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**THE EVANGELICAL MAGAZINE  
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ENQUIRY CONCERNING THE SAMARITANS.

THERE is a curious account, in " Lewis's Antiquities of the Hebrew republic," respecting the *modern Samaritans*. He has first given a confession of faith, sent by their high priest Eleazar, in the name of the Synagogue of Sichem, to the great Scaliger, about the year 590<sup>•</sup>. Mr. Jones, of Tewksbury, intimates, that they sent two letters to Scaliger<sup>\*</sup>: but I would wish principally to excite the attention of the most curious of your readers, to a letter sent from the Samaritans of Sichem, about a century later, to their brethren in England<sup>♦</sup>; by which (p. 537) it appears, that a number of Samaritans were then resident, and had it synagogue in London. This letter was sent by the hands of Dr. Huntingdon, who-had visited Sichem; and gave the Samaritans an account of their English brethren. The former says, " That R. Huntingdon, an uncircumcised, is-arrived here from Europe, and has acquainted us; that you are a great people, composed of men, pure and holy, like ourselves; and that you have sent him to desire of us a Copy of the Law; to whom we would not give credit, till he had written before us some characters of the holy language, in order to assure you that we have the same Mosaic religion that you profess." Never having been able to get any farther information of these English Samaritans, nor to get the sight of Dr. Huntingdon's Letters, I should be much gratified if any of your correspondents can impart any information concerning them.

Are there any particulars concerning a synagogue of Samaritans meeting in London, towards the close of the seventeenth century? when did they come into England? and do any of them yet remain? Or, was it a mere artifice of Dr. Huntingdon, to obtain a copy of the Pentateuch from the Samaritans at Sichem, by intimating to them, that there were a people in England who worshipped the same God; and wished for a copy of their law? I lately began to suspect this may have been the case, though Lewis gives no intimation of the kind.

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<sup>•</sup> Lewis, vol. III, chap. xii. p. 57.

<sup>\*</sup> MS. Notae in Goodwini Mosem & Aaronem

<sup>♦</sup> Lewis has inserted the whole Letter, vol. III. chap, xiii. p. 60—65.

Dr. Huntingdon was made Bishop of Rapho, in Ireland; but died twelve days after his consecration, in the year 1701. He had been, in earlier life, chaplain at Aleppo, from 1670 to 1681, and travelled through Galilee and Samaria; at which time it was, I suppose, that he visited Sichem, and there obtained a copy of the Samaritan Pentateuch, and two other books, to be conveyed to their brethren in England; from whom they, in return, asked for a copy of the Book of Joshua. — Lampe, in his Commentary on John <sup>∞</sup>, refers to Dr. Huntingdon's Letters, as published in 1704; and afterwards mentions the Letter of the Samaritans to their English Brethren <sup>≈</sup>.

S. C.

*From the Editor:*

*S.C. may have been Samuel Cahen*

**Samuel Cahen** (August 4, 1796, Metz, France – January 8, 1862, Paris) was a French Hebraist and journalist.

Cahen was brought up at Mainz. He pursued a course of rabbinical studies and devoted, at the same time, much attention to modern languages and literatures. After completing his education Cahen was engaged as a private tutor in Germany. In 1822 he went to Paris, where he assumed the directorship of the Jewish Consistorial School, a position which he held for a number of years. In 1840 Cahen founded the Archives Israélites.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel\\_Cahen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Cahen)

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<sup>∞</sup> Vol. I. p.710

<sup>≈</sup> P. 735.