

# 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."

Vol. 1.

Listowel, Ontario, Canada, April, 1888.

No. 3.

The Gospel of the Nazarenes.

PART II.

*When it was Written.*

The statement of Irenaeus that "Matthew wrote his Gospel when Peter and Paul were preaching the Gospel and founding the church at Rome," is rather indefinite, for Peter and Paul did not in unison originate the church in Rome. From Paul's epistles and other sources, there appears to have been several small communities separated by nationality, language and religious discords, and perhaps other local circumstances in the Roman metropolis, when Paul, about A. D. 58, wrote his epistle to the believers in that city. These it will be noted were "in the faith" before he wrote to them, and it was a number of years afterwards when he came in person to that city, so that Paul had really no part in the conversion and organization of the first believers in Rome. It is, however, probable that the company which met at the house of Aquilla and Priscilla, who

had been associated with Paul at Corinth and Ephesus, may have been converts of those believers, and these would naturally regard Paul as their father in the faith, and doubtless it was delegates from this party who met him at Appii Forum, and the Three Taverns when he was brought a prisoner to Rome. But the principle of the Nazarene faith was probably first introduced into the capital of the Roman Empire by some of the "strangers of Rome, both Jews and Proselytes," who heard Peter preach at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, and who having embraced his views, and being immersed in the name of Jesus, brought their religion back with them to the imperial city, were the means of inducing others to accept the same, and thus a congregation was formed which would naturally regard Peter as the founder of their Ecclesia, and that of Jerusalem as their parent, more especially as both on reasonable and historical grounds there is evidence that Peter himself visited Rome early in his missionary career, and