

Beirût, has furnished an elaborate report on Ma'lula and its dialect, derived from personal investigations on the spot.

5. Many minor observations and discoveries have been reported. Professor Hayter Lewis has sent a photograph of a squeeze of an Assyrian tablet found at Jerusalem; the Rev. J. E. Hanauer has described another visit to the curious cave at Saris; Mr. Gray Hill and Mr. W. Simpson have reported observations on a remarkable system of irrigation by underground canals, and the Rev. James Neil has communicated a paper on the same subject in connection with the pits at Nimrin; Dr. Selah Merrill has supplied an account of "birds and animals new to Palestine"; and Dr. Chaplin has reported the discovery of an inscribed Hebrew weight, believed to belong to the period of 800 B.C., and of a stone mask from Er Râm.

6. Apart from actual discoveries, valuable literary contributions to the *Quarterly Statement* have been made by Major Conder, R.E., the Lord Bishop of Salisbury, the Rev. W. F. Birch, the Rev. H. Brass, the Rev. J. H. Cardew, Mr. George St. Clair, Mrs. Finn, and others.

7. A manuscript of a journey to Tadmor in 1691 having been placed in the hands of the Executive Committee, they thought it well to print it. It contains copies of many inscriptions in Greek and in the Palmyrene character.

8. The publication of the meteorological observations taken under the auspices of the Fund at Saron and Jerusalem, has been continued by Mr. James Glaisher, the indefatigable Chairman of the Fund.

9. The new publications of the year^s (besides the *Quarterly Statements*), have been—

"Palestine Under the Moslems," by Guy le Strange.

"Ajlûn Within the Decapolis," by G. Schumacher.

The New Map of Palestine.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Everyone interested in the Archæology of Palestine will regret to learn that the famous "Siloam inscription" has been cut out of its place in the rock tunnel and carried away. It was broken in removal, and the fragments are reported to have been sold to a Greek of Jerusalem. On receiving this intelligence the Executive Committee forwarded to Hamdi Bey a resolution expressing their regret, and the hope that immediate steps will be taken to secure the fragments.

Fortunately an accurate copy of this inscription has been made and published by the Fund. The occurrence shows how valuable the work done by the Fund has been in preserving records of monuments which are in daily danger of being destroyed. The Rev. W. Ewing, of Tiberias, reports that the gateway of the small synagogue at Kefr Birim has disappeared, but that the stone bearing an inscription has been preserved.

The manufacture of "Antiques" in Palestine seems to be going on with renewed energy. Another "Siloam inscription" has been produced, and copies of it sent to several persons in England. It is a clumsy forgery in seven lines of Phœnician characters, which appear to have been transliterated from an original in square Hebrew.

Herr Schick reports a find of *shekels* at Hebron, which were purchased by a resident at Jerusalem; but adds, "a good many false ones are in circulation."

The Committee have engaged the services of Mr. Frederick Jones Bliss, B.A., son of the President of the American College, Beirût, to continue the excavations at Tell el Hesi (Lachish), begun by Mr. Flinders Petrie last spring. The Sublime Porte have renewed the Firman. Subscriptions for this object are urgently needed.

Excavations in search of water are being made in and around Jerusalem under government auspices. Herr Schick states that the people employed for this work "have a man, a Greek, who understands where water is to be found. He puts his ear to the ground in order to hear the gurgling. First they dug "outside the Damascus Gate, then in the neighbourhood of the Tombs of the Kings, and then at two places inside the Damascus Gate, but without success." Herr Schick's latest note on the subject will be found on page 20.

It may be well to mention that plans and photographs alluded to in the reports from Jerusalem and elsewhere cannot all be published, but all are preserved in the offices of the Fund, where they may be seen by subscribers.

An account of the excavations at Tell el Hesi (Lachish) and places visited in Palestine by Mr. Flinders Petrie will be ready in a few days. It contains 10 plates and other drawings illustrating the articles found. Price to Subscribers to the Fund, 6s. 6d., in paper covers.

The first volume of the "Survey of Eastern Palestine," by Major Conder has been issued to subscribers. It is accompanied by a map of the portion of country surveyed, special plans, and upwards of 350 drawings of ruins, tombs, dolmens, stone circles, inscriptions, &c. The edition is limited to 500. The first 250 subscribers pay seven guineas for the three volumes; subscribers to the "Survey of Western Palestine" are privileged to have the volumes for this sum. The price will be raised, after 250 names are received, to twelve guineas. The Committee are pledged never to let any

copies be subscribed under the sum of seven guineas. Mr. A. P. Watt, 2, Paternoster Square, is the Sole Agent. The attention of intending subscribers is directed to the announcement after Maps and before Contents of this number.

Mr. H. Chichester Hart's "Fauna and Flora of Sinai, Petra, and the Wády 'Arabah" is almost ready, and will be sent out to subscribers in a few days. All the Illustrations for M. Ganneau's volume are ready, and it is hoped they will be issued with the letterpress before the end of the year.

The following gentlemen have kindly consented to act as Honorary Local Secretaries :

Rev. John Howell, for Mountain Ash.
 W. E. S. McGregor, for India.
 Rev. J. L. Thomas, M.A., for Briton Ferry.
 Joseph Hall, Esq., for Swansea.
 Rev. J. H. Skewes, for Liverpool.
 J. B. Davies, Esq., Hafod y Coed, for Llanfairfechan.
 Rev. W. Vaughan Jones, for Wrexham.

The Committee have to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the Library of the Fund, viz. :—

From Capt. Hankey, R.N., "The Antiquities of Palmyra," (1696).
 From the Author, "Wine and Oil from Emmanuels Land," by Rev. James Ormiston.
 From the Author, "With the Beduins," by Gray Hill.

The Committee have added to their list of publications the new edition of the "History of Jerusalem," by Walter Besant and E. H. Palmer (Bentley & Son). It can be obtained by subscribers, carriage paid, for 5s. 6d., by application to the Head Office only. The "History of Jerusalem," which was originally published in 1871, and has long been completely out of print, covers a period and is compiled from materials not included in any other work, though some of the contents have been plundered by later works on the same subject. It begins with the siege by Titus and continues to the fourteenth century, including the Early Christian period, the Moslem invasion, the Mediæval pilgrims, the Mohammedan pilgrims, the Crusades, the Latin Kingdom, the victorious career of Saladin, the Crusade of Children, and many other little-known episodes in the history of the city and the country.

The books now contained in the Society's publications comprise an amount of information on Palestine, and on the researches conducted in the country, which can be found in no other publications. It must never be forgotten that no single traveller, however well equipped by previous knowledge, can compete

with a scientific body of explorers, instructed in the periods required, and provided with all the instruments necessary for carrying out their work. The books are the following (*the whole set can be obtained by application to Mr. George Armstrong, for £2, carriage paid to any part in the United Kingdom only*):—

By Major Conder, R.E.—

- (1) "Tent Work in Palestine."—A popular account of the Survey of Western Palestine, freely illustrated by drawings made by the author himself. This is not a dry record of the sepulchres, or a descriptive catalogue of ruins, springs, and valleys, but a continuous narrative full of observations upon the manners and customs of the people, the Biblical associations of the sites, the Holy City and its memories, and is based upon a six years' experience in the country itself. No other modern traveller has enjoyed the same advantages as Major Conder, or has used his opportunities to better purpose.
- (2) "Heth and Moab."—Under this title Major Conder provides a narrative, as bright and as full of interest as "Tent Work," of the expedition for the *Survey of Eastern Palestine*. How the party began by a flying visit to North Syria, in order to discover the Holy City—Kadesh—of the children of Heth; how they fared across the Jordan, and what discoveries they made there, will be found in this volume.
- (3) Major Conder's "Syrian Stone Lore."—This volume, the least known of Major Conder's works, is, perhaps, the most valuable. It attempts a task never before approached—the reconstruction of Palestine from its monuments. It shows what we should know of Syria if there were no Bible, and it illustrates the Bible from the monuments.
- (4) Major Conder's "Altaic Inscriptions."—This book is an attempt to read the Hittite Inscriptions. The author has seen no reason to change his views since the publication of the work.
- (5) Professor Hull's "Mount Seir."—This is a popular account of the Geological Expedition conducted by Professor Hull for the Committee of the Palestine Fund. The part which deals with the Valley of Arabah will be found entirely new and interesting.
- (6) Herr Schumacher's "Across the Jordan."
- (7) Herr Schumacher's "Jaulán."—These two books must be taken in continuation of Major Conder's works issued as instalments of the unpublished "Survey of Eastern Palestine." They are full of drawings, sketches, and plans, and contain many valuable remarks upon manners and customs.
- (8) "The Memoirs of Twenty-one Years' Work."—This work is a popular account of the researches conducted by the Society during the past twenty-one years of its existence. It will be found not only valuable in itself as an interesting work, but also as a book of reference, and

especially useful in order to show what has been doing, and is still doing, by this Society.

- (9) Herr Schumacher's "Kh. Fahl." The ancient Pella, the first retreat of the Christians; with map and illustrations.
- (10) Names and Places in the Old and New Testament and Apocrypha; with their modern identifications, with reference to Josephus, the Memeirs, and *Quarterly Statements*.
- (11) Besant and Palmer's "History of Jerusalem," already described.
- (12) Northern 'Ajlûn "Within the Decapolis," by Herr Schumacher.

To the above must now be added Mr. Henry A. Harper's "The Bible and Modern Discoveries," a cheap edition of which is in the press—price to the public, 7s. 6d.; to subscribers to the Fund, 5s. Mr. Guy le Strange's important work "Palestine under the Moslems," price to the public, 12s. 6d.; to subscribers to the Fund, 8s. 6d.; and Mr. Flinders Petrie's account of his excavations at Tell el Hesi (Lachish), price to the public 10s.; to subscribers to the Fund, 6s. 6d.

The work of Mr. Guy le Strange on "Palestine under the Moslems" was published in April, 1890.

For a long time it had been desired by the Committee to present to the world some of the great hoards of information about Palestine which lie buried in the Arabic texts of the Moslem geographers and travellers of the Middle Ages. Some few of the works, or parts of the works, have been already translated into Latin, French, and German. Hardly anything has been done with them in English, and no attempt has ever been made to systematise, compare, and annotate them.

This has now been done for the Society by Mr. Guy le Strange. The work is divided into chapters on Syria, Palestine, Jerusalem, and Damascus, the provincial capitals and chief towns, and the legends related by the writers consulted. These writers begin with the ninth century and continue until the fifteenth. The volume contains maps and illustrations required for the elucidation of the text.

The Committee have great confidence that this work—so novel, so useful to students of mediæval history, and to all those interested in the continuous story of the Holy Land—will meet with the success which its learned author deserves. The price to subscribers to the Fund is 8s. 6d.; to the public, 12s. 6d.

The new map of Palestine, so long in hand, is now ready. It embraces both sides of the Jordan, and extends from Baalbek in the north to Kadesh Barnea in the south. All the modern names are in black; over these are printed in red the Old Testament and Apocrypha names. The New Testament, Josephus, and Talmudic names are in blue, and the tribal possessions are tinted in colours, giving clearly all the identifications up to date. It is the most comprehensive map that has been published, and will be invaluable to universities, colleges, schools, &c.

It is published in 21 sheets, with paper cover; price to subscribers to the Fund, 24s., to the public, £2. It can be had mounted on cloth, rollers, and varnished for hanging. The size is 8 feet by 6 feet. The cost of mounting will be extra (*see* Maps).

The third edition of Mr. Henry A. Harper's book, on "The Bible and Modern Discoveries," is already sold out, and a new and cheap edition will be ready in February. The work is an endeavour to present in a simple but yet connected form the Biblical results of twenty-two years' work of the Palestine Exploration Fund. The writer has also availed himself of the discoveries made by the American Expeditions and the Egyptian Exploration Fund, as well as discoveries of interest made by independent travellers. The Bible story, from the call of Abraham to the Captivity, is taken, and details given of the light thrown by modern research on the sacred annals. Eastern customs and modes of thought are explained whenever the writer thought they illustrated the text. To the Clergy and Sunday School Teachers, as well as to all those who love the Bible, the writer hopes this work will prove useful. He is personally acquainted with the land, and nearly all the places spoken of he has visited, and most of them he has moreover sketched or painted. The work is illustrated with many plates, and a map showing the route of the Israelites and the sites of the principal places mentioned in the sacred narratives. It should be noted that the book is admirably adapted for the school or village library.

Branch Associations of the Bible Society, all Sunday School unions 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 price.

The income of the Society, from September 22nd to December 19th inclusive, was—from annual subscriptions and donations, including Local Societies, £426 3s. 0d.; from donations for excavations, £29 12s. 6d.; from all sources, £589 19s. 7d. The expenditure during the same period was £642 11s. 7d. On December 19th, the balance in the Bank was £785 17s. 0d.

Subscribers are begged to note that the following can be had by application to the office, at 1s. each:—

1. Index to the *Quarterly Statement*, 1869-1880.
2. Cases for Herr Schumacher's "Jaulán."
3. Cases for the *Quarterly Statement*, in green or chocolate.
4. Cases for "Abila," "Pella," and "Ajlún" in one volume.

Early numbers of the *Quarterly Statement* are very rare. In order to make up complete sets, the Committee will be very glad to receive any of the following numbers:—

No. II, 1869; No. VII, 1870; No. III, 1871; January and April, 1872; January, 1883, and January, 1886.

It having again been reported to the Committee that certain book hawkers are representing themselves as agents of the Society, the Committee have to caution subscribers and the public that they have no book hawkers in their employ, and that none of their works are sold by itinerant agents.

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.

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.

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, and all illustrated by original photographs shown as "dissolving views":—

The Survey of Western Palestine, as illustrating Bible History.

Palestine East of the Jordan.

The Jerusalem Excavations.

A Restoration of Ancient Jerusalem.

- (2) The Rev. Thomas Harrison, F.R.G.S., Member of the Society of Biblical Archaeology, 38, Melrose Gardens, West Kensington Park, W. His subjects are as follows:—

(1) *Research and Discovery in the Holy Land.*

(2) *In the Track of the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan.*

(3) *Bible Scenes in the Light of Modern Science.*

- (3) The Rev. Charles Chidlow, M.A., Caio Vicarage, Llandilo:—

Recent Discoveries in Bible Lands.