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**Help-Book for Travellers to the East
Including Egypt, Palestine, Turkey, Greece and Italy.**

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With Tourist Arrangements by **Thomas Cook**

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(p. 95) MOUNTAINS OF EBAL AND GERIZIM must be visited, the road to Nablous going up the valley between them. It is probable that Shechem, now Nablous, formerly extended from the present City to the Well of Jacob. Gerizim and Ebal rise 800 feet from the valley, and the valley is 1,700 feet above the Mediterranean: so that the summits of these two mountains attain 2,500 feet. GERIZIM has a stream of water which flows down a ravine into the west side of the City. EBAL has several well cultivated gardens on the opposite side of the (p. 96) valley. On Mount Gerizim, are the extensive ruins of the great Samaritan Temple. They extend 240 feet from east to west, and 254 from south to north. The walls are from 5 to 6 feet in thickness. The site of the Temple must have been the grandest in the whole of Palestine. The modern Samaritans perform their paschal and other ceremonies here. Hut these mountains are of great interest to the Bible reader, as connected with the blessings and curses, recorded in Joshua 8—30, on the erection of an altar to the Lord on Mount Ebal. (See also Deut., chapters 27 and 28). On this memorable occasion the congregation of Israel filled the valley, where hundreds of thousands could stand and hear the commands of God, and every word would be distinct to those occupying the heights of the two mountains. Modern travellers have often occupied these positions, and conversed distinctly and easily with each other. But we now approach

NABLOUS. AS we have intimated, this was the Shechem or Sychem of old, and signifies "shoulder." In the New Testament it is called Sychar. No doubt this is one of the oldest Cities in the world. It was rebuilt by Vespasian, after the Palestinian war, and was then called NEAPOLIS, (the NEW TOWN). The ancient Shechem was one of the appointed Cities of Refuge, under the law. (Joshua 20—7.) The interior of the City exhibits gloomy dead walls and arches, which would appear sepulchral but for the Bazaars, which, as in all Eastern Cities, are divided and sub-divided into all the varieties of merchandise that may be exposed for sale. The principal Bazaar is crowded equal to any in Palestine, and is supplied with the exquisite silk productions, etc., of Bagdad, Aleppo and Jerusalem; as well as with the cotton productions of Lancashire, Switzerland, etc. Here are five Mosques, two of which were formerly Christian Churches.

The population of Nablous amounts to about 16,000: the Mahomedans numbering about two-thirds of the whole. The Jews are reckoned only at between 100 and 200; (p. 97) the Christians 500 to 700; the Samaritans are now reduced to about 150 persons. Jesus introduced our holy faith into Nablous. (See John 4—5 to 52.) Besides the Greek Church, there are two Protestant Missionaries—El-Karey, and an Episcopal Home Missionary

connected with the Bishop of Jerusalem. El-Karey lived several years in England, and was baptized and sent out by an Evangelist Union Society, which numbers on its committee several Clergymen, and Ministers of different denominations. His house of worship is often used by tourists for English service, on the Lord's day.

The greatest ancient curiosities here are copies of the Pentateuch, in the Samaritan Synagogue. The oldest is said to have been written by Abisham, the great-grandson of Aaron. The roll is of parchment, written in columns of 13 inches deep and 7 ½ inches wide. Each column contains 70 to 72 lines, and the whole roll no columns. The skins are of equal size, and measure each 25 inches long, and 15 wide. For a full and most detailed account of the Samaritan religious ceremonies and social customs, we refer to a work by the Rev. Mr. Mills, F.R.G.S., &c., entitled "Three Months' Residence in Nablous."—John Murray & Co., 1864.

All round Nablous great attention is paid to the cultivation of the land; and the whole valley, with the slopes of the hills, exhibit rich fertility. We now proceed through a lovely country, with villages on either side, until we reach.....

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