

MEETING OF GENERAL COMMITTEE.

A MEETING of the General Committee was held at the Offices of the Society on Tuesday, March 16th. Mr. JOHN MACGREGOR in the chair.

The following Report of the Executive Committee was read and adopted:—

“MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—Your Committee, elected at the last General Meeting, held on June 24th, 1879, have, on resigning their trust, to render to you an account of their administration during the months.

1. The registration of the Society under the Companies Acts of 1862 and 1867 has been since that day completed.

2. This meeting is called in accordance with the rule in Article 21 of the Articles of Association.

3. The Financial Statement, presently to be read to you, with a list of the assets and property of the Society, has been already sent to every member of the General Committee.

4. The balance in hand this day is £1,114 6s. 7d.; of this sum £186 5s. is on deposit account, being the amount paid on account of the proposed Galilee Expedition; £340 is on deposit account, being set aside to meet part of the cost of the small map; £257 7s. is on deposit account, being the amount as yet paid up for the special edition of the memoirs and map.

5. The large map is already printed and is now being coloured. The portfolios are in preparation. It will be delivered to subscribers in the course of a few weeks.

6. The engraving of the small map is finished in outline; the hill shading is progressing. It is expected that this map will be ready about the end of the year.

7. The American reconnoissance map of Eastern Palestine, in thirteen sheets, has also been photo-zincographed under the superintendence of the Director-General of the Ordnance Survey, and is now ready for issue.

8. The first volume of Memoirs is printed and will be issued as soon as the engravings and illustrations are ready.

9. Colonel Wilson having resigned his post as one of the Editors of the Memoirs, the Committee have invited Professor Palmer to undertake the work in his place. The Committee are happy to report that he has accepted the invitation.

10. The Large Paper Edition of 250 copies has been entirely taken up. About twenty names have been added to the list on the chance of copies falling in.

11. The Committee have resolved on issuing, as soon as the Special Edition is in the hands of subscribers, another edition on smaller paper at twenty guineas a copy, including the large map in twenty-six sheets.

12. The Committee have accepted an offer made by Mr. Greville Chester to undertake a journey of exploration among the Biblical sites

of the Delta while in Egypt. This journey, the cost of which will be trifling, has probably been already completed.

13. The Committee have to regret the loss of their Chairman, by his sudden death on December 26th, 1879.

14. At a meeting specially called for December 30th, it was resolved that a letter of condolence should be written to Mrs. Dixon expressing the deep regret of the Committee at this lamentable event, and their appreciation of the constant and persevering attention, the tact and ability which Mr. Dixon devoted to the services of the Fund during the three years and a half of his chairmanship.

15. At a meeting held on January 6th, the Committee proceeded to elect a successor. Mr. James Glaisher, F.R.S., was unanimously invited to accept that post.

16. The Committee have to express their gratification at the appointment of Dr. Barclay, for many years an active member of the General Committee, to the Bishopric of Jerusalem.

17. As regards the present position of the Society and its future work, it seems well now, as at the meeting of the General Committee of 1878, to recall the attention of the Committee to the original prospectus of the Society. Under the head of Archæology, this prospectus said:—

“Beyond the Holy City the country is full of sites which cannot fail amply to repay examination. Of these a few only may be enumerated:—Mount Gerizim, possibly the Moriah of Abraham's sacrifice, certainly the Holy Place of the Samaritans, containing the stones which they allege to have been brought up by Israel from the bed of the Jordan—the Valley of Shechem, the earliest settlement of Jacob in the Holy Land, with his Well and the Tomb of Joseph—Samaria, with the traditional tombs of John the Baptist and others, and with the extensive remains of Herod's edifices—the splendid Roman cities along the coast, Cæsarea of Herod and St. Paul—Antipatris—the once-renowned harbours of Jamnia and Gaza—the mounds and other remains of Jiljilieh, probably the Gilgal which contained the Great College of Prophets in the days Elijah and Elisha—the Fortress and Palace of Herod at Jebel Fureidis—the Tombs (probably those of Joshua) at Tibneh—the mounds at Jericho—the numerous remains in the Valley of the Jordan—Bethshean, one of the most ancient cities of Palestine, with remarkable remains of Roman, and probably still earlier, date—Jezreel, the capital of Ahab and Jezebel—the Assyrian mound, called Tel es Salhiyeh, near Damascus,” &c., &c.

The Survey of Western Palestine, now happily completed, affords a basis, then wanting, for carrying out these and many other points of examination. The map now in our hands will be our guide to further exploration and excavation. The special plans will suggest the best spots for work. Our increased knowledge of recovered and ascertained sites will prevent useless and tentative shafts. We not only know what to look for, but we now know where and how to look for it.

In the second section of the original prospectus, the Manners and Customs of the People, a good deal has been done by M. Clermont Ganneau, Lieut. Conder, Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake, and others.

In the third section, that of Topography, the Society has quite fulfilled its programme so far as Western Palestine is concerned. The Americans have executed a reconnoissance map of Eastern Palestine, but it has been found impossible to incorporate this map with our own exact survey. As a reconnoissance it adds considerably to our knowledge of the country, but it is only a preliminary, and not an accurate and exhaustive survey. Thus, while it has been issued separately, the Committee are advised that it cannot be reduced and engraved as part of their small map. What has been done for the west of the Jordan remains to be done for the east.

Of Geology and Natural Science almost the same words may be used as in 1865. Canon Tristram has undertaken a paper on this subject for the Memoirs of the Survey.

In 1878 the Committee recommended for the immediate work of the Society—

1. Publication of the Map.
2. Publication of the Memoirs.
3. Either an expedition to Galilee or one to the Dead Sea.

The publication of both Map and Memoirs is now fully provided for. It behoves the Committee, therefore, to proceed to their next work.

They recommend, as the best way of carrying out the objects of the Society, the dispatch of an exploring party every year, at a cost of about £1,000, each party to have definite instructions and special objects. Thus the following might be taken up:—

1. The Lake of Galilee, with excavations on the supposed site of Capernaum, Chorazin, Bethsaida, &c., and the eastern shores of the lake.
2. The Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley to be examined by a geologist.
3. The Survey of Eastern Palestine. The attention of the Committee has been specially drawn to this district. It is proposed that a pamphlet be drawn up on the subject, which shall set forth the desiderata and points of interest, Biblical and otherwise, in this hitherto unexplored and little-visited region.
4. Excavations in search of special points in Jerusalem. The return of Colonel Warren to England gives the Committee the benefit of his special advice as to Jerusalem.
5. Excavation and examination of some of the places mentioned in the original prospectus, such as Mount Gerizim, the Valley of Shechem, the Tomb of Joseph, Samaria, Cæsarea, Jamnia, Gaza, Jebel Fureidis, Tibneh, Bethshean, Jezreel, and some of the places discovered and planned by Lieuts. Conder and Kitchener.
6. The Negeb, or south country.
7. The Lebanon and North Syria.
8. Midian.

Lastly, the Committee have to acknowledge the services of those gentlemen who have acted as their honorary secretaries, and to express their best thanks for the trouble they have taken; the subscribers and donors of the Fund, who have had to wait in patience for the long-promised map, and to all who have aided them in their work."

The Financial Statement of the Executive Committee, as follows, was then read and adopted.

"The Palestine Exploration Fund having been incorporated by the Board of Trade for the purpose of being in a position to protect itself from piracy of its valuable copyrights, in accordance with the resolutions passed at the General Committee of June 24th, 1879, it becomes the duty of the Executive Committee to submit to the General Committee, in addition to the usual Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year 1879, a General Statement of the Assets and Liabilities of the Fund.

The Balance Sheet for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1879, will be found appended.

The subscriptions show some falling off, due mainly to the fact that the work of the year has been entirely office work. The expenditure of the year has been marked by the payment of all the outstanding debts. The printer's bill almost wholly covers the balance of unpaid accounts which appear on the balance sheet. The management expenses are £168 less than in the preceding year. The exploration expenses are limited this year to a few bills which had not been received in time to be paid last year, and to a grant made to Mr. Greville Chester in aid of a journey of exploration among the Biblical sites of Egypt.

The balance in hand at the end of the year was double that at the beginning.

The assets of the Society are as follows:

1. A valuable collection of ancient glass and pottery, including vases, lamps, etc., with inscriptions, casts, coins, and objects dug up during the excavations in Jerusalem, by Colonel Warren, R.E., and M. Clermont-Ganneau. The greater part of this collection is in the South Kensington Museum.

2. A large number of photographs. The negatives are with Messrs. Vincent Brooks and Co. The stock in hand for sale is with the agent, Mr. Edward Stanford.

3. The following copyrights:—

1. Recovery of Jerusalem. In this work the Committee went on the system of half profits with Messrs. R. Bentley and Son.
2. Our Work in Palestine.
3. Tent Work in Palestine.

These two books are the absolute property of the Committee; the latter being subject to a royalty paid to the author.

4. The *Quarterly Statement*, now in its twelfth year.

MEETING OF GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Major ANDERSON, C.M.G., R.E.
 J. D. CRACE, Esq.
 F. A. EATON, Esq.
 JAMES GLAISHER, Esq., F.R.S.
 GEORGE GROVE, Esq., D.C.L.
 SAMUEL GURNEY, Esq.
 Rev. F. W. HOLLAND.
 Professor HAYTER LEWIS.
 JOHN MACGREGOR, Esq.
 WALTER MORRISON, Esq.
 WILLIAM SIMPSON, Esq.
 Rev. CANON TRISTRAM, F.R.S.
 W. S. W. VAUX, Esq., F.R.S.
 Lieut.-Col. WARREN, C.M.G., R.E."

2. "That the Archbishop of York be the President of the Society; that Walter Morrison, Esq., be the Treasurer of the Society; that George Grove, Esq., and the Reverend Frederick Whitmore Holland be the Honorary Secretaries."

3. "That the Executive Committee shall have power to fill up vacancies or elect additional members of its body by co-optation, not less than seven nor more than fourteen days' notice having been given to each member of the said Committee of the name or names of the person or persons proposed to be so added, provided always that the number of the Executive Committee shall not exceed sixteen."

4. "That the Executive Committee shall have power to accept the resignation of any member or members of the General or of the Executive Committees."

5. "That the Executive Committee have power to fill up vacancies in, or to elect new members to, the General Committee to a number not exceeding five."

The Chairman then stated that it had been the intention of the Treasurer to propose the election of Mr. Edward Atkinson, of Leeds, as a member of the General Committee. As Mr. Morrison was unavoidably absent from the meeting, the Chairman would himself propose Mr. Atkinson. He stated that during the existence of the Society this gentleman, their Honorary Secretary at Leeds, had raised for them the sum of nearly £600.

Mr. Glaisher seconded the proposal, and it was carried unanimously, the Secretary being instructed at the same time to convey the thanks of the Committee to Mr. Atkinson and Col. Cooke.

Mr. Glaisher then proposed that a vote of thanks be passed to Colonel Cooke, the Director-General of the Ordnance Survey, who was present at the meeting, for the kind assistance rendered to the Society by him and his Department. This was seconded by Mr. Henry Maudslay, and carried unanimously.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Committee adjourned until their next regular meeting in June.