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A table of contents for *The Palestine Exploration Quarterly* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_peq_01.php

“RECONSTRUCTION IN JERUSALEM.¹

“THE dramatic incidents of the Peace Conference and the later issues of the war have a little obscured the great and silent work that has for many months been going on in Palestine. In a sense that has never yet been fully realized by scholars, theologians, or politicians, and perhaps only instinctively by the people themselves, the city of Jerusalem is the heart and pulse of the world, and this not alone for Christians. For Jerusalem is the centre of three great religious traditions—the Hebrew, the Muslim, and the Christian—whether Greek, Latin, Coptic, Armenian, Maronite, Ebionite, or Abyssinian. Almost everything in Jerusalem has a triple significance, and there is hardly anything in the city that is not holy for somebody.

“It is difficult to imagine a sharper contrast between the Jerusalem of man’s imagination, whether he thinks of it in terms of Mohammed’s vision and ascent to Heaven, of Solomon’s grandeur, or of Christ’s Sermon on the Mount, and the actual Jerusalem left by the Turk. The latter concrete Jerusalem is a picturesque but filthy medieval town, with sprawling suburbs; ill-timbered, unwatered, with roads inconvenient and leading nowhere; and, for the rest, a Government that no longer functions and a city whose inhabitants are cut up into innumerable jarring sects.

“Over all these incongruities the war has placed a new system of government—a government by soldiers. Soldiers are busy men, and they have no time for detail except that of war—for them the military need is paramount. But it has always been the distinction of the great soldier and the great administrator that he has known how to pick his men. One of the finest pieces of expert work ever carried out was Napoleon’s ‘Survey of Egypt.’ This magnificent work embraced hygiene, engineering, archaeology, arts and crafts, music—all the things that make for the finer life of a people.

¹ The following article, which appeared in *The Times* of Feb. 5, is here reprinted, by the kind courtesy of the Editor, in the belief that it will be of general interest to readers of the *Q.S.* who do not file the paper.—ED., *Q.S.*

“The Napoleonic Vision.

“It is of good augury for the future of Palestine that the three men with whom has rested the choosing of the experts—General Sir Edmund Allenby, the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Arthur Money, the Chief Administrator of Palestine, and General Storrs, the Governor of Jerusalem—have had some of the Napoleonic vision; they have known how to pick their men, and their hope has been, and is, to do for Palestine a little of what the French did for Egypt a hundred years ago.

“The work of reconstruction to be done in the Holy City and its outlying districts after the essential requirements of sanitation, health service, engineering, and scavenging was divisible under several heads:—

“(a) The rehabilitation of workshops and hand-industries.

“(b) The preservation of the actual Holy City itself.

“(c) The replanning of the new town to the north of it, or rather the getting of the new town into some sort of order.

“(d) The reform of the municipality and the creation of a machinery for carrying this out.

“(e) The preparation of new by-laws to meet the needs of building and housing reform, the preservation of Palestine antiquities, archaeological remains and excavations, and the education of the citizens to an understanding of these laws—in short, a civic policy.

“(f) The creation of some body, some trust, possibly of an advisory nature, and free of the old religious or nationalist prejudices that shall guide, and, if need be, stand up and fight for the amenities of the Holy City.

“General Storrs summoned to his aid Major Ernest Richmond to report upon the Haram esh-Sherif, the Temple enclosure; Mr. C. R. Ashbee to make a special report upon the Arts and Crafts and the civic needs of the Holy City and its surrounding area; Mr. W. H. Maclean, the Engineer of the city of Alexandria, to prepare a town plan for the new town, in order that the new shall not encroach upon the old. These three have worked as a sort of special commission, and to them have been added Mr. W. A. Stewart, the Supervisor of the Technical Schools in Egypt, who is reporting on textiles, looms, weaving and dyeing. Major Richmond has subsequently been appointed Director-General of Public Monuments in

Palestine, and Mr. C. R. Ashbee Civic Adviser to the City of Jerusalem. The beginning of a new civil administration has thus been laid.

“An International Committee.

“Perhaps of all the reconstructive undertakings in Jerusalem itself the most interesting and significant is the ‘Pro-Jerusalem Committee.’ This is the creation and special child of General Storrs. The Committee is advisory and consultative, and it is likely to have considerable say in all questions that affect housing and civic reconstruction. Its unique interest is its internationalism. Muslim, Christian, and Jew pull together. Not even in the enlightened days of Frederick II—‘Stupor Mundi’—in the 13th century, or in that still more brilliant period of the great Khalif Mamun in the 8th century, was this achieved. The Governor takes the chair, the proceedings are in French. At his right hand is the Grand Mufti, the spiritual head of Islam; on the other side of the table are the head of the Latin Christians, the Greek Patriarch, or his representative; the Armenian Bishop; the head of the Jewish community; Père Abel, one of the most distinguished of French Orientalists and antiquaries, and some of the leading Italians. There are also eminent American and English experts. The Pro-Jerusalem Committee indeed, called into life by the Governor, has before it the unique task not only of gaidering, but of unifying the Holy City after centuries of misery and misrule.

“Work to be Done.

“In its main outlines the work before our administrators may be marked out as follows:—

“1. The isolation of the ancient city from Solomon to Suleiman the Magnificent; the preservation of its wall enceinte and its precious buildings.

“2. The laying out of a new town outside this with proper alignments, and on the basis of the Maclean plan, for the doing of which a special survey is at present being made.

“3. The designing of a park system. For this Mr. Ashbee has prepared a scheme, beginning with the 16th-century wall enceinte, in which all the views and beauty spots of the ancient city are jealously preserved.

“4. The re-establishment of the Arts and Crafts, the re-opening

of the Súks or bazaars, which implies the setting up of looms and workshops of all sorts.

“5. The safeguarding especially of the Holy Places of Islam, the ‘Dome of the Rock,’ the Al-Aksah mosque, and the remaining buildings of the Haram esh-Sherif.

“6. The establishment of a sound system of technical schools, possibly some development of the admirable Zionist school of Bezaleel. What the administrators here are looking forward to is the re-establishment of the workshop traditions through municipally aided teaching workshops by means of an apprenticeship system.

“7. The revival of the Palestine Survey associated with the names of Warren and Kitchener, and the planning of a future method of excavation. Some of the best brains, English, French, Italian, American, are at work on this, and the collective opinions of men like Sir Frederick Kenyon, Prof. Flinders Petrie, Mr. Hogarth, Sir Arthur Evans, M. Lacaut, Père Abel, Prof. Reisner, now excavating at Gizeh, and Mr. Fisher of the University of Pennsylvania, are at present being gathered together for submission to the Chief Administrator and the Commander-in-Chief. The idea is to take the experience of Egypt based on French regulations, add the collective wisdom of European and American scholarship, and ‘go one better’ for Palestine.”

A NABATAEAN INSCRIPTION CONCERNING PHILIP, TETRARCH OF AURANITIS.

By JOSEPH OFFORD, M.R.A.S.

IN the “Fourth divisional Volume, Section A, Nabataean Inscriptions of the Princeton University Archaeological Expedition to Syria,” there is a text from Sí, a large city, in Roman times, upon the western slopes of Hauran. The annexed text is the Hebrew transliteration of Prof. Enno Littmann which is of much interest to students of Palestinian history, because it provides the first epigraphical record of Philip (II) Tetrarch of Trachonitis and other East Jordanic districts, mentioned in Luke iii, 1, and by Josephus.¹

¹ This Tetrarch must not be confounded with the other Herodian of that title of Luke iii, 19, and the other Gospels.