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(p. 385) July 2, 1860)
Asiatic Intelligence
Christian Prospects in Palestine
To Sir Culling Eardley, Bart.
Nablus, Palestine

(p. 386)

The last to be named, as the Jewish community have none, is the Samaritan school. This is conducted by the priest's nephew, who is also the *Charan*, or minister of their congregation. He also, like the teachers already mentioned, is ignorant of all the elements of learning, with the exception of reading and writing the Arabic and Samaritan languages. He is tolerably acquainted with their own literature, but knows nothing of grammar nor any other science. The instruction he imparts to the children, therefore, is confined to the reading and writing of Arabic, their vernacular language, and a little of the Samaritan, which is now a dead language. There is a very interesting and hopeful feature in this school, the admission of girls as pupils. I need not say that, in the East, the females are neglected by all except, of course, our Protestant missionaries. The Samaritans, however, form now an exception. In their school there are thirteen boys and four girls; and one of the latter, the priest's daughter, a little girl about a seven years old, reads fluently. I may also I mention that the teacher is anxious to improve himself, and is especially desirous to learn I English. From the progress he has already (p. 387) made it seems that he has a talent for language. I give him a lesson daily; but my stay here being only for a few months, I am afraid that he will be unable, during that time, to make sufficient progress to carry on his studies without a teacher. However, I am glad to have the opportunity of putting him a little in the way, and the more BO as it gives me the advantage of laying before him the all important truths of Christianity. He is now

strongly inclined to accompany me, on my return to England, for the sake of carrying on his English studies.

In connexion with this subject, I may mention that in a village about a mile from this town there is the same desire for instruction. I have, in company with several friends, visited the place repeatedly. The inhabitants, with the exception of two or three families, are all Christians belonging to the Greek Church. They have a school, with thirty children, and a teacher who is able to read imperfectly, but not to write at all. Master and pupils are very ignorant, but he and they would be extremely glad to receive instruction.

From all that I can learn, a field of usefulness is gradually opening in this town and neighbourhood to a right-minded missionary. This is owing principally, I believe, to the good influence of the late Bishop Bowen, when residing here as chaplain to Bishop Gobat. He was a noble man, and a missionary of the right stamp. Any one imbued with the same spirit, who would devote himself to the work, could certainly do much good here. One thing, however, I must confess, namely, that it is my conviction that it is yet too premature to organise a Protestant community. The training and habits of the people are such that a mission to enlighten, and not to proselytise, would be, in my humble opinion, by far the best. Profession would follow true and hearty conviction in due time. Our missions generally are too anxious for results; and in a country such as this, where the people will sell themselves from one sect to another for a few piastres, this feeling is taken advantage of, and the Gospel, in consequence, scandalised. Let us Protestants, whatever others may do, work and pray for the enlightenment and conversion of the world, but not be too anxious for disciples, whether we labour among Jews or Gentiles, but leave the results in the hands of God.

J. M.

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