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THE
NEWBERY HOUSE
MAGAZINE.
MONTHLY REVIEW FOR CHURCHMEN
AND CHURCHWOMEN.
VOL. IX.
JULY TO DECEMBER, 1893.
LONDON:
GRIFFITH FARRAN & Co.,
NEWBERY HOUSE, 39, CHARING CROSS ROAD.

(p. 213)

Hymns for the Sabbath.

(Translated by **Rev. J. M. RODWELL.**)

THE original of the following Samaritan hymn is among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, No. 5481, and is accompanied by a translation into Arabic in a parallel column. Five of the stanzas are omitted in this version as being mere repetitions, the full number of the stanzas being twenty-two, the number of letters in the alphabet, each stanza commencing, like several of the Hebrew Psalms, with the successive letters. The MS. in which this and other hymns are found appears to have been used in the Samaritan Synagogue at Damascus, where it was written. Nothing is known, with any degree of certainty, as to the date of these hymns, but there are expressions in some of them which induced Gesenius to think that they belong to the period of Justinian, or of the Saracens and Mohammedans, by each of whom the Samaritans were cruelly persecuted.

Creator of the world!
Who can measure Thy greatness?
In greatness didst Thou create within six days.

In Thy great and truthful law,
We read and are instructed,
How on each of those days
Thou didst produce splendid creations.

Magnificent through Thy wisdom,
They proclaim Thy greatness;
They reveal to us that their divine existence
Is only for Thy glory.

Without weariness didst Thou create
Thy works on high,

Which Thou didst evolve from nought
Within the six days.

Thou didst create them perfect,
With no defect in any;
Thou hast made known their perfection,
For of perfection Thou art the Lord.

But on the seventh day
Thou didst rest, though hot fatigued,
And madest that Sabbath-rest
The crown of the other six.

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Thou didst proclaim it Holy,
And madest it the head:
The appointed time for holy Convocations,
The regent of all holiness.

Thou didst make it the covenant
Between Thyself and Thy worshippers;
Thou didst teach them that its observance
Should be observed of all observers.

Happy they who keep holy the Sabbath,
Who are worthy of its benediction!
Its shade gives us breathing-space
From toil and weariness.

With its goodly honours
Our Lord hath honoured us;
The Sabbath is His gift of rest
Till we rest where our rest is prepared.

The food of our life
Are the tables of the Law,
An unfailing nourishment
For ever and ever.

Where is there a God
Like the God of our Fathers?
Where is there a true Prophet
Like Moses, the friend of God?

To the glory of His own name
Jehovah has added that of Moses—

Jehovah, the God of the Ages,
Moses, the Prophet for all Generations.

A deep ocean of words
Did his Great God make him.
A great deep of revelation is Moses,
A great deep of the revelation of his Lord.

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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