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The Cabinet of Foreign Voyages and Travels
Or, Annual Selections
From the Latest Works of that Description Which have not yet Appeared in English
Vol. I.- For 1825 to Which is Prefixed Retrospect of the Geographical Discoveries
of the Last Ten Years

London: Treuttel & Wurtz, Treuttel Jun. & Richter
1825

(p. 145)

Pilgrimages in the East, In the Years 1815 and 1816

By Otto Frederick von Richter

(p. 151)....

On the 28th of August, at five o'clock in the evening, the travellers left Jerusalem on horseback, by the gate of the Maugrebins, traversed the fertile country on which the crusaders pitched their camp, and which is now covered with olive trees. "We soon found an ancient causeway which led us over stony hills. When viewed from their summit, Jerusalem looked as if built in the midst of gardens; at each step we made we got farther on high mountains. To our right, a large valley separated us from a range of verdant heights: on the most elevated point is the minaret of a mosque; the external appearance of this edifice indicates that it was formerly (p. 152) a Christian church. It belongs to the village of Nebi Samahouli, on the site of the ancient Rama, (Arimathea). It is said that Samuel is buried here. On a rocky hill, of a round form, is Schorefat, a small ill-built village.

"We passed before caverns cut in the rock, probably for the keepers of the gardens, fields, and flocks; we saw abandoned ruined cisterns' marks of the high degree of cultivation in ancient times. On both sides the road were ruins, the names of which I was not able to learn."

All the country, as far as Naplous, presents an alternation of rough, stony, and naked mountains, vallies planted with olive and fig trees; they frequently met with the ruins of walls and ramparts, and innumerable grottos hewn in the declivity of the mountain. The villages are all picturesquely situated on the summits of the hills, or on their steep sides. Richter had a great inclination to visit the objects which appeared to him most worthy of observation; but his fearful guides would not permit him to satisfy his curiosity; they represented to him, that the villages were inhabited only by banditti and rebels; the travellers had no Janissary with them. "We were unable, therefore," says Richter, "to persuade these cowards, that the abuse (p. 153) and the stones with which some children of the Arabs had received us, did not necessarily prove that we should be murdered or plundered.

"At the entrance of the narrow valley where Napous is situated, there are several wells, one of which is supposed to be Jacob's well. There are still about fifteen Samaritan families in this city. We had- no- reason to praise the inhabitants, nobody would afford us a lodging; they made faces at us, and called us names; in vain we looked for a room in a khan to pass the night. At length we sat down in a court-yard; Gregory was dispatched to the Aga, with the letters of recommendation which had been given us for him at Jerusalem. An order soon after arrived to a Christian armourer, to give up his apartment to us for the night. We had scarcely taken possession of it, when a crowd of curious persons entered, sat down without being invited, and stared at us, smoking their pipes. It was not easy to get rid of these intruders, who were Samaritans. They are fond of keeping company with Franks, since somebody has persuaded them that there are Samaritans also in Europe. There was nothing remarkable in their exterior appearance.

"Naplous," which bears a striking resemblance to Heidelberg, leans on Mount Garizim, the (p. 154) southern side of which is covered with gardens, raised above one another like terraces; in some places the declivity is actually perpendicular. The environs of the city, in the valley, also abound in gardens and

wells, and resemble a thick forest of fruit trees; on the opposite side rises the naked, steep, and rounded Mount Ebal. I saw at its feet, and also on both sides, a great number of grottos, some of which seemed to be excavated with much care; they serve as sepulchres for the people of Naplous; this was perhaps, too, their primitive destination.

"On the following morning we left the city as soon as the gates were opened. Djeret was behind us, on the mountains in the distance. Having ascended Mount Ebal, and left Assira to the left, we arrived at Sennour, a fortified village, and situated on an insulated and rounded mountain; it is remarkable that Djazzar Pacba was never able to take it.

Comments on this section from the Editor of theSamaritanUpdate.com

This reference is not listed 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

Year of Richter's visit was 1816.