

THE

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

LAST YEAR AND THIS.

WHEN, in the autumn of the year 1883, the Committee resolved upon sending out a Geological Expedition, a list was opened for donations to be directed specially to this purpose. It was found, however, that very few donors and subscribers desired that their money should be set aside for a special purpose, and the general funds of the Society were, as had always been done in the Survey, employed for this work. The general instructions for the Expedition were drawn up for the Committee, after consultation with Professor Hull, by Sir Charles Wilson. Professor Hull, as has already been told in the *Quarterly Statement*, carried the Expedition to a successful termination. His scientific results are as yet only partly published; in his forthcoming book (ready January 1st, 1885), called "Mount Seir," he will give such of them as are capable of being presented in a popular form. They will be fully and completely set forth in the scientific memoirs which he is preparing for the Committee. The results of the Expedition are, it may be stated, extremely satisfactory from the geological point of view. Not less satisfactory are they from the geographical point of view. Major Kitchener, who accompanied the party, was able, with the assistance of Mr. George Armstrong, to execute for the first time a reconnaissance survey of the Wâdy Arabah, which has since been laid down upon sheets by Mr. Armstrong, and is now ready for publication. At the same time Mr. J. Chichester Hart, who accompanied the party as a volunteer, has been doing good work in the natural history of this little known region. We have been so fortunate as to secure the publication of Mr. Hart's observations and discoveries in the *Quarterly Statement*. The first instalment will appear in April.

Other important geographical work has been done for Palestine during the last year—(1) in the publication by Colonel Sir Charles Wilson of the late Mr. F. W. Holland's notes of his last journey; (2) of Sir Charles Wilson's paper on Recent Biblical Research in Asia Minor and Syria; (3) of Mr. Laurence Oliphant's paper on the Khurbets of Carmel; (4) of Mr. Oliphant's Notes on the Jaulân; and (5) of various papers by Captain Conder.

The topographical work of the year, which forms so large and important a feature of the *Quarterly Statement*, includes papers by Captain Conder, Mr. H. G. Tomkins, Mr. W. F. Birch, Mr. S. Flecker, Mr. Mearns, Herr Conrad Schick, Dr. Clay Trumbull, Mr. Kennion, and Mr. Baker Greene. The archaeological work of the year includes four very remarkable papers by M. C. Clermont-Ganneau.

We are thus able to look back upon the past year with considerable satisfaction. Though the Firman for continuing the Eastern Survey is still denied us, we have been able unexpectedly to secure the survey of a large and very important part of the Holy Land: we have cleared up many geological problems, and we have made a considerable addition to the archæology and topography of the country.

We have also, at length, completed the great work of the Society in publishing the last two volumes which finish the "Survey of Western Palestine." The work has been in hand for four years; now that it is completed we can look upon it as the permanent record of the greatest geographical and descriptive enterprise ever undertaken for the elucidation of the Bible, and as a work which should form part of every great library.

Since Mr. Armstrong's return he has remained in the service of the Committee, and has been occupied, first, in laying down the geographical work of the Expedition, which is now ready for publication, and next, in preparing a Map of the whole of Palestine, which will contain all our own survey work hitherto done, with the French and other work, as far north as Beyrouth, and will be joined on to the Society's already published reduced Map of Western Palestine. It will be in sheets, so that any one sheet can be withdrawn and a new one substituted on the arrival of new matter. He is now engaged upon laying down on this map the Old and New Testament names, boundaries, &c. It is intended, in short, to produce a map, which can be subsequently altered and improved, which shall cover both sides of the Jordan. This map will contain the modern names, with those of the Old and New Testaments. It will be published either as a Map of Modern Palestine East and West of the Jordan, or as a map showing the Old Testament names with the modern names, or as showing the New Testament names with the modern, or as a map showing all three. It has already been announced that subscribers to the already issued Old and New Testament maps will be enabled to exchange simply on payment of the difference in price and the carriage.

A great many photographs were taken in the Wâdy Arabah by Dr. Gordon Hull. Some of these have not, unfortunately, come out well. A selection, however, will be made of the best, and a descriptive catalogue written for them, and they will be issued as soon as possible.

As regards the work for the year 1885. There is little hope that the Firman for the Survey of Eastern Palestine will be granted in the present posture of things. If it were granted it would for the moment be useless, because all the Royal Engineer officers who have worked for the Fund are now on active service—Colonel Sir Charles Wilson, Major Kitchener, and Captain Mantell in Egypt; General Sir Charles Warren and Captain

Conder in South Africa—and there would be little chance of getting any other officer's services in this period of uncertainty. At the same time we have strong grounds for hoping to make from time to time very substantial additions to the geography of certain little known districts from other sources.

We shall also perhaps be able to undertake certain investigations in Jerusalem, and perhaps elsewhere, as occasion may offer.

It has been suggested that this time of inaction from field work may be utilised for a very important object included in our original prospectus, but as yet hardly touched, viz., the scientific collection of manners, customs, legends, traditions, superstitious, and religious and ritualistic survivals. The Committee are at present considering a scheme having this in view which has been submitted to them:

As regards publishing next year, we have made the following important arrangements :—

(1) "Mount Seir."

This volume has been written for the Committee by Professor Hull. It is now (Christmas, 1884) on the point of publication. It contains a popular account of the journey, and especially of that country, now known as the Wâdy Arabah, which was the special scene of his labours. A geological map and a geographical map accompany the work, with many other illustrations. The published price will be 10s. 6d.

- (2) A new edition of Captain Conder's popular and delightful work, "Tent Work in Palestine," in crown 8vo, at 7s. 6d.
- (3) A new and cheap edition of "Heth and Moab," uniform with the above, at 7s. 6d.

These two works will be ready by the end of January.

- (4) "Our Work in Palestine." This little book, which ended with the commencement of the Survey, has been out of print for some time. It is proposed, as soon as time can be found, to bring out a new edition, carrying on the popular history of the Society's work to the present date.

- (5) We propose to publish in the *Quarterly Statement* for 1885, the following important papers :—

- (a) A Translation by Dr. Chaplin of a Hebrew Treatise by Maimonides upon the Temple.
- (b) The Natural History Results of the Wâdy Arabah Expedition, by J. Chichester Hart.
- (c) A Supplement by Canon Tristram to his "Flora and Fauna."
- (d) A Paper by Sir Charles Warren on the Arabs of the Sinai Desert.
- (e) Topographical papers by Rev. W. F. Birch, Captain Conder, Mr. Boscowen, and other writers.
- (f) Certain geographical papers now in preparation, the results of observations made by a private traveller.

There remain in the hands of the Committee for publication :—

- I. The Geological Memoirs by Professor Hull, F.G.S. We shall be able to report upon these when they are completed.
- II. The Memoirs and Plans of the interrupted Survey of Eastern Palestine.

The Memoirs of the 500 square miles executed by Captain Conder are much fuller than those of the country west of the Jordan, because they deal with a district much less known, and fuller, if possible, of interest. Thus, though the area surveyed occupies little more than that covered by a single sheet, on the scale of one inch to the mile, the Memoirs are copious enough to fill a whole volume equal in size to one of those published on the "Survey of Western Palestine," while there are 400 drawings and plans and illustrations, besides a series of photographs.

The Committee have not yet decided on the form of publication of these Memoirs. They may possibly be published, as in the case of the "Survey of Western Palestine," by special subscription.

- III. The drawings made for M. Clermont-Ganneau in the year 1874-5 by M. Lecomte.

Many causes have combined to prevent the publication of these most exquisite and valuable drawings. They were executed for the Committee by M. Lecomte, who accompanied M. Clermont-Ganneau to Palestine in the years 1874-5. They are between six and seven hundred in number, and are almost wholly of architectural and archæological interest. Since they were placed in the hands of the Committee, nine years ago, M. Clermont-Ganneau has been engaged in Constantinople, in Palestine, and in Paris, for the French Foreign Office. He has also held the post of Professor of Semitic Archæology at the Sorbonne. He is now, however, able to promise the necessary explanatory letterpress as soon as it is wanted. The cost of publishing this work in a worthy form will be about £1,500. Perhaps proposals will be issued for a subscription work in the spring.

- IV. The copies of the "Survey of Western Palestine" which remain have been placed in the hands of Mr. Alexander P. Watt, of 34, Paternoster Row, who has been appointed by the Society their agent for the sale. They will be issued by him to libraries, &c., in order of application. *Subscribers and those who already possess the work are requested to note that no reduction will be made, either now or at any other time, in the price of this great work.* On the other hand, the Committee reserve to themselves the right of raising the price of the last copies.

In conclusion, the friends of the Society are earnestly requested to consider that the work is always actively going on; that funds are always needed; that the real and invaluable work which has been already done must be taken as an earnest of what will be done, and that their continued assistance is asked in support of an enterprise which gives results, solid, enduring, and for all time.

NOTES.

The income of the Society, from September 26th to December 12th, 1884, inclusive, from all sources, was £656 9s. 3d. On December 16th the balance in the Banks was £205 9s. 6d.

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.

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. Illustrated by original photographs shown as “dissolving views.”
 - (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.
 - (3) The Rev. James Niel, formerly Incumbent of Christ Church, Jerusalem.
-