

THE NAZARENE MESSENGER.

"A ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes."

"Behold I send my messenger before thy face."

"Ye seek Jesus the Nazarene, he is risen." This same Jesus "shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

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The Gospel of the Nazarenes.

PART III.

When was the Greek Translation made.

The solution of this question is wrapped in still greater obscurity than the answer to the query regarding the time when the original Hebrew gospel of the Nazarenes was composed, but a careful examination of the ecclesiastical literature that has come down to us from the early centuries seems to point directly to the last quarter of the second century, as the period when the Gospel according to St. Matthew was translated and revised, so as to be acceptable to the developing of the Catholicism of the Gentile churches. Jerome, as we have already noticed, writing in the fourth century, says that it was uncertain who it was that first translated Matthew's Gospel into Greek. When Jerome made this statement, he evidently regarded the Greek Gospel of Matthew included in the canon, and the Hebrew Gospel of the Nazarenes, as derived from the same original, not-

withstanding the difference that he knew existed between them, but he nowhere charges the Nazarenes, as Epiphanius and others of the Catholic fathers do, with having in any way altered their copies, but on the contrary, he doubtless took the Catholic view, that though the Greek translation of Matthew had been altered by additions and erasements, that this had been done by the sanction of the fathers of the Catholic church, for reasons which they deemed good and necessary for the faith of that church. It is very probable that there never was a genuine translation of the Hebrew Gospel into the Greek or other language until Jerome, as he himself says, translated it into both Greek and Latin, and these translations were soon afterwards destroyed by the church of Rome, as heretical writings. It seems that the Nazarenes took the same grounds regarding the Hebrew Gospel that their Jewish ancestors did regarding the more ancient Hebrew scriptures, that is, that it would become corrupted by being