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T. Carlton and Z. Phillips, Publishers, Thomas E. Bond, Editor



(Pg. 10)

SAMARITANS AND THEIR PENTATEUCH

One "who has sat by Jacob's Well" writes thus to a London paper. - "I am surprised to see a statement on the exertions making, or about to be made, on behalf of the Samaritans, without any notice of the extent of the relief required. Have the kind-hearted people who have taken up their cause any idea of their numbers? If they have not, they ought to be told; and if they have, they ought to tell. Seven years since the number of Samaritans was one hundred- viz, sixty at Nablous, and forty elsewhere, most of whom were at Genoa. I state this from personal knowledge, as far as it could be obtained from the Samaritan elders themselves, in their own synagogue at Nablous. The Nablous people are the most intolerant Mohammedans that can be met with, and it was only in deadly fear of Ibrahim Pacha that they would open their gates at all to Christian or Jew; and they don't pretend to understand the difference between the Jews and the Samaritans. To us who do, the question is, first, How to secure the life and welfare of the little remnant of Samaritans who cannot be expected to leave their Mount Gerizim, which is to them the temple which cannot be moved forever, and where they go up to worship as devoutly and ever the Jews did in Solomon's Temple. And the next question is, as to what steps should be taken to secure, whenever the dwindling sect expires, their MS. Of the Pentateuch. They preserve it with religious care; and it is carefully mounted on parchment, and no human touch ever profanes the ancient vellum. Biblical scholars should take timely notice of the present condition of the sect, with a view to the ultimate acquisition of the precious Samaritan version. There is no chance of the preservation of the sect, for its numbers are always on the decline, and the catastrophe cannot be very far off. Perhaps a few words from Constantinople would keep the Nablous fanatics in order; and then a very small amount of charity would sustain the remnant at the foot of Gerizim. Those who are at Genoa, must, of course, take care of themselves. Whatever is done, let a careful watch be kept upon that old MS., inestimable for reasons which ecclesiastic, historian, or theological student needs to be told.

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

There is no author mentioned in this newspaper but it is believed to be H. Martineau.