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AMERICAN MISSIONARY REGISTER.
EMBRACING
THE PRINCIPAL TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS
FOR THE
PROMULGATION OF CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE:
WITH THE PROCEEDINGS AT LARGE
OF THE
UNITED FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.
BY Z. LEWIS,
ONE OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES OF THAT SOCIETY.
VOL. I.
DEW-DOCK
PUBLISHED AT NO. 38 BROAD-STREET.
Printed by J. & J. Harper.
1821.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE
CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY
REV. MR. CONNOR'S VISIT TO JERUSALEM

(p. 189)

Samaritans in Napolose.

I immediately made inquiry about the Samaritans. My host stepped out, and fetched their priest: he sat with me some time; his name is Shalmor ben Tabiah: he is a native of Napolose, and is about forty years of age.

There are about forty Samaritans in Napolose. They have but one Synagogue in the town, where they have service every Saturday. Four times a year they go, in solemn procession, to the old Synagogue on Mount Gerizim; and, on these occasions, they go up before sun-rise, and read the law till noon. On one of these days they kill six or seven rams. The Samaritans have one school in Napolose, where their language is taught. The head of the sect resides in Paris.

I accompanied the Priest to his house, and sat a long time with him. There were several Jews present; they seem to live on friendly terms with the Samaritans here. The Priest showed me part of the first volume of the English Polyglott, mentioned by Maundrell; it consisted of about a dozen tattered leaves. He showed me also a Manuscript Samaritan Pentateuch, with an Arabic Version at its side; this Version, however, is not used in their Synagogue He afterward took me to see the Synagogue, making me first take off my

shoes; it is a small gloomy building. I observed a number of copies of the Samaritan Pentateuch carefully enveloped in linen, and laid on a shelf in the Synagogue. Expressing a wish to see the Ancient Manuscript, said by the Samaritans to be 3500 years old, the Priest paused and hesitated for some time. Having laid aside his upper garments, he at length entered the Sanctuary, and produced the venerated Manuscript. It is well written on vellum, in the Samaritan character, and is preserved in a tin roller: it bears the marks of age, and is rather tattered. The Priest would not permit me, nor any one present, to touch it. He was very inquisitive about the Samaritans, who he had heard were in England. As it is probable that I shall revisit Nablouse, on my way from Jerusalem to Damascus, I hope to have the opportunity of collecting more information from him.

From the Editor

-Rev. Mr. James Connor was a missionary stationed at Constantinople under the patronage of the Church Missionary Society of London. He visited Nablus on Monday, Feb. 28th, 1820

- Shalma b. Tabia was the High Priest 1787-1855.