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**A Lawyer Abroad:
What to see and How to see**

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Robert Carter and Brothers,

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(p. 164)...

Here at Nabulus still exist the ancient sect of the Samaritans. There are about one hundred and fifty of them. Their Bible is the Pentateuch, of which they have a manuscript copy three thousand five hundred years old, as they claim, but probably not over one thousand five hundred or two thousand years old. We were allowed to see it for a franc each. They have a high priest, and observe all the feasts of the ancient Jews, and especially that of the passover, which they keep on Mount Gerizim in the middle of the night with all the formalities of the ancient rite. They are very bigoted, and bitterly oppose Christianity. They profess that their high priests have kept a record of events during their periods of office respectively, which record extends from the earliest periods of Jewish history to the present time.

As they were disbelievers in Christ, Mr. El Karey desired to see if their record in any manner recognized him. A few days before we were there he obtained from the high priest a transcript of a portion of this record, which transcript I saw. It was written in Hebrew, and embraced the names of nine high priests before Christ, giving the date of their periods of office, and eight after him. The record made by Shoboth in the nineteenth year of his office was as follows: "Our enemies at Jerusalem crucified Jesus Christ, the son of Mary, about the year 4281 after the creation." If testimony were needed to establish the facts of the life and death of Jesus Christ, we have here the admission of them by his most inveterate enemies.

(p. 165) The Samaritans claim that it was on Mount Gerizim and not on Mount Moriah that Melchizedek met Abraham when returning from the slaughter of the kings, and that here also he came to sacrifice Isaac.. Dean Stanley sustains them on both these points. Abraham must have been a much better traveller than we were, to have made the journey from Beersheba to the top of Gerizim in three days, or else he had better roads and asses than the country now affords.

Our next place of interest is Samaria, situated beautifully on a hill which rises out of a wide, fertile plain, surrounded on every side by distant mountains. This hill is covered with the ruins of ancient structures. Sixty columns of marble in one place are now standing, the remains of a once great and noble city. Now it is a small, miserable Arab town, the houses built of mud and inhabited by an insolent and thievish population. All the prophecies against the splendid capital of Ahab are fulfilled. The way now lies across the great plain of Esdraelon, the battle field of Palestine. It extends, with its branches, from the Mediterranean to the Jordan, and was the grand highway for armies, caravans, and the roving Bedouin from beyond the Jordan. It is of wonderful richness of soil, and yet desolation reigns over its whole extent.

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This reference is not located in *A Bibliography of the Samaritans, Third Edition, Revised, Expanded, and Annotated*, by Alan David Crown and Reinhard Pummer, ATLA Bibliography, No. 51, **The Scarecrow Press, Inc.** Lanham, Maryland, Toronto, Oxford. 2005

His visit was the summer of 1873 where he met Mr. El Karey