

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE present number of the *Quarterly Statement* is restricted to a few pages of letters, and is issued a fortnight before the usual time. This is (1) because it is necessary to announce the public meeting of the 22nd, and (2) because the number will be supplemented by the addition of a paper long promised on the whole of the work of the Society from its commencement in 1865 to the present time, and the Biblical gains resulting from that work. A copy of this memoir, which is uniform in size with the books of Conder and Schumacher, and can be bound like them, will be presented to every subscriber who writes for it—free by post. It will contain (1) a *résumé* of the Society's history at home during the last twenty-one years; (2) an Account of the Excavations; (3) the Exploration of the Desert of the Exodus; (4) the Great Survey; (5) the Archaeological Mission of M. Clermont-Ganneau; (6) the Interrupted Survey of Eastern Palestine; (7) the Geological Survey; (8) various Small Expeditions; (9) an Obituary Notice of former Members; and lastly, a clear statement of the Future Work open to the Society. The whole will be illustrated by woodcuts chiefly taken from the "Survey of Western Palestine." The writer of this history has had in view throughout the Biblical aspect of the work, and the gains to the student of the Bible.

On June 22nd, 1865, the first public meeting was held at which the Society was formally established. The Chairman on that occasion was the Archbishop of York. On the 22nd of June this year the Society will therefore attain to its twenty-first year. *Another meeting will be held under the same Presidency on the same day.* The meeting will be at the Theatre of the Royal Institution at 3 p.m. Admission will be by ticket only, which can be had of the Secretary; but early application is earnestly requested, as the Theatre will only hold eight hundred people.

The meeting will be addressed by the Archbishop, as President; by Mr. James Glaisher, as Chairman of the Executive Committee; by Sir Charles Wilson, Sir Charles Warren, and Captain Conder, as the Society's Exploring Officers; by Sir George Grove, Canon Tristram, Mr. Walter Morrison, Mr. John MacGregor, as original members; and by Professor Hayter Lewis, who will

describe the new discovery in Jerusalem. H.R.H. Prince Albert Victor has signified his intention of being present.

It is proposed to make this the occasion for raising such a sum of money as is wanted for the accomplishment of three objects, all of which urgently press, and should be carried through without delay.

These are, first, the Recovery of the Second Wall of Jerusalem. Professor Hayter Lewis, who has just returned from the Holy City, brings with him the news that the wall, whose discovery was reported in the January number, is a very ancient wall, 10 feet in thickness; that it is built of stones dressed in the way which is regarded as Jewish or Phœnician, namely, with the marginal draft. Such are the stones found by Warren on the lower courses of the Temple Wall; and such are those on the more ancient parts of "David's Tower." Further, there exists, outside the wall, a rock scarp which has been followed to the depth of 15 feet. The wall was laid open for 120 feet.

If, as now seems more than probable, this is none other than the Second Wall, its course, when ascertained, will either at once and irrevocably abolish the present so-called Holy Sites, with the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Tomb, or it will lend a new and most formidable argument to those who stand by the traditional sites. It may be stated that Herr Schick's opinion of its course places the Holy Sepulchre *without* the wall. There are many other considerations of great, though none of equal importance, connected with the Second Wall, which began at the Gate Gennath, "encircled the northern quarter of the city, and reached as far as Antonia," and probably contained the "Valley Gate," the "Corner Gate," the "turning of the wall," fortified with towers by Uzziah (2 Chron. xxvi, 9), and the "broad wall" (Neh. iii, 8; xii, 35). The course is now covered with houses, and tentative excavations will have to be made step by step.

The second object is the carrying out of the Inquiry into the Manners and Customs of the People now residing in and about the Bible Land.

The Questions have been drawn up for the Special Committee of Inquiry by Captain Conder. They are separated into classes, not only of subjects, but also of peoples, because there are many questions which may be put concerning the Bedawin, for instance, which would be absurd to put concerning Greeks or Druses. Among the races and religions of Syria which will be subjected to this inquiry are the Greek Christians, Latin Christians, ordinary Moslems, Metawileh, Druses, Maronites, Armenians, Bedawin, Fellahin, Ansariyeh, &c. The Questions are framed in accordance with the scientific classification prepared ten years ago by Mr. Francis Galton and others for the British Association. A separate set of questions has been drawn up by the Folk-Lore Society for the Committee. As a good many questions are suggested by subscribers, Captain Conder, who has had all these placed in his hands, and has put together the Questions for the Committee in their present shape, desires it to be known that in some form or other all these suggestions have been acted upon, though in most cases the form has been quite changed and the inquiry made to lurk in another so as to avoid any appearance of a leading question.

Copies of these Questions may be seen at the office.

The remaining object is the publication of the materials now in the hands of the Committee. They would like to publish them for all members, but the cost is too great unless very substantial assistance is given them. The materials and plans consist of—

- (1) Captain Conder's Survey of Eastern Palestine, with all his drawings and plans.
- (2) Le Comte's Drawings, made for M. C. Clermont-Ganneau's Archæological Mission.
- (3) Hart's Natural History Memoir.
- (4) Schumacher's Second Survey (not yet received).

Professor Hayter Lewis has completed his second visit to Jerusalem. He employed himself in investigating especially the architecture of the Dome of the Rock. A few notes from him as to other points will be found further on. It is hoped that he will, before long, give the results of his study to the world. Mr. Laurence Oliphant will return to Syria in the autumn.

Captain Conder's new work will be out in October, published by Bentley & Son. Its title will be "Syrian Stone Lore." It will contain an account of Palestine and its people taken from the monuments, and will show us all that can be learned from them alone without the aid of the Bible. This is an entirely novel subject, and one which no one probably, except Captain Conder himself, is qualified to treat. As in previous cases, a considerable allowance in the price will be made for subscribers.

Captain Conder's article in the *Expositor* of May on Professor Socin's criticism of his work entirely bears out Mr. Walter Besant's notes on the subject in the *Quarterly Statement*. A few extracts from it are here reproduced, principally in order to show that the methods pursued by the officers of the Expedition were exactly those which the German critic complained had not been adopted.

Mr. Guy le Strange is compiling for the Committee a Gazetteer of Palestine from the early Arabic geographers. He expects to have this ready by the end of the year.

The Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society has issued its "Procopius," long promised. It is not published for the general public, but sent out to subscribers only. The Council's Report for the year 1885 is also ready, and can be had on application. Mr. Le Strange's translation of Mukadessy is in the press, and will now be ready in a few days. Mr. Walter Besant's translation of the Norman French Description of the City is also in the press, and will be ready very shortly for Captain Conder's notes.

As regards the copies which remain of the "Survey of Western Palestine," the friends of the Society are urged to get them placed in public libraries. The

work will not be reprinted, and will never be sold by the Committee at a lower price; and as it becomes known for the *only* scientific account of Western Palestine, it will certainly acquire a yearly increasing value. Five hundred were printed, and the type is now distributed.

The income of the Society, from March 17th, 1886, to May 31st, 1886, inclusive, was—from subscriptions and donations, £261 10s. 6d.; from all sources, £392 3s. 2d. The expenditure during the same period was £319 18s. 2d. On June 1st the balance in the Banks was £239 13s. 11d.

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 Neil, formerly Incumbent of Christ Church, Jerusalem.
- (4) The Rev. George St. Clair, Bristol Road, Birmingham, has resumed his Lectures for the Society.