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**Twenty-Fourth Annual Report of the
American Bible Society,**
Presented XIV May, MDCCCXL
With an Appendix
Containing the Addresses at the Anniversary
And Extracts of Correspondence,
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Appendix

(p. 88) *Journal of Rev. S. H. Calhoun (the Society's Agent) in Palestine.*
SMYRNA, Dec. 27, 1839.

Rev. J. C. Brigham,

(p. 95)

April 8.-.....

Shechem, just outside of which we have pitched our tents to night, has a most charming situation. A beautiful vale, and of considerable breadth, runs in from the main road from Jerusalem to Galilee, in a north-westerly direction, flanked on the north by Mount Ebal, and on the south by Mount Gerizim. Nearly a mile up this valley, and imbosomed in trees, is Shechem. Jacob's well is on the Jerusalem road at the entrance of the valley, and Mount Gerizim almost overhangs it. It was at this well that our Saviour stopped and held the conversation with the Samaritan woman, while the disciples came up to the town to buy food. The position of the well in relation to Gerizim, on the summit of which the Samaritans had their temple, makes the language of the woman, "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain," very significant. We measured the well, and found it to be about 75 feet deep with 10 or 12 of water. It is of large diameter, and is well walled up. Easterly from Mount Gerizim is an open and fertile tract of land, which probably is the same that Jacob bought of Hamor, the father of Shechem, Gen. 33d chapter. Joseph was buried here, and what is called his sepulchre is shown to this day.

April 9.—Yet at Shechem. I mentioned in yesterday's journal that Mount Gerizim is on the south of the beautiful valley in which Shechem is built, and Mount Ebal on the north. The former was called the Mount of blessing, and the latter that of cursing. Deut. 27: 11-13. The priests must have stood in the midst of the valley, and the people on either side of them, just under each mountain. The priests read in an audible voice the curses denounced against disobedience, and all the people answered, Amen. For this solemn transaction, probably another so suitable a place could not have been found in Palestine. To-day we ascended Gerizim, and had from the summit a fine view. The Mediterranean

could be clearly seen to the west, and the mountains beyond Jordan to the east. In the north-east rose the lofty mountains of Anti-Lebanon crowned with snow. On the highest part of Gerizim are the ruins of a large edifice, probably those of the Samaritan temple. Other ruins in every direction indicate that at some previous period there has been a large town on this mountain. There are a few Samaritans yet in Shechem. This afternoon we visited their priest and synagogue. He reckons the number of his people in the town at about 60, and says that there are very few elsewhere. They yet expect the Messiah. The chief priest showed us the famous copy of the Pentateuch, which the Samaritans suppose was copied by one of the sons of Aaron. It is written on parchment, and is evidently of great antiquity. Shechem (now Nablous) is a large town, containing eight or nine thousand inhabitants, mostly Arabs. Provisions are abundant and cheap. We find also good bread for the first time since we left Jerusalem.

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

His visit was 8th April, 1839