

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

The Geological Expedition which was announced in the October number of the *Quarterly Statement* has been successfully despatched. Professor Hull took leave of the Committee on the 18th October, and started on the 19th, accompanied by his son, Dr. Gordon Hull, and by two volunteers, Mr. Henry Hart and Mr. Reginald Lawrence. The services of Mr. George Armstrong, who has been employed in the Survey of both Eastern and Western Palestine, were secured, and he followed the party by way of Southampton and Gibraltar, Professor Hull going by way of Venice. At Cairo they were joined by Captain Kitchener, R.E. The arrangements for the expedition were entrusted to Messrs. Cook & Son. Everything was found ready on the arrival of the party: they left Suez on November 10th, and Ayun Musa on the 11th.

It was impossible to receive any intelligence from them for some weeks; that is to say, until they should be near enough to Jerusalem to send a message. The disastrous news from the Soudan, and Suakim, which would probably be learned by the Sinai tribes very quickly, caused some anxiety, lest there should be an outbreak of fanaticism. It was therefore with great satisfaction that a telegram was received on December 19th, to the effect that the party were quite safe within thirty miles of the Dead Sea, and that the expedition so far had been perfectly successful. This is, at present, all that is known.

It is, however, now clear that the estimate of the cost, to include the publication of results, set down in the October number of the *Quarterly Statement* at £2,000, was a good deal under the mark. As the whole of this amount will have to be met in the early part of the year, subscribers are entreated to forward their subscriptions as soon as possible. As in all previous expeditions, it is hoped to present a popular report of the whole in the *Quarterly Statement*, reserving the scientific part, which will probably prove voluminous, for separate publication.

At the last moment, this number of the *Quarterly Statement* has been delayed in order to allow the insertion of two papers by M. Clermont-Ganneau, which appeared in the *Times* of 26th and 27th December; one on two newly-found inscriptions of Nebuchadnezzar, and the second containing a full and instructive exposure of the forgeries systematically carried on in Jerusalem.

Captain Conder has completed his memoirs and drawings of the Survey of Eastern Palestine, and placed the whole in the hands of the Committee. The form of publication is not yet decided. The drawings include special plans of Amman and Arak-el-Emir, and, among other things, some hundreds of sketches of the remarkable rude stone monuments which he found in the country.

His book, "Heth and Moab," forming the popular account of the expedition, was issued in November, and has, so far, done very well. Extracts from the work will be found in the body of this number.

Canon Tristram's "Flora and Fauna" is completely printed, and the plates are being coloured. It will be issued early in March.

Sir Charles Warren's "Jerusalem" is also nearly ready. It contains, besides an account of his own excavations, a paper by Captain Conder on the history of the architectural monuments in the City; an account by the same officer of the excavation work in Jerusalem before and since Sir Charles Warren's work; and an account of M. Clermont-Ganneau's work in 1874-5. The plans and drawings to accompany it have been drawn on sixty large sheets in a portfolio.

These new volumes, with the portfolio, will complete this great and important work, which has been so long in hand. There are still some copies left, and the Committee beg to inform their friends that a circular can be had stating the contents of the work and the reduction on the published price of twenty guineas which they can offer to libraries and subscribers. It must be understood that this work will not be reprinted, and that it is by far the greatest and most important work ever done for Palestine. It is desired, above all, that the remaining copies should find their way into libraries where they will be accessible to all.

The only authorised lecturers for the Society are—

- (1) The Rev. Henry Geary, Vicar of St. Thomas's, Portman Square. His lectures are on the following subjects:—

The Survey of Western Palestine, as illustrating Bible History,
Palestine East of the Jordan.

The Jerusalem Excavations.

A Restoration of Ancient Jerusalem.

(2) The Rev. James King, Vicar of St. Mary's, Berwick. His subjects are as follows :—

The Survey of Western Palestine.

Jerusalem.

The Hittites.

The Moabite Stone and other monuments.

The income of the Society, from September 19th to December 12th inclusive, amounted in all, including subscriptions, lectures, and payment for maps, memoirs, and publications, to £319 1s. 8d. Of this the sum of £36 7s. 0d. was specially appropriated to the Geological work.

It is suggested to subscribers that the safest and most convenient manner of paying subscriptions is through a Bank. Many subscribers have adopted this method, which removes the danger of loss or miscarriage, and renders unnecessary the acknowledgment by official receipt and letter.

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.

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.