

Asia Minor Exploration Fund

~~insert Committee as on pattern (enclosed)~~

Proposed expedition for 1890

6 proof
Monday

The Committee of the Asia Minor Exploration Fund, appeal once ~~for~~ more for aid ^{towards} in the important work which Prof Ramsay has carried on for the last . . . years with brilliant success.

Prof Ramsay's travels and researches have ~~hitherto~~ been mainly for the most part confined to Phrygia and Galatia - ~~at~~ The great importance of the results which he has obtained has been universally recognised both in this country and abroad - apart from the wealth of fresh material in the shape of inscriptions and monuments which he has placed at the disposal of scholars his topographical studies have thrown a flood of light upon the history of the country from the prehistoric times of the old Phrygian Kingdom, down to the declining days of the Roman Empire, and have ^{enabled} made an accurate map of these little known regions. A full account of his ^{explorations} ~~work~~ is given in the lengthy Report (now in the press) which he has this year presented to the Royal Geographical Society & whose liberal grant of £100 a year, ~~has been of the utmost service~~ ^{without} much of that work could never have been undertaken.

Prof Ramsay ^{now} proposes to break fresh ground further to the East. The chief objects of the expedition projected for the ^{spring} summer are . . .

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The chief objects of the expedition are (1) to complete Mr. Storer's Pisidian explorations which still leave uncertain the situation of a number of cities.

(2) To construct the ancient map of Cilicia Tracheia and Isauria. A small number of cities have been determined but the majority have yet to be discovered.

Some remarkable ruins, seen from a distance by Mr. Hagashi in 1887, may prove to be those of the interesting city of Olba, famous for its priest-kings, whose coins constitute at present almost the only evidence for the earlier history of the district.

(3) To explore the eastern parts of Cappadocia and the borders of Lesser Armenia, for the double purpose of examining all the Syro-Cappadocian monuments, commonly known as 'Hittite', and of determining the system of military roads by which the Romans defended this part of the eastern frontier of the Empire. With regard to Hittite monuments it may confidently be expected that a country which has yielded so much to imperfect exploration may contain many unpublished inscriptions of the greatest importance, and possibly the much desired bilingual key to the interpretation of the

Hittite hieroglyphics. The situation of two unpublished monuments, one of which was actually seen by Sir C. Wilson in 1879, is known already. The number of known Assyrian Cappadocian monuments has been growing greatly in recent years, and the solution of one of the most interesting of historical problems can hardly be far distant.

The Route proposed for the expedition is as follows:-
to start from Chama. Apamea, the present terminus of the Ottoman Railway, and work eastwards, taking up in order the different points which await determination in Pisidia and Isauria. The explorers would then proceed northwards into the region of the Anti-Taurus, and, after traversing it on various lines, would either make for a Black Sea port, or, if time permitted, return to Smyrna, selecting an untraveller route through the northern provinces.

Prof Ramsay will be accompanied by Mr. D. G. Hogarth, Fellow of Magdalen Coll. Oxford, whose ~~ability~~ ^{fitness} for such work ~~has been proved by his work in Asia Minor and in Cyprus.~~ ^{has been proved by his work in Asia Minor and in Cyprus.}

The Committee estimate that a sum of not less than £500 will be necessary to carry out the scheme - and they earnestly appeal to the public to assist in raising contributions towards this sum - It would be little to the credit of England, if ~~Prof. Ramsay's~~ ^{should} want of funds obliged Prof Ramsay to leave the completion of his task to foreign hands.