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(p. lv) Proceedings at Boston, May, 1881.

(p. lviii) Communications were now presented, as follows:

(p. lxiix)

**8. On a Manuscript Fragment of the Samaritan Pentateuch, by Prof. Isaac H. Hall, of Philadelphia; presented by Prof. Toy.**

Some days ago, through the kind offices of Rev. Dr. W. Hayes Ward, I came into possession of a parchment folio, or pair of leaves, written in the Samaritan character, quite old, and somewhat obscure. It was obtained from a Jew, who stated that he brought it from Jerusalem fifty years ago.

The size of each leaf is 4 ½ x 3 ½ inches; of the written page, 3 x 2 ½ inches. It is written with twenty-four lines to the page, except that a word is pushed into the twenty-fifth line on two of the pages, and on another the same is true of the punctuation at the end of a chapter. The style of writing is that of ordinary Samaritan manuscripts, with a fine point or dot to separate the words, here and there replaced by a punctuation mark like a colon. At the end of a chapter the punctuation is like that seen in Petermann's edition of the Book of Genesis in Samaritan characters. Spaces are left between the letters toward the end of a line when necessary, so that the last letters of the lines may stand in an upright, even column. No words are divided at the end of a line. A hole in the parchment, older than the writing, divides some words, in one case separating the letters by more than half an inch. Paragraphs are marked by leaving a whole line blank.

The manuscript is a fragment of the Samaritan Pentateuch, containing Numbers xxvii. 24 (beginning at אַתְּ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה)—xxviii. 16; xxxii. 23-42. An easy computation shows that just eight pages, or four leaves, or two folios, were inside this folio in the quire when the MS. was complete. It was therefore the middle folio, or one of the outer folios, of the quire: if the quire was a *ternio*, then it was the outer one, which I do not think was the case.

The writing begins in a verse which I have called 24, above; but it is a verse not there in the Hebrew, added after verse 23 from Deuteronomy iii. 21, 22, slightly altered. The paragraph and chapter end with this extra verso in the MS.; and the next paragraph ends with verse 10. Another paragraph ends with verse 15; and the page ends with the third word of verse 16, כַּאֲרֵב [עָה], of which last word only the first 3 can be read without a lens, and the last two letters are hopelessly defaced. The previous word is interrupted by the hole: thus, הַרְאֵי O שׁוֹן.

The next leaf begins with Numbers xxxii. 23, and has paragraph divisions at the end of verses 28 and 33. The last page ends with the chapter, at verse 42.

In connection with the following collation with Blayney's edition of the Samaritan Pentateuch (Oxonii, 1790) are noted the chirographical peculiarities not mentioned above. When not otherwise stated, or a parenthesis not used, the variation from Blayney's text is to be found in his lower margin as a manuscript reading. I have not thought it worth while to repeat them from his edition.

Chap, xxviii. 2, לאשה for לאשי. Here the seems to be a re-inking of a faded ה, and not a correction, or change of mind of the original scribe. The two letters (p. xvi) resemble each other very nearly in the script.—גיההי for גיהיי. This is slightly different from Blayney's variant, which is גיהי.

Verse 5. ועשרית for ועשירת.

האיפה for העיפה. Here the ע is written over a faded א. It is difficult to account for this change in restoration except by ignorance. This variant is of course not given by Blayney.

Verse 7. ונככו for ונכיו.

Verse 8. וכנסכין for וכנסכין.

Verse 9. Same as above in verse 7.

(Verse 12. האחד is omitted by error of scribe, but added by a later hand above the line.)

Numbers xxxii. 24. וגדרות for וגרות.) This is slightly different from Blayney's variant, which is גיהי. This is slightly different from Blayney's variant, which is גיהי.

(Verse 26. מטפנו for הטפנו, but the superfluous ה has a stroke drawn obliquely across it by a later hand in token of erasure.)

Verse 28. האכות for אכות.

(Verse 29. את ארץ for את הארץ; but the ה has a horizontal stroke drawn above it *prima manu*, in token of erasure.)

(Verse 33. הארץ for ארץ; but the ה is added above the line *prima manu*.)

Verse 38. מוסבת for מוסבות

שם for שמה

So far as can be seen from this comparison, the manuscript appears to be a very respectable one. It is also evidently ancient; but how ancient. I have so means of determining. The collation discloses only one real variation from Blayney's text or margin; and that of no great importance. Its real interest lies in its disclosing the fact of a partial re-inking, and a correction both by the original scribe and a later hand, and the manner of so doing. It is worth while to remark that there is one vacant space, in one of the lines, large enough for a whole word. I am unable to determine whether this is an actual erasure, or left blank originally because of a defect in the surface, or to make the line come out even. In some cases the spacing seems to be done for the latter purpose throughout a whole line, sometimes only through the last half, but oftener only in the last word or two. One line leaves wide spaces between both the words and the letters of a word for that purpose.

#### **Comments on this section from the Editor of theSamaritanUpdate.com**

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