

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Died

ON THE 25TH OCTOBER, 1905,

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR CHARLES W. WILSON,

K.C.B., K.C.M.G., F.R.S., D.C.L., LL.D., M.E.,

Chairman of the Executive Committee.

A NOTICE, necessarily short, is given in this number of the *Quarterly Statement* of the late Chairman of the Executive Committee.

It is well for subscribers to the P.E.F. to know by what manner of men they have been served. They cannot know the long, steady, and persistent effort and care which such men bring to this labour of love, and who bring brilliant abilities to bear on a subject dear to them.

At the time of his last illness, Sir Charles Wilson was engaged in the preparation of a work on "Golgotha and the Holy Sepulchre," which is a revised and enlarged edition of the papers on the subject contributed by him to the *Quarterly Statement* in 1902-4. The Executive Committee are completing the publication of this important work, and it is hoped it will be ready for issue early in the year.

Colonel Sir Charles Moore Watson, R.E., K.C.M.G., C.B., M.A., has been elected Chairman (in succession to General Sir Charles Wilson) by the unanimous vote of the Executive Committee. Our

new Chairman passed from Trinity College, Dublin, to the R.M.A., Woolwich, and became Lieut. R.E. in 1866. He served in the Soudan under Gordon, 1874-5, and, besides other services, took part in the Egyptian War, 1882, and was employed in the Egyptian Army till 1886, with rank of Pasha. He has therefore an intimate knowledge of Eastern ways and customs. Sir Charles Watson has for many years been a member of the Committee, and has made the topography of Jerusalem a special study. His latest public service was as British Commissioner-General at the St. Louis Exhibition, where his great ability in organization made the British section not only the best arranged, but the *only one* complete at the date appointed.

As announced in the last number of the *Quarterly Statement*, the firman for the excavation of Gezer has expired. Mr. Macalister has returned to England for a holiday, and is busily engaged upon the preparation of the material which he has collected, with a view to publication. An application for a new firman has been made.

The special donations during the quarter to the expenses of the Excavation of Gezer comprise:—Reginald Heber Prance, Esq., £21; Henry Northcroft, Esq., £5 5s.; James Melrose, Esq., £5; smaller amounts, £4 18s.; bringing the total up to £1,135 1s. 8d.

A "Palestine Exhibition," arranged by the British Syrian Mission, was held at Brighton during the first few days of November, at which Mr. Macalister delivered a lecture, on November 1st, which, by special request, he repeated the next afternoon. He described the excavations at Gezer which he has so successfully conducted, illustrating his description by slides showing many of the interesting features brought to view. The lectures were well attended. A similar lecture was delivered before the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, at Cambridge, on November 20th.

It is interesting to find that the largest sale of our publications in the past quarter has been for the Vatican Library, of which museum of literary treasures all our more important records now form a part, including the most recent, *Painted Tombs at Marissa*.

Before his return to England, Mr. R. A. S. Macalister visited Marissa, at the request of the Committee, mainly to ascertain that the painted tombs were still protected from further injury. He took advantage of the opportunity to go over all the details of the interior with the recent book by Prof. Peters and Dr. Thiersch in his hand. The coloured plates struck him as giving a very accurate delineation of the paintings. He also made a close examination of all the inscriptions, and offers, in the present number, a new explanation of the "erotic" inscription which was found in the tomb of Apollophanes.

Among the recent reviews of the *Painted Tombs in the Necropolis of Marissa*, that by Prof. Schürer of Göttingen in the *Theologische Literaturzeitung* will probably attract the most attention. Prof. Schürer is one of the most competent authorities on Palestine, particularly for the period to which the tombs belong, that his remarks naturally possess great value. He does not fail to point out that the important fact which these tombs have taught us is that we have for the first time learned that Hellenism had set its foot in Idumæa by the end of the third and the beginning of the second century before Christ. The mixture of Idumæan and Phœnician names implies, as he remarks, that the members of the Sidonian colony intermarried with the natives. His criticisms affect points of detail, *e.g.*, the era of Eleutheropolis, and from such an authority are to be welcomed. Prof. Schürer observes, also, that the new evidence has to be taken into account with the results of the excavations by the Fund at Tell Sandahannah (by Messrs. Bliss and Macalister), where further traces of Hellenism were brought to light. For the history of the period, the purely archæological results are of the first importance, and it must be admitted by all who are acquainted with the historical problems of Palestine, that it is a great gain to human knowledge that the work of excavation has succeeded in producing such valuable evidence. It need hardly be added that the acquisition of material for Palestinian history and archæology is one of the most pressing needs at the present day, and those who have followed the Quarterly Reports upon the Fund's excavations at Gezer will appreciate the desire of the Society to continue the work which has been so successful in the past.

As a result of a recent trip through Palestine and Syria in search of traces of pre-historic man, Dr. Max Blanckenhorn has come to the conclusion that the invasion of the Israelites in the middle of the XIIIth century brought iron, which had hitherto been unknown, into Palestine. It was possible, he thought, that bronze had been introduced there perhaps 800 years previously, but before then only stone implements were known.

The Egyptian statuette which Mr. Macalister found at Gezer (*Quarterly Statement*, October, p. 317) is attracting considerable attention among Egyptologists. It is believed to belong to the XIIth Dynasty, and we hope to publish in the next number a note upon it from the capable pen of Mr. Griffith.

The Rev. J. E. Hanauer has written to point out that on p. 275 of October *Quarterly Statement*, 1905, the tomb containing the ossuaries was only about one hundred yards north-west of the buildings at "Abraham's Vineyard," and that the inscription on p. 276 is to be read IVIDS. The rock-scarp which is referred to in that paragraph has now been laid bare for a length of 112 feet all along the space behind the new Greek buildings and between the Ecce Homo Chapel and the Austrian hospice. It is said to be a most imposing piece of ancient work.

The interior of Palestine and Syria, which, until recently, could only be visited under great difficulties and with serious sacrifice of time and money, has, at last, thanks to the efforts of the Hamburg American Line, been made accessible to the travelling public. A few months ago an overland tour into the interior of Palestine, such as from Jerusalem, *via* Nazareth and Tiberias, to Damascus, was one of great difficulty. The chief impediment to a tour from Jerusalem to Nazareth lay in the complete lack of accommodation. In order to remedy this, the tourist office of the Hamburg American Line has erected hotels at Nablus and Jenin, fitted up in the most modern manner, where thirty to forty persons can find sure and comfortable accommodation. The German hotels in Nazareth and Tiberias have, on the advice and with the help of the line, been modernized and enlarged. The journey from Jerusalem to Damascus can be made in six days, and this, too, without the trouble of looking after dragomans, servants, and tents, without danger of life or health,

and, above all, at comparatively small expense. Even the country east of Jordan, and also stony Arabia, can be visited without any exertion and with moderate outlay.

A correspondent to the *Newcastle Chronicle*, November 9, *apropos* of travel in Palestine, points out, however, that the Haifa line is still a long way from completion, the ceremony which took place on the 15th October being merely intended as a compliment to the Sultan on his birthday, which falls on that date. Even when actually opened for traffic the route, in his opinion, will offer no advantage over the present drive by road to those who visit Galilee from the middle port. The track passes south of Nazareth, between which city and it there is no road for carriages. "It does not go anywhere near Cana, which most travellers desire to visit; and as its nearest station to Tiberias is Sammach, at the south-eastern end of the lake, it is necessary to take row-boats, occupying from one-and-a-half to three hours, according to weather—a somewhat risky connection on such fickle waters as those of the Sea of Galilee. The fact, of course, is that the line, like the Hedjaz line, of which it is a branch, was never planned by the Turkish Government with a view to affording facilities to tourists, but to compete with the French Beyrout-Damascus line in the conveyance of merchandise and grain."

The same writer gives an interesting account of his experience of the comparative facility of travel as contrasted with the difficulties and hardship of a decade or two ago. In April of this year he travelled from Jerusalem to Damascus, and with the exception of the stretch between Khan Lubban and Jenin (Khan Lubban being as far as the new road north has been constructed), he performed the journey in a comfortable carriage as far as Tiberias, whence it was an easy ride to Mezerib, the present terminus of the southern extension of the Damascus-Beyrout Railway, where a conveniently-timed train conveyed him in a few hours to Damascus. The whole journey was not only performed without fatigue, but with a comfort in hotel and camp accommodation that approximated very much to that on a carriage tour in the Tyrol or the Bavarian Highlands.

The Pilgrim line to Mecca, which is now opened as far as Ma'an, a point a little south of the Dead Sea, has, in his opinion, little

likelihood of ever becoming useful to the ordinary traveller, by reason of its track running so far east of the places of attraction in Western Palestine. With the exception, therefore, of the comparatively old French lines from Jaffa to Jerusalem, and from Beyrout to Baalbek and Damascus, including, perhaps, the extension to Mezerib, the railway development in Palestine, he maintains, is practically useless from the traveller's point of view.

The attention of subscribers and others is called to *A Table of the Christian and Mohammedan Eras*, from July 15th, A.D. 622, the date of the Hejira, to A.D. 1900, price by post, 7d. Also to the *Meteorological Observations at Jerusalem*, with tables and diagrams by the late Mr. James Glaisher, F.R.S. Tourists and all desirous of accurate information about the climate of Jerusalem should not fail to send for a copy, price 2s. 6d.

The attention of subscribers is also called to a work by Sir Charles Warren, entitled "The Ancient Cubit and our Weights and Measures." He brings evidence to show that all weights and measures (except those of the metrical system) are derived from one source—the double-cubit cubed of Babylonia.

The Museum and Library of the Palestine Exploration Fund at Jerusalem are in the Bishop's Buildings, near the Tombs of the Kings, where the use of a room has been kindly permitted by the Rev. Dr. Blyth, Bishop in Jerusalem and the East. The Museum is open daily, except Sundays, and the Honorary Secretary, Dr. D'Erf Wheeler, will give all information necessary.

The "Flora of Syria, Palestine, and Sinai," by the Rev. George E. Post, M.D., Beirût, Syria, containing descriptions of all the Phaenogams and Acrogens of the region, and illustrated by 441 woodcuts, may be had at the office of the Fund, price 21s.

The income of the Society from September 21st to December 20th, 1905, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £733 9s. 8d.; from sales of publications, &c., £217 2s. 6d.; from Lectures, £8 2s. 0d.; making in all, £958 14s. 2d. The expenditure during the same period was

£864 9s. 10d. On December 21st the balance in the bank was
£360 10s. 11d.

Subscribers who have not yet paid, will greatly facilitate the Committee's efforts by sending their subscriptions in early, and thus save the expense of sending out reminders, the outgoings on the excavations at Gezer having been a heavy drain on their funds.

Subscribers to the Fund are reminded that, whilst the receipt of every subscription and contribution is promptly acknowledged by the Acting Secretary, they will henceforth be published annually, and not quarterly. A complete List of Subscribers and Subscriptions for 1904 was published with the April number.

Subscribers in U.S.A. to the work of the Fund will please note that they can procure copies of any of the publications from the Rev. Professor Theo. F. Wright, Honorary General Secretary to the Fund, 42, Quincy Street, Cambridge, Mass.

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

Plaster casts of the fragments of two cuneiform tablets found during the excavations at Gezer can now be had, price 1s. 6d. each. The text and transliteration will be found in *Quarterly Statements*, July, 1904 and 1905.

Subscribers and others may be reminded that the new Raised Map of Palestine, constructed from the Surveys of the Palestine Exploration Fund by the Acting Secretary, is ready. It is on the scale of $6\frac{1}{4}$ miles to the inch and measures 3' 6" \times 2' 6". It has already been used with great success by Professors of Old Testament history, and by teachers in Sunday Schools, and may be especially recommended for large classes of students. On view at the office of the Fund; further particulars may be had on application.

In order to make up complete sets of the *Quarterly Statement*, the Committee will be very glad to receive any back numbers which subscribers do not wish to preserve.

A complete set of the *Quarterly Statements*, 1869-1904, containing the early letters, with an Index, 1869-1892, bound in the Palestine Exploration Fund cases, can be had. Price on application to the Acting Secretary, 38, Conduit Street, W.

Subscribers of one guinea and upwards will please note that they can still obtain a set, consisting of the "Survey of Eastern Palestine" (Colonel Conder); "Archæological Researches in Palestine," in two volumes (Clermont-Ganneau); "Flora and Fauna of Sinai, Petra, and the Wady 'Arabah" (Hart), for £7 7s., but the price has been increased to the public to £9 9s. The price of single volumes to the public has also been increased. Applications should be made to the Acting Secretary.

The price of a complete set of the translations published by the Palestine Pilgrims Text Society, in 13 volumes, with general index, bound in cloth, is £10 10s. A catalogue describing the contents of each volume can be had on application to the Secretary, 38, Conduit Street, W.

The Museum at the office of the Fund, 38, Conduit Street (a few doors from Bond Street), is open to visitors every week-day from 10 o'clock till 5, except Saturdays, when it is closed at 2 p.m.

Photographs of the late Dr. Schick's models (1) of the Temple of Solomon, (2) of the Herodian Temple, (3) of the Haram Area during the Christian occupation of Jerusalem, and (4) of the Haram Area as it is at present, (5) of the Hechel in Solomon's Temple, (6) of the Hechel in Herod's Temple, (7) of the Tabernacle, have been received at the office of the Fund. The seven photographs, with an explanation by Dr. Schick, can be purchased by applying to the Acting Secretary, 38, Conduit Street, W.

Branch Associations of the Bible Society, all Sunday Schools 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 Committee acknowledge with thanks the following :—

"Die Provincia Arabia," by Rudolf Ernst Brünnow and Alfred v. Domaszewski. Vol. ii. Der äussere Limes und die Römerstrassen von el-Ma'an bis Bosra.

NEA ΣΙΩΝ, July-August, Sept.-Oct., 1905, a Greek journal devoted to Palestinian subjects.

"Al-Mashrik : Revue Catholique Orientale Bimensuelle."

“Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale,” by M. Clermont-Ganneau. Tome VII, Livraisons 4-7. Sommaire:—§ 3. Le Livre de la Création et de l'Histoire. (*Suite et fin.*) § 5. Un édit du roi Agrippa II. § 6. Inscription grecque et araméenne de Zindj-Déré. § 7. *Fiches et Notices.* § 8. Zeus Naos et Zeus Bômos. § 9. La Nativité et le bas-relief de Palmyre. § 10. Une inscription néo-punique datée du proconsulat de L. Aelius Lamia.

See, further, below, “Foreign Publications,” pp. 70 *sqq.*

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. A catalogue of Books in the Library will be found in the July *Quarterly Statement*, 1893.

For list of authorised lecturers and their subjects, see end of the Journal, or write to the Secretary.

Whilst desiring to give 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 do not necessarily sanction or adopt them.

FORM OF BEQUEST TO THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

I give to the Palestine Exploration Fund, London, the sum of _____ to be applied towards the General Work of the Fund; and I direct that the said sum be paid, free of Legacy Duty, and that the Receipt of the Treasurer of the Palestine Exploration Fund shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors.

Signature _____

Witnesses { _____

NOTE.—Three Witnesses are necessary in the United States of America.
 Two suffice in Great Britain.