

THE  
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Committee and the Society have to lament the very unexpected death of the REV. THEODORE F. WRIGHT, Ph.D., their Hon. Secretary for the United States. Mr. Wright was on his way to Palestine, and had written on the 7th November from Naples, which place his ship was to leave next day for Alexandria. A telegram announced his death on November 13th, by what sudden cause we are as yet not informed. From additional information received just before going to press, we understand that after leaving Naples he realized that he was unequal to the journey up the Nile and to Palestine, and was anxious to get home. He expired a few hours after leaving Alexandria, on the return voyage. He was so able, so zealous, and so kindly a representative of the Fund, that his loss seems almost irreparable. By his ability and tact the American support of our work had greatly widened and increased, and he never spared himself in promoting an interest in its objects.

We hope in our next issue to give a fuller notice of our much-lamented friend and coadjutor.

The Third Report since the resumption of the excavation of Gezer describes some extremely interesting discoveries. Most remarkable of all is an elaborate passage sloping downwards at a sharp angle and evidently of considerable antiquity. The work of clearing this out was very great, and Mr. Macalister only found out after sending his report that it led to a spring of water about 80 feet below the surface of the rock. That a tunnel of such

imposing dimensions as this is should have been hewn out for utilitarian purposes is striking. Semitic beliefs concerning the under-world, springs and caverns, are already well known, and only continued excavation will show whether this relatively enormous and laborious piece of work was merely intended for the water supply of Gezer. Another unlooked-for discovery was a small model of a shrine which, though fragmentary, may be regarded as one of the most interesting objects brought to light. Mention may also be made of a plaque of terra-cotta containing part of a royal cartouche; a cake of clay, retaining sufficient impression of a straw basket to permit a study of the manner in which the article was constructed; a mould for the manufacture of Astarte plaques; and a representation of a human figure, which, in spite of its grotesqueness, is of importance for archæology.

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The "zodiac-tablet" published in the October *Quarterly Statement* has attracted great interest, and we are able in the present number to give a photograph with explanatory communications from well-known scholars. The Committee are indebted to these gentlemen, who have been kind enough to examine a photograph of the tablet and forward their opinions, and they hope that all who are able to throw further light upon this, or upon any other of the "finds" which necessitate expert knowledge, will favour them with their comments.

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By promptly publishing all reports, and by illustrating them as fully as possible, the Fund has been able to place before its readers an amount of information the lasting value of which is scarcely realized by most of our readers. It is only about a year ago that the first effort was made to gather together the results of recent excavation in Palestine, and Father Vincent's *Canaan*, noticed in these pages (October, pp. 307-311), shows the bearing of the evidence upon future biblical study. In this book the excavation of Gezer holds a very prominent place, and quite apart from the *prominent* discoveries—the "high-place," the caves, etc.—it happens that Gezer has proved itself eminently suitable for the study of details (pottery, metals, etc.), the value of which is not at first so obvious to the ordinary reader, although ultimately they are of great value in deciding several important questions under discussion. Since that book was published, Gezer has still continued

to disclose its secrets, some of which are of a particularly striking character, *e.g.*, the "zodiac-tablet," and one becomes even more impressed with the part which Gezer is destined to play in the biblical research of the future.

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But it is necessary also to remember how much there is which still remains obscure, uncertain, or unknown. At Gezer, as elsewhere in excavation, a few feet can make all the difference. A difference of only 5 feet in the position of the trench would have escaped the Troglodyte crematorium described in the first report. As it was, valuable and unique information was obtained on the early inhabitants of Palestine. Large areas, however, still remain untouched, and only by employing more labour does Mr. Macalister hope to "go as near the ideal as possible" before the Permit ceases. The Committee therefore desire to appeal very earnestly to subscribers and their friends to assist them in completing the excavation of Gezer as thoroughly as possible before the expiration of the extension of time granted by the Sultan. *Special donations* are invited.

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In the early part of November Mr. Macalister had the satisfaction of receiving at the excavations several learned and distinguished visitors, who were deeply interested in the work. Among these have been Père Vincent and several learned monks, Dr. Schumacher, Prof. Brown, the new director of the American School; Prof. Watzinger (who has been excavating the Galilean synagogues for the Orient-Gesellschaft), and others. The Rev. F. Hugh Pope, O.P., who has undertaken lectures to Roman Catholic institutions in England in the Fund's work, also visited Gezer, and was much impressed with the importance of the recently discovered gallery, &c.

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The greatest interest has been aroused by the publication (by Prof. Sachau of Berlin) of three Aramaic papyri relating to the Jews of Syene and their Temple of Yahu (*i.e.*, Yahweh, Jehovah). English readers will find full accounts of them in the *Guardian* for November 6th, and the *Expositor*, December. They prove the existence of a temple with its various temple rites from the beginning of the Persian age to the latter end of the fifth century, B.C., and are extremely valuable, not only for their contents, but also for the light they throw upon other Aramaic papyri previously

published. The three recently discovered allude to the sons of Sanballat and to the high-priest of Jerusalem, and show that relations were maintained between the flourishing Jewish colony and the mother-land. Apart from the absorbing interest of this "find" for Jewish religion and history, the new data will be of value to Palestinian archæology, since the study of the later Jewish remains (pre-Seleucidan) will naturally welcome this evidence for intercourse between two widely separated groups, and for the possibility of Egyptian influence in late times. Meanwhile there are other papyri whose publication by Professor Sachau will be eagerly awaited, and Professor Clermont-Ganneau, who himself has already obtained more than a hundred ostraca, has recently returned to Upper Egypt to pursue further researches.

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In *Records of the Past*, Aug.-Sept., 1907, a brief abstract is given of Mr. Raphael Pumpelly's presidential address before the Geological Society of America a year ago on the early development of civilization in Central Asia. At Anau near Askabad, 300 miles east of the Caspian, excavation revealed six different populations. The oldest was represented by fairly good pottery ornamented by geometrical designs. Spinning was understood, and the bottomless bake-oven in use. The sheep, ox, goat, and pig were domesticated, and the horse also appears to have been known. The next people had the camel and used copper to a limited extent. Then came the use of the potter's wheel, and full knowledge of copper and some of lead; but bronze was unknown. Throughout these stages it was found that the children were buried in a contracted position, under the floors of the houses. The fourth population was lower in culture, and the pottery ruder, but they were supplanted by an iron-using race. In the shafts that were sunk, glazed pottery was found down to 5 feet above the lowest culture. In general "it is most interesting to observe by what common steps primitive people express their ideas, no matter how entirely independent of each other they may have been. From these people, who in all probability antedate the earliest known Egyptian dynasties, through almost all peoples who have been studied down to the Philippines of to-day, we find evidence of this natural skill in the use of conventional design, proving, we think, very conclusively, that it is a natural expression, and not an inherited one."

Mr. Joseph Offord writes:—

“Among the many Greek inscriptions from Delphi to be found in M. E. Bourguet’s *De rebus Delphicis* is a letter from the Emperor Claudius, in which he asserts that not merely had he maintained certain worships at that site of sanctuaries, but also had sent a rescript to the Pro-consul of Achaia to do likewise in the territory subject to him. This personage is named, and is L. Junius Gallo, known to us by Acts xviii, 12. This decides A.D. 52 as being the year of Paul’s visit to Corinth.”

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In the *Home Words for Jerusalem* Dr. Wheeler gives the following account of the work for the quarter ending 30th September:—

“The number of admissions into the Hospital has been high, over 500 having been admitted during the three months. Malarial fever, with the diseases resulting from it, has been specially active this season, and the amount of quinine used to combat it has been very great, exceeding 200 ounces. . . . Malaria being a preventable disease, we have done our best to tell the people this, and have explained in printed notes (in three languages) the best means and the simplest, to destroy the larvae of the mosquito that carries the parasite. We have been specially free from any epidemic this season. Severe ophthalmia has visibly diminished, owing to the cases being treated early and preventive precautions being used by the more intelligent portion of the population.

“The number of operations are steadily increasing as the fear of the ‘Cherem’ or curse is abating, and the people are beginning to appreciate the value of scientific surgery. We have had frequently to refuse admission into the Hospital for lack of beds and cots. The number of patients from the outlying colonies have also increased. That the nursery staff and dispensary staff are busily engaged is shown by the following statistics:—In-patients, 500; out-patients, 4,405; home visits, 1,580; dressings, 7,915; prescriptions, 9,934; receipts, 19,634.

“We are glad to welcome back Dr. and Mrs. Masterman and family from Safed, where Dr. Masterman has been working during Dr. Anderson’s absence in England on furlough.”

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Dr. Masterman writes (*Home Words*):—

“It is remarkable how much of the northern shores of the Lake of Galilee have, within very recent years, passed into Roman

Catholic hands. There seems, too, every prospect of this long neglected land being developed and made as it once was, a garden of fruitfulness. The Franciscans have recently parted with a large slice of their extensive estate around *Telhâm* to an Italian Society, who are now establishing colonists upon the soil. Several houses are now in process of construction on a hill to the N.W. of *Telhâm*—a site much more sanitary than the fever-infested lake shore. It is said that the Italian Government are assisting financially this colonization scheme. Adjoining this *Telhâm* estate is that belonging to the owners of the *Tabaghah* Hospice—a German Roman Catholic Society. Recently the Society has acquired a large slice of the “Plain” of Gennesaret around *Khan Mînyeh*, including the ruins known as *Khurbet Mînyeh*. Another Roman Catholic Society, also German, has lately acquired all the lands around *el-Mejdel (Magdala)*, at the other end of the “Plain of Gennesaret.” This rich and well watered area includes the well-known *Ain el-Medawwerah* and also the springs and gardens near the mouth of the *Wady Hamâm*. The remaining middle section of the plain, watered by the streams of *Wady el-Rubulêyeh* and *Wady el-Amâd* remains in the hands of the *Samûreh* Bedawin, though they have mortgaged a share of their property to a wealthy Kurd.”

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“Professors Kohl and Watzinger, who did such successful work at Baalbec, are now once again in the land endeavouring to complete their examination of the synagogues of Galilee. During October they spent a week at *Kerazeh*, the ancient Chorazim, and thoroughly examined the remains of the synagogue. The ruins are of hard basalt and much of the sculptured stones which they were able to unearth are in a wonderful state of preservation. Next to *Telhâm* this appears to have been the finest of the old synagogues. Most of the pillar-bases were found *in situ*. The most remarkable thing about these remains is the great number of animal and even human figures which occur among the sculptured designs. In most of the ruined synagogues these have been deliberately destroyed in many cases subsequently to the ruin of the synagogue itself, but at *Kerazeh* many of the stones were covered up at the time the building fell and these figures remain uninjured. The Professors hope to obtain permission to complete the needed investigation at *Telhâm*; they have just left here for Petra.”

The Rev. J. E. Hanauer of Jerusalem writes (Nov. 7th) :—

“On the right-hand side of the Jaffa road, at a distance of from 800 to 900 feet from the gate, just opposite and across the second re-entering angle in the city wall, and between the contour lines 2,574 and 2,555, including 2,565, a row of large shops has been built during the past summer. The front walls of these shops are flush with the roadway, and founded on rock lying close to the surface; but the back walls, about 30 feet nearer the town wall, have been laid in rubbish, no rock having been struck, though the excavations for foundations went down to the depth of  $14\frac{1}{2}$  to 16 feet. This would seem to show that the ancient rock-hewn trench at the north-west corner of the town extended in this direction.

“Yesterday, at the invitation of Mr. Spyridonidis, I had an opportunity of visiting the caves now existing underneath the new Greek Hospice and bath recently built on the site of the older bath, which till a year or two ago stood just inside the St. Stephen's Gate, and connected, as I remarked in former notes, with a legend of Belkis. These caves are excavated in the very soft *marie* rock. As they have confessedly *been slightly altered* since their discovery, it is very difficult to tell what is new and what ancient. The most noteworthy feature is what seems to be a portion of an aqueduct or rock-cut drain running eastwards but blocked with masonry.

“Inside the Golden Gateway, on the south wall, about 3 feet eastwards from the western pilaster, and about the same distance from the ground, are very distinct traces of old square Hebrew lettering. As I have no time to devote to this inscription (?) or graffito, which is possibly unknown as yet (?), I shall call Mr. Macalister's attention to it when I next meet him. There is another Hebrew graffito (first pointed out to me by A. Mitchell, Esq., of the C.M.S. College) on one of the stones in the great string-course, at the end close to the Double Gate.”

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Our attention has been called to the fact that the references to Murray's *Guide to Palestine*, Q.S. July, p. 232, do not apply to the latest and improved edition of 1903 which supersedes previous editions.

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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. Price 5s. 4d., post free.

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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 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 are sent by Mr. Macalister, illustrating the excavations at Gezer and which are not reproduced in his quarterly reports, have been held over for the final memoir.

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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. 6*d.*

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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 2*l.*s.

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The income of the Society from September 23rd to December 19th, 1907, was—from Annual Subscriptions and Donations, including Local Societies, £626 1*l.*s. 10*d.*; from sales of publications, &c., £88 19*s.* 5*d.*; from Lectures, £2 8*s.* 5*d.*; from Deposit, £500; making in all, £1,217 19*s.* 8*d.* The expenditure during the same period was £952 2*s.* 1*d.* On December 19th the balance in the bank was £348 13*s.* 1*d.*

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

Walter Morrison, Esq., Hon. Treas.	...	...	...	£20	0	0
Col. Hope-Edwardes	...	...	...	£10	0	0
H. C. Wilson, Esq.	...	...	...	£10	0	0
James Melrose, Esq.	...	...	...	£5	0	0

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 was published with the April number.

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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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Miss Mary A. Wright, sister of the late Hon. Secretary, of the same address, has kindly consented to act as Hon. Secretary in U.S.A. for the present, and is so authorized by the Committee.

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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 Miss Mary A. Wright, Honorary General Secretary to the Fund, 42, Quincy Street, Cambridge, Mass.

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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 :—

NEA ΣΙΩΝ, July–August, 1907.

"Échos d'Orient," September, 1907.

"Jérusalem: Publication Mensuelle Illustrée," Oct., 1907. ("Kariet el-Enab and the sanctuary of the Ark," by A. de P.; &c., &c.)

"Al-Mashrik: Revue Catholique Orientale Bimensuelle." ("Wakidi's history of the conquest of Syria," by Elian Sarkis; &c., &c.)

"Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale," by Prof. Clermont-Ganneau. Tome VIII, Livr. 6–9: § 11b. The patriarch Eustochius of Jerusalem. § 14. Two archaic Israelite inscriptions from Gezer. § 20. Jewish-Aramaic papyri and ostraca, &c., &c.)

"Palästina-Jahrbuch; sonderabdruck 'die geographischen Verhältnisse des Menschen in der Wüste Juda,'" by Dr. V. Schwöbel.

"The International: a Review of the World's Progress." Vol. I, no. 1.

"New Guide to the Holy Land." With 23 coloured maps and 110 plans of Towns and Monuments. From the author, Father Barnabas Meistermann, O.F.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. A catalogue of Books in the Library will be found in the July *Quarterly Statement*, 1893.

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

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.*