

difficulty to find room on Ophel for "Zion, Millo, Ophel, City of David, and Akra," is only the difficulty of children who do not recognise that in the nursery rhyme—

Elizabeth, Betsy, Bessy and Bess
Went over the river to take a bird's nest,

the four names apply to one person.

Similarly it has been shown over and over again that the names quoted above all apply to the "City of David."

It is amusing to see that I am credited with *admitting* that "David's capital" was not "only a little village on Ophel," when it has been my sole aim in this controversy to show that *the part*, which was on Ophel, viz., the "City of David," was not as great as the *whole* of Jerusalem, the "capital of David's time."

I will not now occupy space with the "ancient nomenclature" of the "rest of the site of Jerusalem," but will only ask your readers generally, and Captain Conder in particular, to read the Scriptural evidence adduced in the January and April *Quarterly Statements* of 1885, and point out the errors, if that evidence does not show that David's capital (Jerusalem) was of greater extent than his fortified palace the "City of David."

H. B. S. W.

September 6th, 1887.

REPORT—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

THE following is the Report of the Executive Committee, read and adopted at the meeting of the General Committee, June 14th, 1887.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—

Your Committee elected at the last General Meeting, on July 26th, 1886, have, on resigning their office into your hands, to render an account of their administration during the past year.

1. The Committee have held seventeen meetings during the year.
2. The work of exploration has been carried on during the last year by Herr Schick at Jerusalem and by Herr Schumacher in other parts of the country. The portion of country recently surveyed by Herr Schumacher in Ajlûn consists of 500 square miles, containing a vast number of ancient sites and monuments. The map and memoirs arrived in England in January last; the memoirs contain sketches, plans, and drawings of all the most important places.

Some time before this survey Herr Schumacher executed for the German Society, having the same object as ourselves, a map of a large portion of the Jaulan. This was originally published in the "Zeit-

schrift," or journal of the German Society. It has now been translated, and will be published by ourselves, with the full permission of the Directors of that Society. It is illustrated by upwards of 300 drawings and plans.

Herr Schumacher has also, during the last twelve months, surveyed a portion of the country south of our own map, covering an extent of country of twenty-six miles along the coast, with an average breadth of five miles. The map includes fifty-three sites, villages, and ruins, against six as shown in the latest map of the same country. The memoir of this journey was published, with the map and forty drawings, in the *Quarterly Statement* of October last.

Herr Schumacher has further communicated to the Society many valuable archæological discoveries made by himself in the plain north of Cæsarea and in the vicinity of Tiberias. At the latter place he had the good fortune to discover the Acropolis of Tiberias, and was able to demonstrate the actual extent of the ancient city. The old wall, which he was able to trace its entire length, is, including that of the Acropolis, no less than three English miles—in other words, he has recovered the ancient extent and proved the ancient magnificence of the city, which, according to the theories of Robinson and others, had been crammed into the narrow space now occupied by the modern town.

Herr Schumacher has also, at the request of the Committee, visited and made a survey of the very interesting and little-known site of Pella, the refuge of the Early Christians on the outbreak of the troubles in Jerusalem. His memoir on this subject has not yet arrived, but it is expected to reach us before the end of the year.

Meantime, we have not neglected what remains undoubtedly the central interest in the Holy Land—namely, the researches in Jerusalem itself.

Among the discoveries made and followed up during the last year in Jerusalem itself are the second aqueduct, running side by side with the well-known aqueduct of Siloam; the positions of the second wall in Herr Schick's researches have proved of negative value; the discovery of what he believes to be the Amphitheatre of Herod, and the examination of various points, and full particulars of all these points, are published as they arrive in the *Quarterly Statement*.

We have to thank Mr. Lawrence Oliphant for the constant watchfulness which he is good enough to exercise on behalf of the Society from his residence at Haifa, for the many papers and letters he has written to us during the past year, and for the discoveries which he constantly communicates to us.

We have to thank Mr. Guy le Strange for the paper on the notices on the Dome of the Rock and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre before the Crusades. This valuable contribution to the subject shows that, from the year 874 A.D.—that is to say, 200 years after the alleged building of the Dome by the Arabs—there has been a continuous chain of evidence as to the Dome itself and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, with a complete

agreement as to the origin and the architect of the first building and the existence of second.

We have also to thank the Rev. H. G. Tomkins, one of the members of the General Committee, for a paper which considers the site of Gath from a point of view quite novel, and opening up a new field of argument and investigation. Our old friend M. Clermont-Ganneau still continues to send us papers marked with scholarly research and learning. Captain Conder, we are happy to say, seldom allows a number of the *Quarterly Statement* to be issued without one or more valuable contributions from himself. We are glad to learn that this officer is likely to remain some time in England, having been appointed to the Ordnance Survey. During the last two months Captain Conder has published his researches in the Hittite Inscriptions. In placing this among their other volumes the Committee do not express any opinion at all as to the soundness of Captain Conder's conclusions. These have been attacked with great vigour, and it remains with Captain Conder to answer the objections raised to his theory.

The members of the Committee, and all the friends of the Palestine Exploration Fund, can only express their earnest hope that the reading of these inscriptions, which have now been under consideration for thirteen years, should be successfully accomplished by the officer who has done so much for the Society.

It is some time since the world was startled by the report of a great discovery of tombs and sarcophagi in the neighbourhood of Sidon. Many attempts were made on the spot to inspect and to figure these monuments.

The Turkish authorities, however, forbade permission to anyone to visit them, and the Director of the Constantinople Museum, Hamdi Bey, proceeded himself to Sidon in a Turkish man-of-war, in order to secure the things for the Imperial Museum. We have the pleasure of announcing that Hamdi Bey has ordered the presence of Herr Schumacher at Sidon in order to consult and to take measures for the removal and embarkation of the sarcophagi. We hope, by permission of Hamdi Bey, to procure for this Society plans, drawings, figures, measurements, and the description of these objects, which are described as being the finest sarcophagi in the world.

The Questions drawn up by the Committee appointed for the purpose of making an inquiry into the manners and customs of the various peoples and tribes in Syria are finished, and the last are now completed and printed, and have been sent to Syria.

"The Memoir of Twenty-one Years' Work" was published by the Society last year and presented to every subscriber who chose to ask for it; over 1,000 copies were thus distributed, with very happy results of maintaining the interest felt in the Society's work. Two thousand copies were sold by the publishers. The balance-sheet for the year 1886 is as follows :—

BALANCE SHEET, 1886.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
Jan. 1. Balance in hand	£331	1	1	Management	£641	5	0
Dec. 31. By Subscrip- tions and Donations ..	1,795	10	4	Exploration	496	16	2
Maps and Memoirs ..	369	16	1	Maps and Memoirs ..	768	3	5
Books	139	1	2	Printers, Binders, and Engravers	414	15	2
Photographs	8	2	1	Balance Dec. 31 ..	322	11	0
	£2,643	10	9		£2,643	10	9

At the end of the year there was a very large sum due to printers and engravers ; this debt has been reduced to a more satisfactory level by the payment under this head of £714. Since the beginning of the year £150 has also been paid in diminution of the loan of £850 due by the Society. It must be remembered that the printer's bill is not a question of management so-called ; it is one of vital importance to the very existence of the Society, which exists not only to collect information, but also to publish it. It has, therefore, been considered desirable that we should endeavour to make our *Quarterly Statement* fuller with contents and more attractive to our readers. With this object we propose to present Herr Schumacher's work, and perhaps the hitherto unpublished works of Conder, Ganneau, and H. C. Hart, published with the *Quarterly Statement*, and printed in such a form and type that they may be detached or bound up in separate volumes, if subscribers please.

In conclusion, we have to assure the General Committee and our subscribers generally that all the steps necessary to ensure continuation of the work on its present lines have been taken—that is to say, no opportunity will be lost of making researches and following up discoveries in the Holy City, and every possible agency will be brought to bear in the prosecution of research in the Holy Land itself and the countries which surround it.

We have to express our best thanks to the local Hon. Secretaries, and to all who have helped to extend the knowledge of our existence and aims, and even claims, to larger and more general support. The income of the Society is by no means equal to the demands upon it, and while we are continually paying off the liabilities caused by the printing of results, more reports continually arrive which also call for immediate publication.