measures 7 feet 6 inches by 4 feet, and is on view at the Office of the Fund, 24, Hanover Square.

Casts of this Map in fibrous plaster, coloured and framed, can be had for £7 7s.

Photographs of the raised map are in preparation, and will be ready shortly. Size, 16½ inches by 8½ inches.

After two years' study of the published texts of the tablets found at Tell Amarna, Major Conder has completed a translation of them which the Committee of the Fund have published. In this, as in all their publications, the Committee beg it to be understood that the author alone is responsible for the opinions put forward.

A complete set of the Fund's publications, together with a copy of the new raised map of Palestine, have been sent to the Chicago Exhibition, and will be found in the British Section, Gallery of the Liberal Arts Building, by the side of the Oxford University Extension exhibit.

The Committee have appointed the Rev. Professor Theodore Wright, Hon. General Secretary to the Fund in the U.S.A., to be their representative at the Chicago Exhibition.

The following may be had on application to the Assistant Secretary at the Office of the Fund, viz. :—

Casts of the Tablet with a Cuneiform Inscription found at Tell el Hesi, price 2s. 6d. each.

Casts of the Ancient Hebrew Weight brought by Dr. Chaplin from Samaria, price 2s. 6d. each.

Casts of an Inscribed Weight or Bead from Palestine, forwarded by Professor Wright, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A., price 1s. each.

Photographs of Tell el Hesi, showing the excavations, price 1s. each.

The following gentlemen have kindly consented to act as Honorary Local Secretaries:—H. S. Noblett, Esq., Ashton Place, Cork; The Rev. Geo. W. Baile, B.A., 17, Upper Sackville Street, Dublin; The Rev. Robert Macpherson, B.D., The Manse, Elgin; The Rev. J. R. Macpherson, B.D., Carse of Gowrie, Perthshire; E. F. J. Love, Esq., B.A., Queen's College, University of Melbourne; The Rev. Wm. Gillies; The Manse, Timaru, Melbourne; The Rev. W. W. Beveridge, Port Glasgow.

The translation of the first portion of M. Clermont-Ganneau's work, "Archæological Researches in Palestine," is completed. The second part, it is expected, will be in the hands of the translator soon.

The new railway from Jaffa to Jerusalem has been laid down on the three sheets of the large map. Scale 1 inch = 1 mile. Copies of these sheets are now ready. Price to subscribers to the work of the Fund, 2s. each; non-subscribers, 2s. 6d.

The museum of the Fund, at 24, Hanover Square, is now open to subscribers between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., except on Saturdays, when it closes at 2 p.m.

The Committee have to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the Library of the Fund:—

“The Fifth Gospel.” By the Author, J. M. P. Otts, D.D., LL.D.

The Committee will be glad to receive donations of Books to the Library of the Fund, which already contains many works of great value relating to Palestine and other Bible Lands.

It may be well to mention that plans and photographs alluded to in the reports from Jerusalem and elsewhere cannot all be published, but all are preserved in the offices of the Fund, where they may be seen by subscribers.

The third and revised edition of “Heth and Moab” is now ready.

A new edition of “Twenty-one Years’ Work” is in course of preparation, and will be brought down to date. The new title will be “Twenty-seven Years’ Work.”

The first volume of the “Survey of Eastern Palestine,” by Major Conder, 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 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 for 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 in the fore part of this number.

Mr. H. Chichester Hart’s “Fauna and Flora of Sinai, Petra, and the Wādy ‘Arabah” has been completed and sent out to subscribers.

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 (1 to 7 and 9 to 18) can be obtained by subscribers to the Fund on application to the Head Office only (24, Hanover Square, W.), for £3 10s. Od., 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 "Survey of Eastern Palestine." They are full of drawings, sketches, and plans, and contain many valuable remarks upon manners and customs.

By Walter Besant, M.A.—

- (8) "The Memoirs of Twenty-one Years' Work."—This work is a popular account of the researches conducted by the Society during the twenty-one years of its existence.
- (9) Herr Schumacher's "Kh. Fahlil." The ancient Pella, the first retreat of the Christians; with map and illustrations.

By George Armstrong—

- (10) Names and Places in the Old and New Testament and Apocrypha. This is an index to all the names and places mentioned in the Bible and New Testament, with full references and their modern identifications, as shown on the new map of Palestine.
- 11) Besant and Palmer's "History of Jerusalem."—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.
- (12) Northern 'Ajlûn "Within the Decapolis," by Herr Schumacher.

By Henry A. Harper—

- (13) "The Bible and Modern Discoveries."—This work, written by a Member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund, is an endeavour to present in a simple and popular, but yet a 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 that they illustrated the text. This plain and simple method has never before been adopted in dealing with modern discovery.

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; nearly all the places spoken of he has visited, and most of them he has moreover sketched or painted. It should be noted that the book is admirably adapted for the School or Village Library.

By Guy le Strange—

- (14) "Palestine under the Moslems."—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.

By W. M. Flinders Petrie—

- (15) "Lachish" (one of the five strongholds of the Amorites).—An account of the excavations conducted by Mr. Petrie in the spring of 1890, with view of Tell, plans and sections, and upwards of 270 drawings of the objects found.

By Trelawney Saunders—

- (16) "An Introduction to the Survey of Western Palestine, describing its Waterways, Plains, and Highlands, with special reference to the Water Basin—(Map. No. 10)."
- (17) "The City and the Land."—A course of seven lectures on the work of the Fund.
- (18) "The Tell Amarna Tablets," including the one found at Lachish. By Major C. R. Conder, D.C.L., R.E.

The new Map of Palestine 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 is extra (*see* Maps).

In addition to the 21-sheet map, the Committee have issued as a separate Map the 12 sheets (*viz.*, Nos. 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 20-22), which include the whole of Palestine as far north as Mount Hermon, and the districts beyond Jordan as far as they are surveyed. *See* key-map to the sheets.

The price of this map, in 12 sheets, in paper cover, to subscribers to the Fund, 12s. 6d.; to the public, £1 1s.

The size of the map, mounted on cloth and roller for hanging, is 4½ feet by 6¾ feet.

Any single sheet of the map can be had separately, price, to subscribers of the Fund, 1s. 6d. Mounted on cloth to fold in the pocket suitable for travelling, 2s. To the public 2s. and 2s. 6d.

Single copies of these maps in sheets, with cover, can be sent by post to all foreign countries at extra charge of 1s.

A copy of names and places in the Old and New Testament, with their modern identifications and full references, can be had by subscribers with either of these maps at the reduced price of 2s. 6d.

The first and second parts, Vol. I, of "Felix Fabri," were issued to subscribers to the Pilgrims' Text Society in May and July of last year. Part I, Vol. II, of the same work was issued in March last; Part II will be ready shortly.

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.

The income of the Society, from March 22nd, 1893, to June 21st, 1893, was—from annual subscriptions and donations, including Local Societies, £216 17s. 10d.; from all sources—£352 4s. 2d. The expenditure during the same period was £618 16s. 4d. On June 23rd the balance in the Bank was £355 8s. 2d.

Subscribers are requested 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 binding Herr Schumacher's "Jaulân."
 3. Cases for binding the *Quarterly Statement*, in green or chocolate.
 4. Cases for binding "Abila," "Pella," and "Ajlûn" in one volume.
-

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

No. II, 1869; Nos. VI and VII, 1870; No. III, 1871; January and April, 1872; October, 1873; January, 1874; January and October, 1875; January, 1883, and January, 1886.

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.