

These are the principal references to Sanballat by Nehemiah, which show very clearly what he thought of the Jews of Jerusalem. His sons would probably be equally willing to checkmate that city.

II, 10: "When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel."

II, 19-20, "But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the servant the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? Will ye rebel against the King?"

20, "Then answer I them, and said unto them, The God of Heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build, but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial in Jerusalem."

IV, 1. But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews.

IV, 7. But it came to pass that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ahsodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made, and the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth, (8) And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it"

VI, 1. "Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates);

VI, 2. That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.

3. And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down; why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?"

4. Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort and I answered them after the same manner.

5. Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand;

6. Wherein was written, It is reported among the heathen, and Gashmu saith it, that thou and the Jews think to rebel; for which cause thou buldest the wall, that thou mayest be their King, according to these words.

7. And thou hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying: There is a King in Judah; and now shall it be reported to the King according to these words. Come thou therefore and let us take counsel together.

8. Then I sent unto him saying, there are no such things as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart.

12. And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me; for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

14. My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear."

It is stated by Gunkel that the Persian records quoted in the Book of Ezra, the genuineness of which in the Aramaic had been called in question, so exactly resemble the style and language of this letter of Jehoniah that the latter puts beyond any doubt the authenticity of the Aramaic parts of Ezra, so exactly do style and language correspond in both.