

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

NOTES AND NEWS.

Up to the date of his last despatches Dr. Bliss was still tracing the line of the old wall, which he had followed for about 1,000 feet. His third report will be found at p. 9.

Letters from Dr. Bliss and Herr von Schick report that the iron-bound door of Neby Daüd, which had remained open against the wall for a number of years, having been recently blown down during a severe storm, there was disclosed on one of the stones behind it an inscription which seems not to have been before noticed. It is in Latin, and, according to Dr. Bliss's report, is a votive tablet to Jupiter on behalf of the welfare and greatness of the Emperor Trajan and the Roman people, erected by the Third Legion, which takes us back to the interval between the destruction by Titus and the founding of Ælia Capitolina. It was partly covered with plaster and may have been entirely covered when the door was last opened and shut, which may account for its being unnoticed. It is built into the modern wall about 15 feet above the ground. Roman inscriptions are very rare in Jerusalem and this discovery is therefore of exceptional interest. A squeeze of the inscription is expected to arrive shortly.

Amongst Herr von Schick's various notes is one in reference to Bethzur. Many have thought that there must have been *two* places of this name, one on the way to Hebron, and one near Jerusalem. Herr von Schick adopts this opinion, and puts in a claim for Et Tôr on the Mount of Olives to be regarded as the Bethzur near the Holy City.

In November Herr von Schick reported that the fountain of Siloam had been dry for several weeks, and the people had to bring water from Bir Ayûb to water the gardens with, also that during the last two or three years the water

of the spring has in general been much less than in former times. The natives think that the blessing was taken away from the spring with the Siloam inscription. Others say that the diminution may be owing to the many new houses built on the higher ground north and west of the city, which have cisterns for collecting the rain water, and that the increased cultivation of gardens and planting of trees has to do with it. But Herr von Schick thinks that if these were the causes Bir Ayûb would also have suffered, which is not the case.

Herr von Schick continues:—"I was told that a few years ago some Jews were bathing in the Virgin's Fountain, when a quarrel arose with the Fellahin and a Jew was injured by a stone, in consequence of which some of the Siloam people were imprisoned for a time, and, when they were released, an order was given that in future no one, whether Jew or Fellah, should be allowed to bathe there, so that the Fellahin might have no further quarrels with Jews. In order to enforce this rule a black man was placed there as watchman. But one day there was no more water, and the Fellahin charged the black man with taking it away by witchcraft, to which the man replied that if they would pay him £40 he would bring the water again.

"If this story be true, which I cannot know, then the black man may have opened some other channel for the water, not known hitherto. As Bir Ayûb has much water it may be that it goes there now. Is there still anywhere an unknown channel?"

Dr. Chaplin states that some years ago it was a common custom for Jews, and especially Jewesses, to go to the Virgin's Fountain to bathe, under the belief that there was some special virtue in its waters. They called the place "God's Mikveh" = Gedaliah's bath, but what particular Gedaliah was referred to they seemed not to know.

We publish in this number the first portion of the Greek and other inscriptions collected in the Hauran by the Rev. W. Ewing, and also part of his personal narrative of his journey. It is proposed to publish the whole in the course of the year, so that all may be contained in the annual volume for 1895.

Referring to the serpent-like figure in Baron Ustinoff's collection, described and figured by Herr von Schick in the *Quarterly Statement* for 1893, p. 297, the Rev. J. E. Hanauer writes that he has discovered that the object was found at Lydda, and thinks that it may be connected with the popular ideas which have been current for so many centuries respecting the dragon slain by St. George, the patron Saint of Lydda—and of England. Mr. Hanauer refers to the fact that St. George is greatly revered by the Mohammedans, who identify him with El Khûdr, the evergreen Nebi, a holy man of ancient times, who, having been permitted to drink of the fountain of perpetual youth, can never die, but appears from time to time as the messenger of retributive Providence, to succour the godly, to punish the wicked, and to annihilate monster (dragon) forms of evil.

Mr. Hanauer also reports that a deep vault or pit was recently discovered under the flooring of the little mosque in the house of Simon the Tanner, at Jaffa. It seemed to be about thirty feet deep.

A correspondent sends the following, from the "Daily News," thinking it may have interest for students of things connected with the Holy Land:—
 "Is the Jews'-harp a musical instrument? The question has been raised in the United States, for if it be only a toy, it will be liable to another rate of import duty . . . The name of the instrument is, of course, an absurd corruption of 'jaws-harp.'"

It is pretty certain that this instrument has no special connection with Jews or the ancient country of the Jews, but the derivation suggested seems less probable than that from *jeu-harpe* = toy-harp. In some old authors we have *jeu-trompe*, which seems to have meant the same thing.

A correspondent from Jaffa reports that an iron bridge has recently been built by the Government over the Wady Muşrura just where the Nablus road crosses the stream before its junction with the Anjeh.

The Rev. Theodore E. Dowling, Honorary Secretary of the Jerusalem Association, reports that a course of lectures will be delivered in Christ Church Lecture Room, Jerusalem, under the auspices of the Association, during the approaching travelling season. Subject to any necessary alterations, the programme is as follows:—

| DATE. | NAME. | SUBJECT. |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Friday, February 26 ... | Rev. A. H. Kelk, M.A. | A Walk about Jerusalem. |
| Saturday, March 2 ... | Herr Baurath C. Schick | The Temple: Illustrated by Models. |
| Monday, " 4 ... | Bliss, F. J., Esq., Ph.D. | Recent Excavations. |
| " " 4 ... | Percy D'Erf Wheeler, Esq., M.D., (Afternoon, 2.30 o'clock—on Mount Zion.) F.R.C.S.E., F.R.G.S. | Jews of Jerusalem. |
| Tuesday, " 5 ... | Hanauer, Rev. J. E. | The City Walls and Gates and their Folk Lore. |
| " " 12 ... | Zeller, Rev. J. | The Bedawin. |
| " " 19 .. | Percy D'Erf Wheeler, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.E., F.R.G.S. | Jewish Life in Palestine. |
| " " 26 ... | Bliss, F. J., Esq., Ph.D. | The Tells of Palestine. |
| " April 2 ... | E. W. G. Masterman, Esq., F.R.C.S. ... | Galilee. |
| " " 9 ... | Dickson, John, Esq., H.B.M. Consul ... or Dowling, Rev. Theodore E. | Progress and Produce in Palestine. The City and the Land— A Lantern Lecture. |

Tourists are invited to visit the Loan Collection of "Antiques" in the Association Room, which is situated opposite the Tower of David, where maps of Palestine and Palestine Exploration Fund publications are kept for sale.

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

The Rev. C. E. Ranken, St. Ronans, Malvern.
 Henry Clark, Esq., Prospect House, Trent Street, Stockton-on-Tees.
 J. T. Atkinson, Esq., Hayesthorpe, Holgate Hill, York.
 Dr. McEwan, Prestonpans, N.B.

Mr. Walter Besant's summary of the work of the Fund from its commencement has been brought up to date by the author, and will be published shortly under the title, "Thirty Years' Work in the Holy Land." Applications for copies may now be sent in to Mr. Armstrong.

Mr. George Armstrong's Raised Map of Palestine is on view at the office of the Fund. A circular giving full particulars about it will be sent on application to the Secretary.

Subscribers to the PALESTINE PILGRIMS' TEXT SOCIETY who have not sent in their application for cases for binding the translations issued by the Society, are reminded that these are now ready, and that the whole issues—Nos. 1 to 26 (up to date)—have been arranged in chronological order, so as to make 10 volumes of equal size.

Index to the *Quarterly Statement*.—A new edition of the Index to the *Quarterly Statements* has been compiled. It embraces the years 1869 (the first issue of the journal) to the end of 1892. Contents:—Names of the Authors and of the Papers contributed by them; List of the Illustrations; and General Index. This Index will be found extremely useful. Price to subscribers to the Fund, in paper cover, 1s. 6d., in cloth, 2s. 6d., post free; non-subscribers, 2s. and 3s.

The museum of the Fund, at 24, Hanover Square, is now open to subscribers between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., every week-day except Saturdays, when it closes at 2 p.m.

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. See list of Books, July *Quarterly Statement*, 1893.

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.

The first volume of the "Survey of Eastern Palestine," by Major Conder, 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. Subscribers to the "Survey of Western Palestine" are privileged

to have the volumes for seven guineas. The price will be raised, after 250 names are received, to twelve guineas. The Committee are pledged never to let any copies be subscribed for under the sum of seven guineas. A. P. Watt and Son, Hastings House, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C., are the Sole Agents. The attention of intending subscribers is directed to the announcement in the last page of this number.

Mr. H. Chichester Hart's "Fauna and Flora of Sinai, Petra, and the Wâdy Arabah," which forms the second volume, can be had separately.

M. Clermont-Ganneau's work, "Archæological Researches in Palestine," will form the third volume. The first portion of it is already translated and in the press.

The maps and 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. See list of Publications.

The Old and New Testament Map of Palestine (scale $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch to a mile).—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 20 sheets, with paper cover; price to subscribers to the Fund, 23s.; 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 is extra (see Maps).

In addition to the 20-sheet map, the Committee have issued as a separate Map the 12 sheets (viz., Nos. 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 20-22), which include the whole of Palestine as far north as Mount Hermon, and the districts beyond Jordan as far as they are surveyed. See key-map to the sheets.

The price of this map, in 12 sheets, in paper cover, to subscribers to the Fund, 12s. 6d.; to the public, £1 1s.

The size of this map, mounted on cloth and roller for hanging, is 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

Any single sheet of the map can be had separately, price, to subscribers of the Fund, 1s. 6d. Mounted on cloth to fold in the pocket suitable for travelling, 2s. To the public 2s. and 2s. 6d.

Single copies of these maps in sheets, with cover, can be sent by post to all foreign countries at an extra charge of 1s.

A copy of names and places in the Old and New Testament, with their modern identifications and full references, can be had by subscribers with either of these maps at the reduced price of 2s. 6d.

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 24th, 1894, was—from annual subscriptions and donations, including Local Societies, £642 12s. 0d.; from all sources—£874 8s. 8d. The expenditure during the same period was £706 3s. 6d. On December 24th the balance in the Bank was £316 1s. 11d.

Subscribers are requested to note that the following cases for binding, casts, and slides can be had by application to the Assistant Secretary at the Office of the Fund:—

Cases for binding Herr Schumacher's "Jaulân," 1s. each.

Cases for binding the *Quarterly Statement*, in green or chocolate, 1s. each.

Cases for binding "Abila," "Pella," and "'Ajlân" in one volume, 1s. each.

Casts of the Tablet, front and back, with a Cuneiform Inscription found in May, 1892, at Tell el Hesi, by F. J. Bliss, Explorer to the Fund, at a depth of 35 feet. It belongs to the general diplomatic correspondence carried on between Amenhotep III and IV and their agents in various Palestinian towns. Price 2s. 6d. the pair.

Casts of the Ancient Hebrew Weight brought by Dr. Chaplin from Samaria, price 2s. 6d. each.

Casts of an Inscribed Weight or Bead from Palestine, forwarded by Professor Wright, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A., price 1s. each.

Lantern slides of the Raised Map, the Sidon Sarcophagi, and of the Bible places mentioned in the catalogue of photos and special list of slides.

In order to make up complete sets of the *Quarterly Statement* the Committee will be very glad to receive any of the back numbers.

While 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 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 authorised lecturers for the Society are—

The Rev. Thomas Harrison, F.R.G.S., Hillside, Benenden, Staplehurst, Kent. His subjects are as follows:—

- (1) *Research and Discovery in the Holy Land.*
- (2) *Bible Scenes in the Light of Modern Science.*
- (3) *The Survey of Eastern Palestine.*
- (4) *In the Track of the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan.*
- (5) *The Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea, and the Cities of the Plain.*
- (6) *The Recovery of Jerusalem—(Excavations in 1894).*
- (7) *The Recovery of Lachish and the Hebrew Conquest of Palestine.*
- (8) *Archæological Illustrations of the Bible.* (Specially adapted for Sunday School Teachers).

N.B.—All these Lectures are illustrated by specially prepared lantern slides.

The Rev. J. R. Macpherson, B.D., Kinnaird Manse, Inchturc, N.B. His subjects are as follows:—

- (1) *The Work of the Palestine Exploration Fund.*
- (2) *The Survey of Palestine.*
- (3) *The City of Jerusalem.*
- (4) *Eastern Palestine.*
- (5) *Calvary and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.*

The Rev. J. Llewelyn Thomas, M.A., Aberpergwm, Glynneath, South Wales. His subjects are as follows:—

- (1) *Explorations in Judea.*
- (2) *Research and Discovery in Samaria and Galilee.*
- (3) *In Bible Lands ; a Narrative of Personal Experiences.*
- (4) *The Reconstruction of Jerusalem.*
- (5) *Problems of Palestine.*

The Rev. Charles Harris, M.A., F.R.G.S., St. Lawrence, Ramsgate. (All Lectures illustrated by lantern slides). His subjects are as follows:—

- (1) *Modern Discoveries in Palestine.*
- (2) *Stories in Stone ; or, New Light on the Old Testament.*
- (3) *Underground Jerusalem ; or, With the Explorer in 1894.*
Bible Stories from the Monuments, or Old Testament History in the Light of Modern Research:—
- (4) A. *The Story of Joseph ; or, Life in Ancient Egypt.*
- (5) B. *The Story of Moses ; or, Through the Desert to the Promised Land.*
- (6) C. *The Story of Joshua ; or, The Buried City of Lachish.*
- (7) D. *The Story of Sennacherib ; or Scenes of Assyrian Warfare.*
- (8) E. *The Story of the Hittites ; or, A Lost Nation Found.*

Professor Theodore F. Wright, Ph.D., Cambridge, Mass., Honorary General Secretary of the Palestine Exploration Fund for the United States. His subjects are as follows :—

- (1) *The Building of Jerusalem.*
- (2) *The Overthrow of Jerusalem.*
- (3) *The Progress of the Palestine Exploration.*

The Rev. L. G. A. Roberts, 67, George Street, Hamilton, Ontario. His subjects are as follows :—

- (1) *Work in and around the Holy City.*
- (2) *Work outside the Holy City.*
- (3) *Popular Lecture upon the General Results obtained by the Fund.*

Application for Lectures may be either addressed to the Secretary, 24, Hanover Square, W., or sent to the address of the Lecturers.