

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

WE beg readers and subscribers to read the Report of the Executive Committee for the past year, and the proceedings of the meeting of General Committee, in order to learn what has been the real nature and extent of our operations during the twelve months ending June 30th, and what are our prospects of work for the future.

An abstract of the most important scientific results of Professor Hull's survey has been drawn up by him for the Committee, and will be found in its place on page 160. The Professor is now engaged upon the Geological Memoirs of his journey, and upon a popular account, the first or opening chapter of which was published in the April *Quarterly Statement*. The latter will be issued as a separate volume in October next; the publication of the former will be arranged as soon as possible after it is ready.

Major Kitchener's report on the geological and topographical results of the expedition will be published in the October number of the *Quarterly Statement*. The map has now been completed by Mr. Armstrong from the observations and sketches, and is ready for publication. We may fairly congratulate ourselves on the result of the year's work, which has added to our knowledge, besides a most important study of Palestinian geology, a Survey of the whole of the Wâdy Arabah.

The work of the future, as will be found explained in the Report of the Executive Committee, will depend partly on getting the Sultan's Firman to continue the Survey of Eastern Palestine, and partly on the seizure of opportunities as they occur. Thus it is hoped in the next winter that some work similar to that of last year may be successfully carried through.

The "Survey of Western Palestine" is at length completed, after four years of work. No more magnificent monument of similar enterprise has ever been published in any work which has added more to the elucidation of the Bible, the purpose for which it was undertaken. It consists, as now completed, (1) of the Maps of Western Palestine, from the Surveys executed by Captains

Conder and Kitchener, 1871-1878; (2) of three volumes of *Memoirs*, illustrated by many hundreds of drawings, plans, sections, &c., executed by the officers for this work and never before published; (3) *one* volume of *Name Lists*, containing all the modern names collected during the Survey; (4) one volume on the *Flora and Fauna of Palestine*, by Canon Tristram; (5) one volume on *Jerusalem*, by Colonel Sir Charles Warren, K.C.M.G., F.R.S., and Captain Conder, R.E.; and (6) a portfolio containing 50 sheets of drawings, prepared by Sir Charles Warren from his excavations, giving for the first time a complete representation of all his discoveries. The copies which remain will be sent out in order of application as they are subscribed, and *no more copies will be printed* except of the last two.

The "*Flora and Fauna*," by the Rev. Canon Tristram, consists of one volume (of 450 pages), with twenty full-page illustrations, of which thirteen are coloured by hand. The Preface of the geographical and geological relations of the *Flora and Fauna* endeavours to account for the anomalies by the geological history of the country, as written chiefly in the Terraces of the Jordan Valley. The volume contains a complete catalogue of all the vertebrate *Fauna*, including the fresh-water fishes, the most singular portion of the *Palestine Fauna*, the terrestrial and fluviatile mollusca, the phanerogamic plants, and the ferns. The Hebrew names, so far as known (*i.e.*, every Hebrew name found in the Bible), and the vernacular Arabic names are given; the authority and original description of every species is given in reference, and the geographical area of each species, which in every case has been carefully worked out. Short accounts are given of the most interesting and conspicuous species, and the fishes of the Sea of Galilee are very fully described. It has been resolved to allow this volume to be subscribed for separately at the price of three guineas.

The *Jerusalem* book, by Colonel Sir Charles Warren, K.C.M.G., and Captain Conder, R.E., consists of one volume, uniform with the preceding, of 542 pages. The following is the Table of Contents:—

Chronological Synopsis of the History of Jerusalem; Architectural History of Jerusalem; History of Jerusalem Exploration; Statement of the principal controversies; Explorations in Jerusalem; Excavation round the Noble Sanctuary; Tanks inside the Sanctuary; Excavations on Ophel; Excavations in the City; Explorations since 1869; Work of M. Clermont-Ganneau in the City; Environs of Jerusalem; the Siloam Inscription; Ancient Inscriptions in Jerusalem; the Holy Sepulchre. To these is added an Appendix on Philistia; Askelon; Jidy; Warren's Journey east of the Jordan; the Jordan Valley; Saida; the Temple of Cœle Syria; the Mounds of Jericho; the Lebanon; and the pottery and glass found in the excavations. A number of illustrations will be found in the text, but the volume is actually illustrated by the great portfolio, with fifty sheets of drawings which accompanies it. In them will be found, published in their entirety for the first time, the whole of Sir Charles Warren's work, with contributions from Captain Conder. The volume and portfolio may also be had separately at the price of five guineas.

A very important resolution has been passed by the Executive, and approved by the General Committee. It is to the effect that, in order to meet the wishes

of many subscribers, we shall replace our reduced Maps of Western Palestine and our Old and New Testament Maps by others giving both Eastern and Western Palestine, the present part including what has already been done, and showing what is known approximately of the rest. Sir Charles Wilson will superintend this work. When it is ready, those subscribers who wish will be allowed to exchange the maps already in their possession for the new ones, on payment of the small difference in their cost and the carriage. Mr. Armstrong is now engaged upon drawing these maps. It is not likely that they will be completed before the end of the year.

We have received from Mr. Laurence Oliphant some notes on a journey recently undertaken by him into Eastern Palestine. They were accompanied by geographical notes made by Mr. Schumacher. These include the heights of eighteen ruins, cottages, and hill-tops; the collection of some thirty names; the correct course of the Yarmuk and the Rukad, with sections across the former river. At Tsil, on the way to Damascus, it is stated that there are a great many dolmens, of which one was sketched, and is figured at page 171. It will be observed that it is a very fine and perfect example. It is remarkable that there should be a great group in the north of this country, perhaps corresponding to the group found and planned by Captain Conder in 1882.

Among the "Special Surveys" made during the survey of Western Palestine is one, fortunately very complete, of the ruins of Cæsarea, which will be found in Vol. II of the Memoirs. The following notes, extracted from a recent letter published in the *St. James's Gazette* (June 27, 1884), curiously illustrate the importance and rapidly increasing value of these plans, made before they were swept away by populations which have no other than a superstitious interest in old monuments. It must be remembered that every improvement or alteration in the condition of the country means the destruction of more ancient monuments. The possessors of Captain Conder's Memoirs will before long hold in their hands a representation which can never be made again of other curious and interesting ruins, besides those of Cæsarea. We may remark, in illustration, that a precisely similar process of destruction is going on at Ammân, where the ruins have also been specially surveyed by the same officer.

"The principal inducement to tourists in Palestine to take the coast route which leads from Jaffa to Carmel and Acre, lies in the fact that it affords them an opportunity of visiting the ruins of Cæsarea, which are mainly of two periods—first, the Roman town, with walls, theatre, hippodrome, mole, temple, and aqueducts; second, the Crusading town, with moats, castle, cathedral, northern church, and harbour: the whole forming a collection of remains which for importance, extent, and interest are unsurpassed by anything in the Holy Land west of the Jordan. Those who have already visited these ruins may consider themselves fortunate; for they are at present undergoing a process of transformation and disintegration which bids fair to destroy, or at all events to conceal, the last vestiges of what was once the most important centre of Roman civilization on this coast. The circumstances under which this change is taking place are sufficiently curious—from an historical and political point of view, as being the direct result of the late Russo-Turkish War—to be brought to the notice of

your readers ; while they form a singular commentary on the ignorance which prevailed in England with regard to the true character of the events which led to that war.

“When those disturbances occurred in Bosnia and Herzegovina which led first to Servian and then to Russian intervention, the popular notion was that the population of those provinces was Christian, and that the cause of the insurrection was the persecution of the inhabitants by the Turkish Government. There would be some difficulty in reconciling this theory with what is now going on at Cæsarea. These ruins have been presented as their future home to Moslem emigrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, who are all Slavs, some of whom do not know a word of Turkish, and who have fled for refuge to the sheltering wing of the Sultan from the Christian rule of Austria in the provinces that were ceded to her by the Treaty of Berlin. They are the *avant-garde* of a large influx which is soon to follow ; and I was astonished on visiting their new colony a few days ago at the display of energy and wealth which it presented. A broad street has been laid out, which passes directly over the remains of the Roman temple built by Herod in honour of Cæsar and of Rome—the finely dressed white stone being turned to good account by the colonists)—and over the Crusader’s cathedral, the foundations and walls of which also furnish splendid building material. The masonry is brown limestone beautifully squared ; the stones are from 9 inches to 2 feet long, and from 6 to 8 inches high, and have the dressing common to mediæval churches. This street extends in a northerly direction from the south gate of the Crusading fortress, and will probably be ultimately prolonged to the north tower. Already within the last five months over twenty handsome stone houses have been built upon it, two of them three stories in height, all surrounded by court-yards, in which the harems of the colonists are jealously secluded ; indeed, I did not see one female immigrant. The Slavs are, in fact, far more rigid in their Moslem observances than the Arabs by whom they are surrounded. Many new houses were in process of erection, the carpenters and masons all being supplied by Haifa, as Cæsarea is in the *caimakamlik* of that name. As I had visited the towns of Mostar and Cognitza in Herzegovina, from the neighbourhood of which the colonists had come, I easily won their sympathies by talking to them of their country, and listening to the grievances which induced them to dispose of their property and transfer themselves to Palestine. They were aristocrats in their own country, and they had been unable any longer to submit to the humiliation of being treated on an equality with the peasantry of their own race, who, being Christians, were—from their point of view—unduly favoured by the Government ; and who, no doubt, availed themselves of the changed circumstances to be revenged upon their former masters. One of the colonists, who had opened a little store, placed at my disposal an unfinished house which he was building. He announced his intention of opening a hotel, which will be an immense convenience as a half-way house for travellers from Jaffa to Haifa, the more especially as it is possible now to drive the whole distance in a carriage. Indeed, now that there is a good hotel at Haifa, there is no reason why travellers, instead of riding and tenting it from Jerusalem to Nazareth, should not drive the whole distance between those places by way of Jaffa, Cæsarea, and Haifa.

“These Slav colonists have a fine tract of land, part of the Plain of Sharon, assigned to them for cultivation, adjoining the section granted to the Circassian

colonists, whose village is within a few miles of Cæsarea. As these Circassians are emigrants from Bulgaria, it seems a singular destiny that they should again have Slav neighbours in Palestine; while scarce ten miles distant, in curious contrast with these two races, is the Jewish colony of Zimmarin, which, in spite of all the difficulties with which it has had to contend, seems likely to turn out a success. Meantime it is satisfactory to find that a magnificent tract of fertile country, which has hitherto been abandoned to desolation and nomads, is now likely to be brought into cultivation by an increase of the agricultural population, no matter of what race; and that the port upon which Herod the Great expended so much labour and money, although fallen into disrepair, will again be put to use. The northern side of this harbour is composed of a mole, consisting of some sixty or seventy prostrate columns; the southern of a rocky promontory, on which was probably built the "Drusus," or principal tower of the great wall of Herod. It is now a confused mass of Crusading masonry. For here was built the donjon-keep; and among its ruins the Slavs, with an eye to the amenities of life, are now erecting a café and place of entertainment, which, perched over the sea between Roman columns and Crusaders' buttresses, will catch every breeze and form an agreeable resort. Most of the new houses are built on the foundations of old ones, thus forming a sixth architectural period. For Herod built on the site of the ancient town known as Strato's Tower; the splendid city which he called Cæsarea was followed by structures raised under the Byzantine rule; upon the ruins of this the Mohammedans built; next came the time of the Crusaders; and the final destruction of the place by Bibars took place in A.D. 1265. In the course of their excavations for building-stone the Slavs have found a good many coins of various periods, some statuettes, and other antiquities; but, so far as I could discover, nothing has been brought to light of any great value, and the owners set an exorbitant price on what they have found. As, however, the new town is only in its infancy, and there is no saying what discoveries may yet be made.

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The income of the Society, from March 13th to June 26th inclusive, was £738 2s. 8d. On June 30th the balance in the Banks was £311 8s. 7d.

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.