

THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

*The New Permit.*—The Committee have the pleasure to announce that, early in March, they received intelligence from Mr. Macalister that the new “permit” had arrived, and was in his hands on February 25th. He expected to begin work about the second week in March. The formalities now observed in granting such permits are more protracted than formerly; but a strict observance in the past of the conditions laid down by the Turkish Government, has satisfied the authorities that this Society may be trusted to abide by them in the future conduct of their excavations.

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*Notice to Subscribers.*—On Saturday morning, February 16th, the letter-box at the Fund’s London office was forced open, and the contents stolen, in the interval between the early morning delivery and the opening of the office. Subscribers who may have posted letters the previous evening (15th) which remain unacknowledged, will greatly oblige by informing the Secretary, and by sending particulars of any enclosure.

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A serious loss befell the Fund early in February. The whole stock of many of their publications was stored with Messrs. Bain and Co., their binders, whose premises were totally destroyed by fire. The books, thus destroyed, were insured in the “Sun” office to the extent of £1,000, and the amount has been paid as we go to press, but their value, even at subscriber’s reduced prices, would be largely in excess of that amount. The works (except the few copies in the Fund’s office) were the following:—*Tent Work; Heth and Moab; Bible and Modern Discoveries; The City and the Land; Tell Amarna Tablets; Judas Maccabæus; Saladin; Fauna and Flora*

(Hart); *Survey of Eastern Palestine; Excavations at Jerusalem; Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem; Fauna and Flora* (Tristram).

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The British Academy has recently received the sum of £10,000 for the purpose of establishing a memorial to the late Mr. Leopold Schweich of Paris. "The Leopold Schweich Fund," as it is to be called, is to be devoted "to the furtherance of research in the Archæology, Art, History, Languages and Literature of Ancient Civilisation with reference to Biblical study." In addition to lectures, the income is to be applied for the purposes of excavation and for the publication of the results of original research, in connection with one or more of the subjects named. This handsome bequest is distinctly encouraging for the future of Biblical study, the comprehensive character of which provides numerous ways for the advantageous expenditure of the money devoted to it.

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The various kinds of work by which the *Palestine Exploration Fund* has for so many years honourably distinguished itself, has throughout been for the furtherance of Biblical study, and whilst it is a source of gratification to the Committee to be able to continue the methodical excavations for which the Fund is noted, it is necessary to point out that these entail heavy expenses. With the resumption of the excavation at Gezer, additional subscriptions are asked for.

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We publish in this number an interesting note by Mr. C. K. Spyridonidis, the architect attached to the Holy Sepulchre buildings belonging to the Greek convent. It refers to excavations recently undertaken south of the spot which, according to a tradition (which can be traced back to 1325 A.D.), was the scene of St. Stephen's martyrdom. The Rev. J. Hanauer suggests that the inscribed slabs, which are here published, may have belonged to the church of St. Stephen which, Sir John Maundeville states, was situated on the east of Jerusalem by the Valley of Jehoshaphat. Previously, from 460 to 1336 A.D., the name appears to have been given to the Damascus Gate, and was derived from that of the great Church built by Eudoxia, in which the relics of St. Stephen (discovered in 415 A.D.) had been deposited. The ruins of this, as well as those of the mediæval chapel to its west, were re-discovered about twenty-four years ago, and, as readers of the *Quarterly Statement* may

remember, have been dealt with in articles by the late Dr. Schick, Dr. Merrill, and others. Mr. Hanauer concludes by observing that "the discovery noted by Mr. Spyridonidis is interesting because the conflicting traditions concerning the rival sites form a special point in the discussion around the site of the Holy Sepulchre between Dr. Robinson (*Bibl. Researches*, vol. III, pp. 261 sq.) and the Rev. George Williams (*Holy City*, vol. II, p. 432 sq.)."

In *Home Words for Jerusalem* (February), Dr. Masterman writes from Safed:—"We have just experienced a time of intense local excitement. It seems that it is stated in the Zohar that under the earth there is a great sleeping beast—the Leviathan—and that every 70 years he has to change his position. When he does this an earthquake is produced. On January 1st, 1837, occurred the well-known earthquake which destroyed a great part of Safed, and so now the 70 years are completed and a recurrence is due . . . . It came to be believed that the earthquake would occur on or about January 9th, and a panic took possession of the people . . . . The fear spread to the Moslems and Christians. Our own two Christian servant-girls could hardly be induced to stay under our roof on the night of the 9th. The scenes in the street were most amusing—like one vast picnic. Whole families were gathered in scattered groups all over the ground, eating, sleeping, and living in the open. Some put up tents or rough shanties and others spent all night perambulating the roads around Safed. Many Jews fled from the doomed city, some camped in improvised wooden buildings at Meron. We were at Meron on the 8th, and on our return met numbers of Jews and their families flying there for safety. Others fled to Tiberias carrying the ominous news with them, so that many of the *fellahin* of neighbouring villages were also much disturbed. . . . Various wild reports spread abroad. One gentleman, it was said, dared not sleep in his house but passed the night on the balcony (as, as a matter of fact, is his common custom when possible)! Others stated that on account of a star having fallen into the Lake of Galilee its waters had turned red and, being undrinkable, the people of Tiberias were suffering from thirst! It need hardly be said there was not a word of truth in this assertion. By the night of the 14th the people had settled down to their usual life, except those, not a few, who had injured themselves by their exposure to the night air when sleeping in the streets."

Dr. Masterman also reports:—"After the long drought we have had ten days of almost continuous storm and rain, common, one would suppose, to the whole land—followed by a spell of intense cold, with ice in places over an inch thick. From near here, we can see Hermon, a long stretch of the Lebanon, the Jebal Druze, and part of the Jaulan near Hermon covered with snow. Just as I finish these notes, I hear that two men have been found frozen to death on the road between Şafed and a village further north called *Bint Jebail*."

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Under the Jerusalem "Hospital Notes," Dr. Wheeler writes:—"In the out-patient department in 1906 there were over 18,000 seen, and 20,000 dressings. Here are assembled, from nearly all parts of the world, Jews of different nationalities, languages, and dress, and yet the majority can make themselves understood to one another in Hebrew, which is certainly becoming a living language in Palestine. We are told that in some of the Jewish colonies only Hebrew is allowed to be spoken."

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The fifth annual report of the American School of Oriental Research in Palestine announces that Prof. D. G. Lyon of Harvard has been appointed Director for the present year. Prof. Bacon's account of the previous year's undertakings, in the *American Journal of Archaeology*, gives an excellent description of the valuable work which the institution is doing in Palestinian research.

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Dr. Masterman writes that the fall in level of the Dead Sea during the summer months of 1906 is 15 inches, the smallest fall that has been noticed since the observations were first taken.

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Apropos of the collection illustrative of the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund, exhibited recently in the British Government Section of the International Exhibition at Christchurch, New Zealand (*Quarterly Statement*, 1906, p. 243), the following remarks in *The Press*, of November 22nd, will be found interesting:—

"It is surely a sign that the researches in the Holy Land are being conducted by an energetic Society, full of enthusiasm and resolve, that in the British Court at the International Exhibition a very complete and magnificent display is made by it. The Palestine Exploration Fund is one of the many societies of which

little is heard by the general public, but which, working quietly and unostentatiously, are adding rich contributions to the sum of human knowledge.

“Those who are interested in the problems dealt with by the Fund will find splendid material in the British Court. There are a large number of maps of Palestine and plans of excavations, there is a relief map of Palestine, there are six casts of Hittite inscriptions, a contour model of Jerusalem, a model of Sinai, a cast of the Siloam inscription, several photographs of excavation work, and a whole library of literature published by the Fund, including a set of bound *Quarterly Statements* from 1869–1903, and any number of books on particular portions of the work and its relation to Biblical history.”

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“Golgotha and the Holy Sepulchre,” the last work of the late Major-General Sir Charles Wilson, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., F.R.S., D.C.L., LL.D., etc., is now ready. In this work the late Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund has brought together for the first time all the evidence which the most exhaustive research enabled him to collect bearing on the subject of these Holy Sites; and probably no man living had at once so intimate a knowledge of all investigations in the modern Jerusalem, and so complete an acquaintance with what has been written about the Sites from the time of Constantine onwards. The price of the work (demy 8vo) is 6s., by post 6s. 4d., and cheques should be made payable to the order of George Armstrong, Acting Secretary to the Fund, and crossed “Coutts & Co.”

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The first edition of Mr. Macalister's work, “Bible Sidelights from the Mounds of Gezer,” is already sold out, and a second edition is now on sale. It has been written to show how the results of digging in Palestine should appeal not only to the scientific anthropologist or archæologist but also to the Bible student who has no special interest in these sciences. The book contains a brief synopsis of the work of the Fund from its foundation to the present and a description of the site of Gezer, and its history.

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We are asked to state that the Trustees of the late Mrs. Honyman Gillespie, of Torbanchill, offer two prizes of £100 and £50 for the best essays estimating the value of the late Mr. Gillespie's “Argu-

ment *à priori* for the Being and the Attributes." Essays are to be sent to Messrs. T. & T. Clark, of Edinburgh, from whom fuller information regarding conditions, etc., can doubtless be obtained, or from the Agents for the Trustees, Messrs. Tods, Murray & Jamieson, of Edinburgh.

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In 1870 Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son were appointed by the Khedive to act as the Agents of his Government for passenger traffic on the Nile, and they have issued the 36th Annual Pamphlet, of their arrangements. The experience of that lengthy period is made manifest in the new pamphlet by the luxury of the arrangements and the added facilities afforded for travellers in Egypt and the Sudan. No fewer than eleven of Messrs. Cook's steamers are announced to work the various services between Cairo, Assuan, and the Second Cataract during the coming season, while, by an agreement with the Egyptian and Sudan Railways, combined steamer and rail tickets are issued, which will enable Upper Egypt to be visited by those limited in time far more expeditiously than by the leisurely steamer alone. Beside through bookings to Khartoum and Uganda, Messrs. Cook announce several excursions from Khartoum by steamer on the Blue and White Niles. The arrangements for inspecting the many architectural wonders which, with the exquisite climate, have made the Nile Valley the winter playground of the *élite*, are a model of experienced organisation.

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The *Painted Tombs of Marissa*, recently published by the Fund, is now recognized as a very important contribution to the history and archæology of Palestine in the last centuries before our era. It may be mentioned that the leaflet containing the result of the investigations by Mr. Macalister at the Tombs last October has been published and can be had on application to the Acting Secretary by those who possess the volume.

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It may be well to mention that plans and photographs alluded to in the reports from Jerusalem and elsewhere cannot all be published, but they are preserved in the office of the Fund, where they may be seen by subscribers. Those which were sent by Mr. Macalister illustrating the excavations at Gezer and which were not reproduced in his quarterly reports, have been held over for the final memoir.

The attention of subscribers and others is called to *A Table of the Christian and Mohammedan Eras*, from July 15th, A.D. 622, the date of the Hejira, to A.D. 1900, price by post, 7d. Also to the *Meteorological Observations at Jerusalem*, with tables and diagrams by the late Mr. James Glaisher, F.R.S. Tourists and all desirous of accurate information about the climate of Jerusalem should not fail to send for a copy, price 2s. 6d.

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The attention of subscribers is also called to a work by Sir Charles Warren, entitled "The Ancient Cubit and our Weights and Measures." He brings evidence to show that all weights and measures (except those of the metrical system) are derived from one source—the double-cubit cubed of Babylonia.

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The Museum and Library of the Palestine Exploration Fund at Jerusalem are in the Bishop's Buildings, near the Tombs of the Kings, where the use of a room has been kindly permitted by the Rev. Dr. Blyth, Bishop in Jerusalem and the East. The Museum is open daily, except Sundays, and the Honorary Secretary, Dr. D'Erf Wheeler, will give all information necessary.

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The "Flora of Syria, Palestine, and Sinai," by the Rev. George E. Post, M.D., Beirût, Syria, containing descriptions of all the Phaenogams and Acrogens of the region, and illustrated by 441 woodcuts, may be had at the office of the Fund, price 21s.

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The income of the Society from December 18th, 1906, to March 19th, 1907, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £527 6s. 1d.; from sales of publications, &c., £106 13s. 11d.; making in all, £634 0s. 0d. The expenditure during the same period was £597 4s. 3d. On March 19th the balance in the bank was £382 1s. 6d.

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Subscribers who have not yet paid, will greatly facilitate the Committee's efforts by sending their subscriptions in early, and thus save the expense of sending out reminders, as the outgoings on the excavations at Gezer will be a heavy drain on their funds.

The special donations during the quarter have been received from :—

W. Herbert Phillipps, Esq.	...	£5	0	0
N. S. Joseph, Esq.	... ..	£5	0	0
M. N. Adler, Esq.	... ..	£5	0	0
Clement J. Salaman, Esq.	... ..	£4	4	0

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Subscribers to the Fund are reminded that, whilst the receipt of every subscription and contribution is promptly acknowledged by the Acting Secretary, they are now published annually, and not quarterly. A complete List of Subscribers and Subscriptions for 1906 is published with this number.

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Subscribers in U.S.A. to the work of the Fund will please note that they can procure copies of any of the publications from the Rev. Professor Theo. F. Wright, Honorary General Secretary to the Fund, 42, Quincy Street, Cambridge, Mass.

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The Committee will be glad to communicate with ladies and gentlemen willing to help the Fund as Honorary Secretaries.

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Subscribers and others may be reminded that the new Raised Map of Palestine, constructed from the Surveys of the Palestine Exploration Fund by the Acting Secretary, is ready. It is on the scale of  $6\frac{1}{4}$  miles to the inch and measures  $3' 6'' \times 2' 6''$ . It has already been used with great success by Professors of Old Testament history, and by teachers in Sunday Schools, and may be especially recommended for large classes of students. On view at the office of the Fund; further particulars may be had on application.

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In order to make up complete sets of the *Quarterly Statement*, the Committee will be very glad to receive any back numbers which subscribers do not wish to preserve.

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A complete set of the *Quarterly Statements*, 1869-1905, containing the early letters, with an Index, 1869-1892, bound in the Palestine Exploration Fund cases, can be had. Price on application to the Acting Secretary, 38, Conduit Street, W.

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Subscribers of one guinea and upwards will please note that they can still obtain a set, consisting of the "Survey of Eastern Palestine" (Colonel Conder); "Archæological Researches in Palestine," in two volumes

(Clermont-Ganneau); "Flora and Fauna of Sinai, Petra, and the Wady 'Arabah" (Hart), for £7 7s., but the price has been increased to the public to £9 9s. The price of single volumes to the public has also been increased. Applications should be made to the Acting Secretary.

The price of a complete set of the translations published by the Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society, in 13 volumes, with general index, bound in cloth, is £10 10s. A catalogue describing the contents of each volume can be had on application to the Secretary, 38, Conduit Street, W.

The Museum at the office of the Fund, 38, Conduit Street (a few doors from Bond Street), is open to visitors every week-day from 10 o'clock till 5, except Saturdays, when it is closed at 2 p.m.

Photographs of the late Dr. Schick's models (1) of the Temple of Solomon, (2) of the Herodian Temple, (3) of the Haram Area and Justinian's Church, and (4) of the Haram Area as it is at present, have been received at the office of the Fund. The four photographs, with an explanation by Dr. Schick, can be purchased by applying to the Acting Secretary, 38, Conduit Street, W.

Branch Associations of the Bible Society, all Sunday Schools within the Sunday School Institute, the Sunday School Union, and the Wesleyan Sunday School Institute, will please observe that by a special Resolution of the Committee they will henceforth be treated as subscribers and be allowed to purchase the books and maps (by application only to the Secretary) at reduced prices.

The Committee acknowledge with thanks the following :—

"The Argument *à priori* for the Being and the Attributes," by William Honyman Gillespie. From the Trustees of Mrs. Honyman Gillespie.

"Licensing and Temperance in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark." From the author, Edwin A. Pratt.

"The Truth of Christianity." From the author, Lieut.-Col. W. H. Turton, R.E., D.S.O.

"Arab and Druze at Home; Account of travel and intercourse with the peoples east of the Jordan." From the author, Rev. William Ewing, M.A.

"Al-Mashrik: Revue Catholique Orientale Bimensuelle." "Les terrains miniers du Sinai," by P. L. Szczepanski; "Les nouvelles découvertes Hittites," by P. S. T.; "Les voies romaines de Ba'albek et de ses environs," by M. M. Alouf; "Causeries géographiques sur la Syrie," by P. H. Lammens; etc., etc.

NEA ΣΙΩΝ, December, 1906.

"Altneuland," December, 1906.

"Jérusalem, Publication Mensuelle Illustrée," January, February, 1907.

"Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale," t. VIII, part I. From the author, Prof. Clermont-Ganneau.

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The Committee will be glad to receive donations of Books to the Library of the Fund, which already contains many works of great value relating to Palestine and other Bible lands. A catalogue of Books in the Library will be found in the July *Quarterly Statement*, 1893.

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For list of authorised lecturers and their subjects, see end of the Journal, or write to the Secretary.

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Whilst desiring to give 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 do not necessarily sanction or adopt them.

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#### FORM OF BEQUEST TO THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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I give to the Palestine Exploration Fund, London, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ to be applied towards the General Work of the Fund; and I direct that the said sum be paid, free of Legacy Duty, and that the Receipt of the Treasurer of the Palestine Exploration Fund shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Witnesses { \_\_\_\_\_  
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NOTE.—Three Witnesses are necessary in the United States of America.  
 Two suffice in Great Britain.