

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Lieutenant Kitchener returned to England in January, and after a short leave, joined Lieut. Conder at the South Kensington Museum, where he is now engaged in arranging and writing the Memoirs for the sheets of the Map executed by himself. The Memoirs of Lieutenant Conder are almost completed. He leaves the service of the Committee at the end of April, after six years' work on the survey of Western Palestine. A note on his new book will be found later on.

The work done from the end of February to the end of November, nine months, amounted in all to the triangulation and survey of 1,340 square miles of country; every ruin was examined, and special reports on all villages and water supply were drawn up; the line of levels between the Mediterranean and the Sea of Galilee was completed, 1,700 square miles of country were revised, 3,850 names were collected and 816 ruins examined and described, 29 special plans and 19 photographs were taken, besides notes on all archaeological and geological points of interest in the country.

The most interesting discovery, from a Biblical point of view, announced in the present *Quarterly Statement*, is that of the "Stone of Bethphage." The account given by Captain Guillemot differs from that of Lieut. Kitchener in one important particular. The stone is not in the centre of a circular chapel, but within a chapel the plan of which has been drawn by Lieut. Kitchener. It is probably that mentioned by Theodoricus, the passage from whom is quoted by M. Clermont Ganneau (p. 59). We have here, therefore, the Bethphage of tradition.

The work for the year will consist entirely of the preparation of Map and Memoirs. Everything is being pushed on as rapidly as possible.

The following is the financial position of the Fund (March 25, 1878). Receipts, December 12th to March 25th, £911 6s. 5d. Expenditure, same period: Exploration, £455 6s. Printing, £200. General expenses and small bills, £355 1s. 6d. The balance in the banks at the latter date was £126 13s. 5d.

This small balance would probably have been much larger but for an apparently prevalent belief that the work of the Fund is over, and its expenses no longer heavy. First, the special work of the survey of Western Palestine is by no means over, nor will it be over until Map and Memoirs are completed and published. And secondly, not only is there the usual monthly expenditure to be met, but there are many debts which have to be paid off. Subscribers will strengthen the hands of the Committee very much if they will send their subscriptions for the year as early as convenient.

The controversy on the Moabite pottery has been continued during the last quarter. We reproduce the most important portions of the letters on the subject published in the *Athenæum*. The two "idols" brought home by Lieut. Kitchener are now in the office of the Fund, and can be seen by any visitor.

Two mistakes were allowed to pass in the January *Quarterly Statement*. In one of them the meeting in the Kensington Vestry was spoken of as a meeting in South Kensington. And in the other, the extracts from the *Descriptiones Palæstinae* on the Position of Sion were headed *Positions* of Sion.

In the account of the Kensington meeting in the last *Quarterly Statement*, the names, also, of the following speakers were omitted: Rev. Dr. Francis Hessey, Rev. Dr. Raleigh, and Mr. Edmond Beales.

We have to report the loss of three members of the General Committee by death. The first of these, Mr. Ambrose Phillipps de Lisle, was a member of the Committee from the beginning, but has not of late taken an active interest in work. The second, Sir Gilbert Scott, also joined the Committee at the foundation of the Society. The third is the Rev. George Williams, whose interest in the Fund has been unflagging, and whose personal assistance in addresses, speeches, and writing has always been very great. Canon Williams is chiefly known by his work on Jerusalem called the "Holy City." The first edition of this, partly prepared during his residence in Jerusalem, appeared in 1845. A second edition, greatly enlarged, and enriched by Professor Willis's paper on the Architecture of the Holy Sepulchre, was issued in 1849. The author was at the time of his death, which was sudden, engaged in the preparation of a third edition. It is not yet known how far he had advanced with this design.

The death is also announced of Mr. Joseph Bonomi, the companion of Mr. Catherwood, the first European who (in 1833) examined and surveyed the Haram

area. Mr. Bonomi, who spoke Arabic fluently, had often visited, but was not able to survey or sketch, the Dome of the Rock and the Mosque el Aksa in the disguise of a Mohammedan pilgrim. Mr. Catherwood, who wore the dress of an Egyptian officer, was suffered to make drawings and take measurements, in the belief that he was ordered to do so by Mehemet Ali for the purpose of repairing the holy places. He introduced Bonomi and Mr. Arundale, on the pretence of requiring assistance, nor was it till the work was completed and the travellers at a safe distance from the city that the deception was discovered. Mr. Bonomi was for many years Curator of the Soane Museum.

Later on will be found an announcement of the general contents of Lieut. Conder's new book. It will be published at 24s. The Committee have resolved on reducing the price to subscribers to 17s. 6d., postage paid. But it can only be obtained at this price by application to the London office. Names will be received in advance. The book will be ready towards the end of April.

Several cases were discovered in 1876, and one or two last year, of postage stamps being lost on their way to the office. The only way to avoid such loss is to send money by P.O.O. or by cheque, *in every case payable to the order of Walter Besant, and crossed to Coutts and Co., or the Union Bank, Charing Cross Branch.*

The ninth thousand of "Our Work in Palestine" is now ready (price 3s. 6d.), and may be ordered of booksellers. This book carries the work down to the commencement of the Survey, but does not embrace M. Ganneau's discoveries nor the results of the Survey itself.

The following are at present Representatives and Lecturers of the Society, in addition to the local Hon. Secs.:—

Archdeaconry of Hereford : Rev. J. S. Stooke-Vaughan, Wellington Heath Vicarage, Ledbury.

City and neighbourhood of Manchester : Rev. W. F. Birch, St. Saviour's Rectory.

Lancashire : Rev. John Bone, St. Thomas's Vicarage, Lancaster.

London : Rev. Henry Geary, 16, Somerset Street, Portman Square.

Norwich : Rev. W. F. Greeny.

Suffolk : Rev. F. C. Long, Stow-upland, Stowmarket.

Peterborough : Rev. A. J. Foster, Farndish Rectory, Wellingborough.

Worcester : Rev. F. W. Holland, Evesham (Member of General and Executive Committee, and one of the Hon. Secretaries to the Fund).

Diocese of Ripon : Rev. T. C. Henley, Kirkby Malham Vicarage.

North Wales : Rev. John Jones, Treborth, Bangor.

Yorkshire, Durham, and the North : Rev. James King, 13, Paradise Terrace, Darlington. Mr. King is now in the Holy Land, but communications for lectures, &c., can be sent to the Office at Charing Cross.

IRELAND.—Diocese of Armagh : Rev. J. H. Townsend.

Rev. G. J. Stokes, Blackrock, Dublin.

SCOTLAND.—Rev. R. J. Craig, Dalgetty, Burntisland.

The Rev. Horrocks Cocks, 19, Edwardes Square, Kensington, has also kindly offered his services among the Nonconformist churches.

While desiring to give every publicity to proposed identifications by officers of the Fund, the Committee beg it to be distinctly understood that they leave such proposals to be discussed on their own merits, and that by publishing them in the *Quarterly Statement* the Committee do not sanction or adopt them.

Annual subscribers are earnestly requested to forward their subscriptions for the current year when due, at their *earliest convenience*, and without waiting for application.

The Committee are always glad to receive old numbers of the *Quarterly Statement*, especially those which have been advertised as out of print.

TENT WORK IN PALESTINE.

Lieut. Conder's book is expected to be ready about the third or fourth week in April. The Committee are anxious that the work should be understood to be presented by Lieut. Conder not as the scientific result of the Survey, which will be looked for in the twenty-six sheets of the Map, and the voluminous Memoirs, plans, special surveys, and drawings which will accompany them, but as a book naturally growing out of the note-books and observations of a traveller. It is a record of personal adventure, with sketches and drawings made on the spot. It contains also a more popular account of certain interesting discoveries and suggested identifications than is possible in the dry details of a scientific memoir.

From the table of contents of the book are taken the following heads :—

Vol. I. An account of the Samaritans and of the ancient manuscripts of Shechem. Description of Ebal and Gerizim. The accounts of Josephus compared with the results of the Survey as regards Samaria, Cæsarea, and Masada. The origin of the monastery of Carmel told by one of the last monks who remembers the foundation. Cana of Galilee, with an account of the early notices of the place. Adventures among the Arabs of Sharon, Damascus, and Baalbek. From the Summit of Hermon. Christmas at Bethlehem. Easter at Jerusalem. The site of Calvary. The site of the Temple compared with the ascertained rock levels of the Haram Area.

Vol. II. Jericho, Gilgal, and the Cities of the Plain. The Jordan Valley. Bethabara and Megiddo. David's Wanderings. The Desert of Judæa. Masada.

The Valley of Michmash, Bethel, Ai, Spring in Philistia, Lachish, Ascalon, Galilee. The Safed attack. Customs, language, and probable origin of the Fellaheen. Arabs, Jews, Russian Pilgrims and German Colonists. Fertility and Future of Palestine.

In an appendix will be published a complete list of the cities and towns mentioned in the Bible, with the identifications which have been proposed.

The illustrations, all from drawings made by the author in Palestine, or from new photographs, and chiefly of scenes never before figured, consist of six full-page and about thirty half-page woodcuts, engraved by Mr. Edward Whymper.

Those subscribers who wish to avail themselves of the privilege of obtaining the book at reduced price are requested to forward their names to the Secretary as soon as possible.

Although the work is issued by the Committee, it must be understood that the opinions expressed are those of the author, and that the Committee do not, in publishing the book, sanction or adopt Lieut. Conder's views.

THE ROSE OF SHARON.

Mrs. Finn writes, with reference to Lieut. Conder's note on this subject (*Quarterly Statement*, Jan., 1878, p. 46): "During our seventeen years' residence in Palestine I had many opportunities of seeing roses growing in the Holy Land, both cultivated and wild. I have a wild dog-rose gathered in Lebanon. I saw another growing and in blossom on the roadside between Nablûs and Jerusalem. Roses have been also cultivated in Palestine for a very long period, and they thrive well. The Hebrew word may well mean the Rose. It signifies, as does its cognate Arabic, the root of a bulbous plant. The flower of a rose is like a bulb in the way its petals are folded over each other. Hence the name applied to both."

THE STONE OF BETHPHAGE.

I.

(Abridged from a paper published in the *Revue Archæologique*, Dec., 1877, by M. Clermont Ganneau.)

I HAVE received from the Frère Lièvin certain documents and drawings relating to an important discovery lately made near Jerusalem. They describe a Crusaders' monument, interesting both as regards the history of Western art in the East, and as illustrating the topography of Jerusalem. Frère Lièvin was fortunate in obtaining the valuable assistance of Captain Guillemot, to whose pen we owe the drawings here engraved. Farther on will also be found a notice drawn up by Captain Guillemot on the monument, its origin and destination, in support of which I shall have a few remarks to offer. The drawings are the more valuable because the monument has greatly suffered since