

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

WE have once more, and for the third time, to announce that Her Majesty the QUEEN, our Patron, has made a donation to the Palestine Exploration Fund. His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught has also become a donor to the Society.

We have the pleasure of communicating to our subscribers another paper by Herr Schumacher, giving the results of his recent visit to Southern Palestine. The map published with the paper shows the extent of his survey. It begins immediately south of Gaza, where our own map ends, Captain Conder's southern boundary being marked by the Wâdy Ghuzzeh. The extent of country surveyed includes a length along the coast of 26 miles, with an average breadth of 5 miles. The map includes 63 places, as against 7 in Smith's Atlas. There are also 40 drawings accompanying the MS., which are here reproduced.

The most interesting part of the paper is that describing the very singular brick building excavated at Askalan. In the present unfinished condition of the excavation it would be premature to make any guess at all as to the purpose and date of this building. The drawings and plans show that it is a building unlike any other in the country. Another brick building was also discovered by Schumacher at Tell esh Sheikh (at the southern end of his map). The Government have forbidden any further excavation; it is hoped, however, that destruction will be also forbidden.

A paper by Herr Schick describes the finding of the second aqueduct to the Pool of Siloam, whose existence was already suspected by Sir Charles Wilson. Herr Schick has hit upon the aqueduct in three places. It remains to be further examined and, if possible, cleared out.

The Report of the Public Meeting, held on Tuesday, June 28th, at the Royal Institution, was printed for this number of the *Quarterly Statement*, but owing to the absence of some of the speakers the addresses have not all been corrected. The Report, therefore, must stand over until January.

Readers of Captain Conder's books will be pleased to hear that another will be produced by the Committee immediately. It is already printed and will be issued early in November, in the same form as his preceding works. A general account of its contents will be found on p. 164.

Another paper has just been received from Herr Schumacher on researches and antiquarian discoveries made in and about Haifa and Akka. This will appear in January.

The paper by Mr. H. G. Tomkins approaches the question of the site of Gath from an entirely new point of view. In the modern name Tell es Saï he finds preserved the name of one of the heroes of Gath.

The French Dominican monks at Jerusalem have made some remarkable excavations on some land which they have lately acquired, about a furlong and a half outside the gate of Damascus. Six metres below the present level of the ground the workmen came on some arches of considerable extent, the walls of which had been very carefully built. At a short distance they found the basement of a chapel, before the entrance of which there was a tombstone covered with a long inscription, which, however, was stolen before any one thought of copying the inscription. About the middle of their property they found a large well-preserved mosaic, and upon the space all around being cleared the bases and other remains of great pillars were discovered. This is supposed to be the site of the great basilica built in the fifth century in honour of St. Stephen, by Eudoxia, the wife of Arcadius, the first of the long line of Eastern Emperors. A still more remarkable discovery was made while digging the trench for the foundations of the boundary wall which the Dominicans wished to build; the ground gave way and one of the workmen disappeared. On clearing out the place they came upon a large and beautiful hall which had been cut out of the rock; where the rock failed the gap was filled by admirable masonry. From two of the sides two large doorways led into two vaulted tombs, all of equal size. On each side of the vault there was a resting place for one coffin, and at the end opposite the entrance places for two. At the farthest end of the great hall a passage led to another excavated vault, in which stood three great covered sarcophagi. It is suggested that these sarcophagi contain the remains of Helena Queen of Adiabene and her sons. The quantity of bones found in these chambers was very great. In the middle of the great hall, in a hollow specially prepared, a sort of long metal box was found. It was adorned with representations of children holding garlands up on high. Unfortunately there was no inscription, nor anything which could furnish a clue to the period or the process of these sepulchral chambers.—*Globe*, August 23rd, 1886.

Another book on the City of David. This work is by the Rev. A. Bernstein, B.D. (Nisbet & Co.), and consists of information chiefly derived from Talmudic sources.

Herr Hanauer wishes the following corrections to be made in his letter on Khurbet Orma which appeared in the *Quarterly Statement* of January, 1886 :—

1. ערמק page 24, third line from bottom, should be ערמזה.
2. קרם page 24, fifth line from bottom, should be הרם.
3. "rain-heap," page 25, third line from bottom, should be "ruin-heap."

At the moment of going to press there has arrived at the office of the Fund a capital of white marble, an account of which will be prepared for the Society by Professor Hayter Lewis. At present all that can be said is that it is of the highest architectural interest. It can be seen at Adam Street, by any one who calls between 10 and 5, except on Saturday, when the office closes at 2 P.M.

The following new members have joined the General Committee :—

Bishop of Salisbury.

Rev. W. Allen, Vicar of St. James's, Bermondsey.

Rev. Dr. Cunningham Geikie, Author of the "Life of Christ," "Hours with the Bible," &c.

Mr. J. W. Pease, M.P.

Mr. Francis Galton, F.R.S., President of the Anthropological Society.

Mr. Lawrence Gomme, Hon. Sec. of the Folk-Lore Society.

Mr. Guy le Strange.

The "Memoir of Twenty-one Years' Work" has quite run through its first edition of 1,500 copies, of which about 1,000 were asked for by subscribers, a hundred sent to the Press, and the rest were sold by the publishers. The new edition is now ready, with the correction of certain press errors. Those subscribers who have not yet asked for the book are reminded that it is ready for them.

Subscribers are requested to note that the financial year ends on December 31st, and are earnestly invited to forward their subscriptions for the current year before that date, and without waiting to be reminded. The Clerical Staff of the Society is kept as small as possible, and subscribers will bear in mind that they themselves can help to keep down expenses by sending their subscriptions without being called upon to do so.

The Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society has recently issued the "Mukadessy," translated and annotated by Mr. Guy Le Strange. The tracts already issued by the Society are—

1. Antoninus. } Translated by Aubrey Stewart, and annotated by Sir
2. Sancta Paula. } Charles Wilson.
3. Procopius. Translated by Aubrey Stewart, and annotated by Sir Charles Wilson and Professor Hayter Lewis.
4. El Mukadessy. Translated by Guy Le Strange, and annotated by Sir Charles Wilson and the translator.

In the Press are—

5. The Bordeaux Pilgrim.
 6. The Norman French Description of Jerusalem. By Captain Conder and Walter Besant.
 7. The Journey of the Abbot Daniel. Translation revised by Herr Khitrovo, of the St. Petersburg Exploration Society.
-

The subscription to the Society is One Guinea. The Palestine Fund lends its offices, and the management expenses are nothing but postage and a little clerk's work. As many publications are annually issued as the funds will allow. The Director is Sir CHARLES WILSON, and the Hon. Sec. is Mr. WALTER BESANT. The present number of members is only 75.

The Committee for conducting the Inquiry have not made any progress during the summer, but a report will be ready for next number of the *Quarterly Statement*.

The income of the Society, from May 31st, 1886, to October 8th, 1886, inclusive, was—from subscriptions and donations, £406 9s. 7d.; from all sources, £470 6s. 7d. The expenditure during the same period was £318 17s. 1d. On October 8th the balance in the Banks was £270 12s. 10d.

It is suggested to subscribers that the safest and most convenient manner of paying subscriptions is through their 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.