

# THE PRESBYTERIAN

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## JOTTINGS FROM JERUSALEM.

By REV. W. M. BLACK.

Although not intended for publication, we feel no hesitation in letting our readers share with us the pleasure to be derived from the perusal of the following extracts of a letter lately received from the Rev. W. M. Black of St. Mark's Church, Montreal. In a former letter Mr. Black makes mention of having received a copy of THE PRESBYTERIAN in Rome—probably the first copy that ever found its way there—and also of a letter from a Montrealer, which he read on the top of Mount Zion.—Ed.

Rome, 11th April 1874.

We left Naples on 28th January—fare 200 francs, \$40—had a severe storm for two days, but arrived safely at Alexandria. Saw Mr. Lang's brother there who was most attentive to us. After that spent a week in Cairo, doing the Mosques, Pyramids &c—thence by Rail to Suez, and by Canal to port Said on the Mediterranean, where we took Steamer for Jaffa. We had a smooth landing—a thing not always attained by Pilgrims,—entered into a contract with a Dragoman to take a party of eight—three English clergymen and three ladies, besides ourselves, at 16s. Sterling each, to Jerusalem, visiting places of interest there and living in Hotel; thence to Jericho, Jordan and the Dead Sea—tenting for three days, and to Bethlehem, where we lived with the monks. This programme we carried out, except that we did not go to Hebron, consequently I did not see the *Cave of Macpelah*. We spent three days at our own expense in a Hotel in Jerusalem, where we left the ladies, and then we five clergy entered

into a contract with another Dragoman to take us from Jerusalem to Beyrout visiting Nablous, Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee. This was the best part of the whole trip, and we spent two delightful days on the shores of the Lake where our Lord spent so much of His public ministry. Then on to Mount Carmel—where we were hospitably entertained by a monk—Tyre and Sidon. Unfortunately the weather was not so favourable as it might have been. We had fine warm weather at the Dead Sea and Galilee, but had two wet days on leaving Jerusalem, during which we could not pitch our tents. Our Dragoman had a good equipment. If you think Tourists through Palestine rough it on pork and beans you are very much mistaken. Our dinner consisted of soup, two courses of meat, pudding and desert, and our Arab cook would have done credit to the St. James' Club.

We had good horses, which you require, as the roads in many places are in a terrible state and even dangerous. It is sad to see the country so far behind, no roads, miserable hovels for the people to live in. Surely the land that used to flow with milk and honey seems under a curse. A new government certainly is required, and the sooner the Turks are removed the better. The three young clergy were nice young fellows. One of them was a son of the Tron Church Minister in Edinburgh who was at the Academy about the time I was, and afterwards took a first at Oxford. The two others were also Oxford men. We hurried on to Beyrout in time to visit Baalbec and Damascus, but as I have told you we could not for the snow. At Beyrout I preached for our missionary there. We had to remain nearly a week for the steamer and then sailed to Smyrna and Constantinople. I was delighted with the