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THE WORLD: ROUND IT AND OVER IT.

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(p. 284)

Nabulus is a beautiful city situated in a narrow valley. It is chiefly famous for being the seat of the Samaritan religion. In this city of 13,000 people, there are 140 persons who are the sole representatives in the world of a religion which has existed since the days of Moses. The members of the sect strictly observe the rites required by the Levitical Law, such as sacrifices, circumcision, etc. We went to the synagogue, in the Samaritan quarter of the town. The high priest admitted us. His office is hereditary, and he is a direct descendant of the tribe of Levi. The matted floor cannot be trodden upon by shoes, in this respect resembling a Turkish mosque. We were shown the famous Samaritan Codex of the Pentateuch. It is a venerable piece of parchment, closely written upon, about eighteen inches wide and several yards long. It is kept upon two rollers, and usually remains concealed behind a curtain. The high priest said that this Codex had been written by the grandson of Aaron, and had been carefully preserved by the successive chief priests unto (p. 285) this day. The Samaritans do not believe in Jesus Christ; they expect a Messiah will appear 6,000 years after the creation of the world; but think He will not be greater than Moses. Some of the social laws are odd. When a married man dies, his nearest relative other than his brother is bound to marry the widow.

About half an hour's ride south of Nabulus we stopped at Jacob's Well. It is agreed on all hands that this is the veritable well of the Jewish patriarch mentioned in Genesis. A greater interest, however, attaches to the spot.

Comments on this section from the Editor of theSamaritanUpdate.com

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