

1. The following is the inscription (with interpolated additional characters) in ecclesiastical Georgian characters¹:—

ღმრთობაჲ! მონღოლთა მტრისაგან დაგაფრთხილ
 რობაქი ქრობეს და მტრისაგან დაგაფრთხილ
 ღმრთობასა დაგაფრთხილ.

3. Translation. Christ.² Holy Nicholas be thou intercessor with Christ for the Queen (=Princess) of Kachetien³. Elizabeth, formerly Helena.⁴

LIST OF RECENT PALESTINE LITERATURE.

By PROFESSOR SOCIN.

(From the *Zeitschrift of the German Palestine Exploration Society.*)

AMONGST works treating of early ethnographical subjects, *Baur* and *Kautsch's* short sketches deserve especial notice.

In *Kugler's* compendium of the History of the Crusades, we have a most valuable book, and one that supplies a long felt want. To students it will prove an excellent guide, as it disentangles the contents of a ponderous mass of publications, and gives a very clear account of our present knowledge of the subject. It can have been no easy task to elucidate the policy of a period so bewildering in its confusion of interests and claims. The jealousies of the European powers, the self-interestedness of the pontiffs, the arrogance of the Byzantine court, and the endless dynastic and family conflicts, all combine to make an accurate history of the time an almost impossible task. Herr Kugler, however, has triumphed over all these difficulties, and given us a book which, both for historical and geographical investigations, can hardly be too highly commended. The accompanying map of Syria in the time of the Crusades is especially valuable.

¹ The capitals are the ecclesiastical characters; the rest is filled up in civil Georgian.

² All ancient Georgian documents of any importance commence with the letter ⴁ ⴂ (=kh), it signifies "the name of God," or God willing.

³ The early kingdom of Kachetien is included in the present province of Tiflis.

⁴ The Helena here mentioned, is doubtless the daughter of the king of Kachetien, David II, 1604, and sister of Teimuraz I, 1605-1665. She first journeyed (about 1615) to Persia, and later (1624) to Jerusalem, where she founded the cloister of St. Nicholas, in which she became a nun under the name of Elizabeth, or according to some inscriptions, Anastasia. See Brosset's "Histoire de Georgie," ii, and *Bullet. "Hist. Philolog.,"* ii and iii.

In our last review we referred to the *Trench collection* of the historical works of the Crusades. It includes Baldricus, Guibert de Nogent, Albert von Aachen, and the new edition of William of Tyre. *Riant* has made a most useful collection of historical letters relating to the Crusades; he publishes some which have not before been printed, and points out the want of authenticity in others. The letter of Urban II, for instance, to Alexius, was written by a physician of Verona, in 1574.

A collection of documents relating to the Abbey lands of "Notre Dame de Josaphat," is important, and we must also notice a history of the bishopric of Bethlehem by *Lagénissière*, and *Pavie's* book on the part taken by Anjou in the Crusades. The controversy between *Sepp* and *Prutz*, which we before referred to, has led to more remarks and explanations from *Gildemeister*, *Sepp*, and *Röhrich*.

Of works on natural history we must mention *Böttger's* "Reptiles and Amphibia of Palestine," and *Klinggräff's* "Vegetation of Palestine;" the latter is chiefly botanical, but also touches upon the questions of grain cultivation and wood growing.

For meteorological information we have to consult various sources, and we find that the very severe winter of 1879-80 did a great deal of damage. Snow fell even in the valley of the Jordan. The reports from the Temple Observatory, give us the readings of the barometer, the rainfall, &c.

The question of what the future of Palestine is to be, becomes more urgent every year. We have before us many pamphlets on the resources of the land. As an example, we quote a few details from the reports of the German colony in Saronia. "The colony cultivates 800 acres (Ger.) of land of which 200 are vineyards and garden-land. An acre of land yields on an average 6 to 12 ctr. of good wheat, or 10 ctr. of barley. Half of the arable land is thus sown; on the rest they grow sesame, millet, potatoes, melons, &c. Potatoes planted on the 16th March, would be ripe by the 16th May, and an acre yields about 24 ctr.; a roll, six pounds, is sold for three piastres. A family could subsist well on forty acres of land. An acre of good land is worth from 10 to 12 napoleons, poor land from 3 to 6. The crop of cucumbers was so prolific that the price fell to the eighth of a piastre for six pounds. The German colony of Jaffa and a Jewish colony are flourishing equally well, but we have bad reports from the German colony at Haifa, their finances being at a low ebb.¹

The fact that the colonists are more or less dependent on the people of the land, and, even if badly treated, have great difficulty in obtaining justice from the authorities, must always be a stumbling block to the projectors of fresh schemes for colonization. Although (from his experience of thirty years) Herr Schick assures us that European influence has caused considerable progress, we still think that many things would have to be altered before colonists could feel really safe.

¹ I have no book by me with the foreign measures, and only know the German *Malter*, or bushel, as applied to wheat. I conclude the ctr. is about equal to our quarter, of which an English acre yields from five to six.

We have the usual reports from the various missions. Pastor Baarts gives us a description of his efforts in Lebanon, Damascus, and other places. We have also the report of the Zion school. From the Roman Catholic reports, we learn that their mission has forty establishments in the Holy Land, containing no less than 300 Franciscans, and that their schools are attended by 1,440 boys, and 1,122 girls.

Another pamphlet tells us of the 17 mission stations of the Patriarch, and a third paper mentions the principal Maronite priests. The work of the missions is having a very decided effect, not only in the towns, but throughout the whole country. Our readers have doubtless been interested in Klein's papers on the Fellahin; I must also call attention to Herr Goldziher's work on the Mahomedan saints. It is a theme which has a considerable bearing on the question of the Fellahin. One thing should be borne in mind, namely, that we cannot be certain that *all* present conditions were the same in earlier times.

To turn to art history we hear that the colossal statue found near Gaza (and of which various notices have appeared) has with much difficulty been transported to Jaffa, and thence to Constantinople. In reference to the mosaics found near the mount of Olives, I must mention that the name of the place, according to Herr Schick, is in Arabic, Khurbet Kukarki. Saulcy has described some other ancient art remains, and the question of the length of the cubit is again agitated.

Steck has written about the routes of the pilgrims, and Grundt gives some details of the Empress Helena's pilgrimage.

We can only touch here on the importance of the large work of Tobler and Molinier, and also that of Röhrich and Meissner calling attention to the first 42 pages of the latter (*Deutsche Pilgerreisen*), which contain a very good description of the pilgrimages after the time of the Crusades. A new edition of the "*Saint Voyage de Jerusalem*" contains an account of the pilgrim Ogur VIII of Anglure. Dr. Gildemeister has given us the most important journeyings of Kait Bey. Martinvo's publication, contains a phototype of the "*Tractatulus totius sacræ historie elucidatorius, &c.*," which Tobler considers to date from the year 1480 (not the phototype).

The English survey map is by far the most important publication of the year.

Here we may mention *en passant*, about a dozen books of travels in various languages, but of no great importance.

To turn to more scientific works, we have Herr Schultz's article on Jerusalem, for the second addition of Herzog's Encyclopædia. In so much that is good we are sorry to find that Herr Schultz tries to place Zion again on the south-west hill. M. Walther has written an "*Etude historique*" on the topography of ancient Jerusalem, on which subject we have also the valuable articles of Alten and Klaiber. With regard to the temple we are greatly pleased with Smend's treatise, and his commentary on Ezekiel. He suggests that the descriptions of the re-constructed temple, were written from plans which the prophet had before him. Grätz and Loeb have also papers on the second temple.

On the geography of Southern Palestine, many papers have appeared in the "Zeitschrift," amongst which we would call attention to Herr Schick's paper on the Frank mountain. Grätz tries to prove to us that the Nazareth of the New Testament was, according to the Talmud, on the site of the Galilean Bethlehem in the land of Zabulon; and that Migdal Nunyah of the Talmud corresponds to Magdala. Schultz's articles on Capernaum and Jericho are worthy of notice, as are also those on Hermon and Rama by Rüttschi and Mühlau, all in Herzog's Encyclopædia. A description of the Carmelites reaches us from the Holy Land, written by one of the order.

After the English memoirs, the third part of Guérin's works on Palestine contains quite the best description of Western Palestine extant. Speaking of the other side of Jordan, we have an essay of Klödeus, and an interesting notice by Egli, this latter gives the measurement of the Dead Sea, and the Sea of Tiberias. Lortet has added some valuable information to our knowledge of the Galilean Sea; it was certainly once connected with the Mediterranean, hence its saltness. Its fish and mollusca are very remarkable, and amongst them Lortet has discovered a new species. In Guérin's topography of ancient Tyre, there is particular mention of a causeway, which should run from the south-west point of the island, to Ras el-abyad. A French officer has given an account of the siege of Tyre in the "Revue des deux Mondes," and Lortet has discovered a station of the age of stone near Tyre. Zschokke has an article on the Maronites, and Merredaglia a pamphlet on Cœle Syria.

Lortet's accounts of his travels, though only extending to Beirut, are charming, and his descriptions of places, and of the various types of people, most accurate and clever.

According to C. von Scherzer's review, it is to be regretted that the Grand Duke Ludwig Salvator's work cannot be obtained by the general public. The theory of the Exodus has been again discussed. Doughty examined the ancient remains of Madain Saleh (Hidyer, near Medina), which resemble those of Petra, and then proceeded to Nej, and Dr. Soetbeer has been seeking the gold mines of Ophir.