

Garnet Wolseley the assistance of such men, nor the gallant officers their great opportunity of winning new honours in their noble profession; besides which I have complete confidence that the Egyptian affair will not occupy many weeks, and that they may then be restored to us—have paralyzed our resources, and I can only entreat those who are hearty in our work to come to the front and support us. We want to do for the eastern side of Jordan what we have done for the western. As it is, we have “probed” the eastern side, but we have a farlarger area of research before us there, and the exploration of those regions will be attended with very much greater expense, danger, difficulties, and probable hindrances than any of the like kind which we have hitherto encountered.

Mr. T. SAUNDERS, of the India Office, enlarged upon the additions which had been made by these explorations to biblical and other knowledge, and mentioned many interesting points which might still be cleared up if the means were supplied.

Mr. R. C. JOHNSON gave an instance to show the importance of an early completion of the Survey on the eastern side of the Jordan. In 1872 he had visited, in the company of Canon Tristram, the well-preserved ruin of the façade of a palace built by the Sassanian monarch, Chosroes the Second, at Mashita, 30 miles north-east of the Dead Sea, but regretted to inform the meeting that at a visit paid to these parts by Canon Tristram last winter, he had found that during this interval the façade had been very materially injured by the Arabs.

Sir E. OMMANNEY moved the reappointment of the committee, which was agreed to, and some of the members handed donations to Mr. Glaisher for the prosecution of the work.

---

### ADDRESS BY CAPTAIN CONDER.<sup>1</sup>

THE Western Survey required a very large amount of work in England, and I was engaged by the Society for several years in preparing it for publication. When its preparation was considerably advanced, it was proposed that a survey of the country on the east side of the Jordan, including Moab and Gilead, and the country up to as far as Damascus, should be undertaken on the same scale, with the same accuracy, and with the same objects as those for which the Western Survey was undertaken. Those objects are not merely the production of a

<sup>1</sup> This address was given at a meeting held at the town residence of Mrs. Greer, Regent's Park.

map, which might perhaps be considered to be rather a dry matter, but the map was undertaken in order to ensure that every square mile of the country should be gone over, and that no ancient monuments of any kind that might throw light on the study of the Bible might by any accident be left behind in the course of taking the ordinary travelling routes through the country. It was felt that if the surveyors were obliged to go down into every valley and up every hill they would hardly fail to see whatever there was of archæological interest in the country.

The Society sent us out in March of last year ; we reached Syria, and having some little time to wait before our stores and instruments arrived, Lieutenant Mantell and myself made a journey into northern Syria, with a view of exploring the site of one of the great Hittite cities, and I have every reason to believe our explorations were very satisfactory. I purpose to say something more about that later on.

When we got back from this preliminary exploration and arrived at Beyrout, we ascertained from the local authorities, who were extremely kind to us, and had special orders to do all they could to help us, that the Governor of Syria had informed them that no operations in the way of explorations of any kind were to be allowed to English or other officers, or any European, without express orders from Constantinople. They had received very stringent orders to that effect, and the Lieutenant-Governor stated he not only could not give us any assistance, but should be obliged to prevent our working. With regard to that I may say it occurred more than fifteen months ago, and we have been working ever since. I will say a few words as to how we managed to do it. In the first instance we found that the Druzes, who inhabit the land there, were all in rebellion against the Turks, and a cordon of Turkish soldiers had been drawn round the district, making it impossible to enter it, although, of course, it was one we resolved to enter. Of course the further you get from the centre of Government, the less is known by the central authorities as to what is going on, and as we were anxious to get as far off from the central authorities as we could, we transferred the base of our operations to the south, and entered into some preliminary negotiations to see if the local authorities were willing to assist us. We found, however, they were very wide awake indeed. They would not only not recognise us, though they knew us well as old explorers, but they telegraphed the fact of our presence to Damascus, and set spies over us to prevent our proceeding with the work. Our work lay on the opposite side of the Jordan, and the Governor of that province resided on the east, so that if we had gone over immediately we should have fallen into his hands. I was very much afraid the chance of our doing any work would be but a small one ; but we had fortunately some good friends in the Government, some Christians who were informed we were in the country, and were very happy to do all they could to help us. Having got our instruments, we proceeded as far as Heshbon, and made arrangements for camping and so on. By that time I got information that the Governor had heard we were living in the district of

Moab, and it being impossible to go on there, we thought it better to remove further to the south, and to make arrangements with the local Sheikhs in Moab.

The Sheikhs were not aware of any disagreement between us and the Government, and the Government were not aware we were in Moab, so for a time we had it all our own way. We pitched our camp at the bottom of a ravine where we could not be seen from a distance, and worked for two months in that way. At last Turkish troops came down on the east of our district. We moved as far as we could from them, but unfortunately, though we had subsidised one tribe that ruled over the country, we forgot to subsidise the opposition tribe, whose territory we wished to enter, and of course would have paid for living in their country. There had been a very serious fight between these two large tribes, one of the principal Sheikhs had been killed, and the feeling was very bitter, and consequently in order to avenge themselves one tribe wrote off to the Waly of Damascus, and informed him that the rival tribe were no longer loyal subjects of the Sultan, that they were receiving into their country English officers who were surveying it, and that they intended to occupy the country and proclaim English rule. The consequence was the whole thing was blown about our ears, and orders were issued all through the country to every Governor that soldiers were to be sent, and that we were to be turned out of the country and not allowed to stay there. In pursuance of that threat the Mutessarif came after us. We heard of his coming and removed the camp further east, some distance, and established it again at the bottom of a ravine; and he came to the old camping-ground and found we were flown. He sent soldiers after us, but the soldiers were induced to say they could not find us. However, they were still determined not to allow us to go on, and consequently they sent soldiers down southwards to intercept us; we heard through our Christian friends that the soldiers were coming, and so we made a forced march up towards the north. The soldiers went down to the south, looked about for three or four days, could not find us, went back and so reported.

In the period of quiet which followed the explorations went steadily onwards; we were for some time in hiding in the ravines; but at last when we got to one of the most interesting sites in the whole country they found us, and served notice to quit upon us, and said we must leave the country. We remonstrated, and pointed out that we had been guilty of no crime, that we were well known, and had never done any harm; but it was of no use; and it ended by my referring the matter to the English Consul at Jerusalem.

The operations had been going on for under three months, during which time we surveyed about 160 square miles, and got a large number of notes. Then they came back with peremptory orders that we were to go at once; so I sent the instruments and so on back to Jerusalem for the winter quarters; and while in winter quarters Lieutenant Mantell worked out the field work of the 500 square miles' survey.

By those means, after having been in the field for three months, we succeeded in doing 500 square miles, or rather the field work for it, and in collecting a larger number of really interesting notes than we probably have ever done in similar work in Palestine before. It was a very unfortunate thing we were stopped, but it would have been very foolish to have gone on, after we were actually in the hands of the Government, as it would have compromised the Society, and made it almost impossible for them to hope to get any firman or any assistance from the Turks in future. We therefore thought it better to stop, when we could no longer avoid the Turks, and come back with the results ; and I am happy to say we do not appear to have fallen much into the bad graces of the Turks, who are very much accustomed to think that as long as you can avoid the Government it is all perfectly fair. Then as I say, when we arrived at this state of things, we started for Jerusalem, went into winter quarters, and proceeded to work out the results. During the winter the Society sent me up to Constantinople to represent our case there. I was received with great kindness by Lord Dufferin, who did all he could for us, and at last succeeded in getting a promise that we should have a firman. The firman was actually drawn up, signed and submitted to the Porte for ratification, but it has not yet been received. In the present crisis it is impossible to suppose the British Ambassador can employ himself to advance such a comparatively small matter from a national point of view ; but we hope when the crisis is over, we shall get the authority we want, and shall be able to go on with the survey of Eastern Palestine very satisfactorily indeed. The Arabs are very well disposed towards us, the country is an extremely interesting one, and comparatively easy to survey as compared with the west, and the party that has been sent out have hitherto succeeded in getting their results so rapidly, that I should hope in two or three years at most it would be possible to complete the survey on the eastern side on the same principle as that on the west. What we have done hitherto has gone to show that the country on the east, though it has been visited by several well known explorers, contains an immense amount of new material ; and that whereas our work on the west might be said to be merely completing the work of other travellers, our work in the east is in an almost entirely new field, and full of monuments of the greatest interest in the elucidation of Bible history.

We have also laid the foundation of the survey, which is a great point in its speedy execution.

We have measured our base lines, established our triangles, and ascertained the positions of the different tribes, and having got all that information, when we get to work I feel sure we could with great rapidity finish off the work if we get the necessary firman to do it, and there is reason to suppose we shall.

On my return from Constantinople, it became extremely doubtful what we were to do ; but almost immediately, within a week after I came back to Jerusalem, the two sons of the Prince of Wales (Prince Edward and

Prince George) arrived in Palestine, and hearing I had been a long time in the country and knew something about it, they commanded me to escort them through the country, and they did what no European Prince has done for at least 600 years, they crossed the Jordan and spent a week in Mount Gilead, and travelled over some of the most interesting parts of the country east of the Jordan. It seems to me to have been a very plucky thing on their part to do, and no doubt it will be a great thing for the Society in showing the interest taken by the Princes during their stay there in the work of the Society.

Several very interesting discoveries were made during their tour, which extended over a part of the country which had been surveyed, and over part not surveyed.

They also visited the Haram of Hebron, which is built over the tombs of the patriarchs, and has not been visited by Europeans, I believe, since the Prince of Wales visited it about twenty years ago.

We were able to make further discoveries in the Haram, and to see certain portions of it which were not seen by the Prince of Wales and Dean Stanley, and also to make an accurate plan of the internal arrangements, and to form a very good idea of the extent and position of the great caves underneath. In reference to that I think the Princes showed a great deal of good feeling with regard to the Moslems in not insisting upon entering the caves, it being understood that if there was an entrance to the caves, they would be allowed to go there. When in the Mosque, the Sheikh of the Mosque represented to us that entrance could only be obtained by taking up certain flooring of the Mosque, and the Princes said they would not wish to do anything that would be considered a desecration of the Mosque, and therefore they gave up the idea of actually descending into the caves.

The description of that visit, and of the discoveries made during the course of that tour, have formed the subject of a long report which is to be submitted to the Prince of Wales, and will afterwards, I hope, be published by the Palestine Exploration Fund; it will be one of the very interesting results of the last campaign out in West and East Palestine.

With regard to the work we have done, the question of course arises whether the results have been worth the amount of trouble that has been expended on them. I am inclined myself to think that the results of this last year's work have been more important in some respects than any we have yet obtained.

In the first instance the name of the great Hittite city I alluded to in commencing my remarks, may perhaps not be very familiar to you, though it is mentioned in the Bible: it is the city of Kadesh on Orontes. It was a very large city of the Hittites; it is mentioned on the Assyrian monuments, and there are *bas reliefs* which represent this city with the Orontes flowing round it. Of all the translations that have been published, there is nothing more interesting than the account of the attacking of this great Hittite city, when Pharaoh was separated from his army, and the Hittites came out in large numbers and surrounded him in his

chariot, and the prayer he offered up is given in a remarkably striking piece of poetry. There is a description of how the Hittites came out and the Pharaoh drove them into the Orontes ; but this monarch was suspected of great exaggeration as to his own prowess, and a little guilty of taking out the names of his predecessors from the marbles, and putting his name in in places where their adventures had resulted successfully.

The question was the position of the city. It is mentioned in the Bible as being on the north of the boundary of David's dominions. When he took his census of the population he went as far as Zidon on the north, and then stopped, for he had come into the district of some independent people mentioned as Hivites. The question was, where the city was to be found. It was to be found within five or six miles in every direction, but no one had exactly hit on the spot. Lieutenant Mantell and myself travelled up into the district, and learnt the names of every place we could ; and one evening, in calling on one of the local authorities, they advised us to go to a place called Neby Mendeh, close by ; they said, " there are some very important ruins you ought to look at."

This was an entirely unexpected piece of information, for I expected myself it was several miles further off. As I say, we heard the name from the authorities of the district, and we afterwards found that several other people had heard the name applied before to this very ruin, though they had not seen there was any great archæological value in the discovery. Not only did we find the name of the great Hittite city still remaining on the ground, but standing on the top of the great mound we could see the Orontes running round us ; we could see the northern ditch shown on the Assyrian marbles, and the bridge, in almost exactly the same position as they are shown on the *bas relief*, and we seemed to see the whole of the city almost as it was in the time of Rameses. We could trace exactly where the Egyptians came down from the mountains ; we could see the Orontes into which he drove the Hittites on the occasion when the Prince of Aleppo was thrown into the water, as shown in one of the most curious portions of the *bas relief*. The attendants are shown holding him up by the legs and letting the water run out of his nose in order to restore him ; but the inscription says he died.

Not only that, but we fancied we could find even the Hittites themselves on the ground. It was known the Hittites were a people belonging to the Mongol or Tartar races. On the Egyptian monuments they are represented with extremely different complexions, and with pigtailed almost like the Chinese, and wearing a particular dress, such as is worn by the Turcomans in many cases to the present day ; and when we got to the spot we found not only was there a race of fellaheen who represented the Assyrians very much in the type of their countenances, but also a large Turcoman tribe living in the district. This was entirely an offshoot of our work, and was only undertaken to fill up time till we got our instru-

ments ; but it has been received at the British Museum as being one of the most interesting things the Society has yet found out.

As soon as we could we went into Moab, and began surveying there, and up in the north into the mountains of Gilead, and made some discoveries of the most interesting kind on the other side of Jordan. We made there one discovery which we had been disposed to hope we should make, but the extent and importance of it we were not at all prepared for : that is with regard to the rude stone monuments on the other side of Jordan. It had been found by Canon Tristram in passing through the country and making a map of that district, that there were a certain number of dolmens, something like those you find at Stonehenge, but we found over 700 of them altogether—some so large that a tall man could walk under them—consisting of two large stones with a table stone on the top ; and some so small that we should probably have passed them over if they had not been in connection with the large ones. The question was what these monuments were, who they were erected by, and whether they had any connection with Biblical history. There are, I believe, two parties with regard to these stone monuments : some believe they are the graves of ancient prehistoric people, and some believe they are the graves of very modern people, and others think they are ancient altars or places of worship.

There is, curiously enough, very good evidence on both sides of the question. There are instances in which such rude stone monuments are sepulchres, and instances in which it is almost equally clear they belong to large temples or altars. I think when you come to consider the subject, you will see it is rational both parties should be right, because the fact is these monuments represent, as it were, the architecture of the age. If a man wished to build a house, the only way he knew of building it was to erect these enormous blocks and cover them over with a flat roof formed by another stone. If he wished to build himself a grave he could only construct it of two rough stones—he would make a sort of stone box in which the corpse was placed ; and if he wished to construct an altar, in the same way he erected a table stone on large stone pillars.

With regard to the Moabite monuments which occur in such enormous numbers, I think there can be very little doubt they represent ancient places of sacrifice. We found instances in which there was very good reason to suppose they were altars. It was impossible in some cases that any grave could exist underneath ; in other cases there were cup-shaped hollows in the large table-stones at the top with channels connecting them, and the table-stone was carefully tilted in such a direction that anything poured on the stone would run down and be received in the hollows, and a study of the hollows and the channels connecting them led me to suppose they had been used as old places of libation—either libations poured on the stone, or sacrifices offered on the stone and the blood collected in the hollows. They appeared to be erected for such purposes, and in addition to that, curiously enough, the monuments occur in places mentioned in the Bible as being ancient places of sacrifice. That appears to be very strong confirmation of our view ; and it seems to me very interesting we should

discover these old monuments in the old Canaanite places of sacrifice. The first instance of importance was on the side of Mount Nebo ; there was there an erection of four stones, with a large flat stone something like 10 feet square placed on the top of them. There is no doubt it was artificial, and there were the cup-shaped hollows in the stone which seemed to indicate it had been used for libations. This was on the side of Mount Nebo ; and it struck us immediately that probably it was one of the places where Balaam had erected his altars. Balaam erected seven altars on Mount Nebo, but the altars were not on the very summit of the hill, because it is recorded Balaam left the king and went to the top of the hill, the king remaining apparently by his altar at a lower level ; and we found these altars on the side of the hill just below the highest point.

When we came further south we came upon groups of these monuments, and they also occurred in places where Balaam is supposed to have erected altars. I should not like to go so far as to say we have actually found the altars erected by Balaam : but the great number of them (in some cases there being three or four hundred of these stone monuments together) seems to me to suggest that on any important occasion a new altar was erected. I certainly think they are the sort of altar that is likely to have been erected at that time.

When we went to the north we found a very interesting one which is mentioned as the iron bedstead of King Ogg, but that I think is hardly a correct translation. It seems to me it should rather be translated the throne bedstead, or the Prince's Throne.

Then what is still more interesting is that during the Princes' Tour we came quite unexpectedly on another group of these ancient monuments on the site of the city of Dan. Dan was one of the cities where Jeroboam restored the ancient Canaanite worship of the calf. The site of Dan is quite undisputed, and it is one of the few sites in Palestine almost certain. These rude stone monuments were standing on the hill-side above the place where Jeroboam's temple of the calf must have stood. Not only that, but these monuments differed somewhat from those in Moab : they were smaller, and made of hard black basalt, whilst many had been purposely overthrown. I went over them carefully with Mr. Dalton, the Princes' Governor, and he was of opinion they were rude stone monuments, that they had been purposely overthrown, and had been in some cases slashed with hammers or broken to pieces ; and when we read how those altars were thrown down and destroyed, I cannot help thinking but that in those rude stone monuments we had come upon the remains of a great destruction of the idolatrous altars in the time of Josiah. Another curious feature that has puzzled many writers is that of the rude stone monuments found on the east side of Jordan, not a single example has been found on the west side of Jordan. We have found some cup-shaped hollows, but not a single monument remains to the present day. As you go northwards to Gilead, you find a few of the monuments still remaining on the hill-side. Still it is very interesting to find what we have done, the stones with cup-shaped hollows which I mentioned before as being

probably used as places of libation, and others overthrown or "pushed over," that being the meaning of the word used in the Bible. These old stone monuments exist in many places mentioned in the Bible, and therefore I think we may really say we have discovered the altars of the Canaanites. This will throw a great deal of light on the study of the Bible; but much work remains to be done on the east side of Jordan. Some of the most interesting places mentioned in the earlier books of the Bible are yet to be found, and there is also a great deal of work in the north that will throw light, I feel sure, if it can only be done, upon the early Christian settlements in the country.

As regards the work still to be done in Palestine, I consider there is some extremely important work remaining to be done, though I think the work of the past year far from unimportant. As regards the discovery of the city of the Hittites, I may say it is regarded as one of the most important archaeological discoveries that have been made of late years. It is now exercising the minds of the great scientific authorities at the British Museum. To a great extent the land of the Hittites has been surveyed, the monuments which were thrown down have been found, and measurements too have been made of them; but there is one thing we have not got—we have not got the key to their language. However, we do not despair, and hope to be able to discover that.

The work before us is full of interest, and if we can only succeed in removing the scruples of the Turks, we shall get on very well. I hope, myself, for many reasons, that the Princes' visit may be advantageous towards our obtaining some assistance in that direction.

## THE BODIES OF THE PATRIARCHS.

IN reference to the above subject brought forward by "Clericus" in the *Quarterly Statement* for July, I should like to ask him for a better authority than the one quoted (Acts vii, 15, 16) respecting the removal of the bodies of the Patriarchs. Why may not St. Stephen in speaking of their being transferred be understood to mean from Shechem to Hebron? is there any positive reason (assuming that they were moved) that it was as he states from Hebron to Shechem? The words in that passage, that give Abraham as the purchaser of the ground, are incorrect; he purchased the cave of Machpelah of Ephron, the son of Zohar (Gen. xxiii). Jacob bought ground at Shechem of the children of Hamor (Gen. xxxiii). The word Abraham, though given in ancient MSS., is by commentators supposed to be an interpolation by an early transcriber.

Turning to Josephus ("Ant.," II, viii, 2), we read respecting the death of Joseph and his brethren, "Now the posterity and sons of these men, after some time, carried their bodies, and buried them at Hebron; but as to