

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.

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PART I.
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The Language in which it was Written.

We now turn to the testimonies of the fathers. Papias, an elder in the ecclesia of Hierapolis, where the gospel was first introduced by some of the twelve apostles, and who was personally acquainted with the elders of the Nazarene ecclesias of Palestine, and who had seen and conversed with the apostles, writing towards the middle of the second century says: "Matthew composed the "Oracles of the Lord" in the Hebrew dialect, and each person translated it as he was able." And Irenaeus, the scholar of Polycarp, the bishop of Smyrna, who had in his early days seen and conversed with the apostle John, writing towards the close of the second century, says: "Matthew, indeed produced his Gospel written among the Hebrews in their own dialect, while Peter and Paul proclaimed the Gospel and founded the church at Rome."

Origen, an Egyptian scholar and teacher in Alexandria in the early part of the third century, but who was no friend to the Hebrew Nazarenes or their Gospel, speaking of the authenticity of the Gospel says: "The first is written according to Matthew, the same that was once a publican, but afterwards an apostle of Jesus Christ, who having published it for the Jewish converts, wrote it in the Hebrew." Eusebius, bishop of Caesarea, to whose church history we are indebted for much of the remains of early ecclesiastical records, writing in the early part of the fourth century says: "Matthew also having first proclaimed the Gospel in Hebrew, when on the point of going also to other nations committed it to writing in his native tongue, and thus supplied the want of his presence to them by his writings." Ecc. His. page 180. And regarding Pantaenus, a teacher in Alexandria in the early part of the third century, it is said that upon his visiting India, he there found his arrival anticipated by some who were acquainted with