

ON A LOST MS. OF DR. ADAM CLARKE'S.

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IN a recent number of *Notes and Queries* the inquiry was made by Mr. George Horner, the well-known Coptic scholar, as to the whereabouts of a Syriac MS. formerly in the possession of Dr. Adam Clarke, containing a Harmony of the Life and Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The inquiry was pertinent enough in view of the description, for a Harmony of Syriac Gospels, such as is here described, could hardly be anything except (*a*) the lost Harmony of Tatian, or (*b*) a copy of the Syriac Gospels containing a Passion Harmony, such as often occurs in the MSS. of the Harklean Version.

The question derives an added interest when we observe that, as will presently appear, Dr. Adam Clarke (who was no mean Orientalist and Biblical Scholar) regarded this MS. as the Gem of all his collection, and attributed to it an age of at least 1000 years.

The first steps in the search for the lost MS. were taken by Mr. Horner, who, observing that Dr. Clarke's MSS. were sold by Sotheby in 1836 (Monday, 26 June and three following days), examined the sale catalogues of the firm in question as preserved in the British Museum, and reported that it was purchased by a buyer of the name of Cochran; the price was £15 15s., as Mr. Guppy reports from an examination of the sale catalogue in question. Mr. Horner was, however, wrong as to the buyer, who is entered, as Mr. Guppy points out, in the Catalogue of the British Museum as Baynes. Apparently he confused the MS. with No. 138 described as the Four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles, which was sold to Cochran for £5 5s.¹ What became of the MS. is, at present, uncertain.

¹ This has an inserted note on p. 408 to the effect that it came from India.

"Codex MS. chartaceus in forma ut vocant 4^{to} continet quatuor Evangelia et Acta Apostolorum idiomate et characteribus Syriacus exaratus.

Mr. Horner writes me the result of his preliminary inquiries as follows :—

“Perhaps you have already seen a copy of the catalogue of Adam Clarke’s books which was published by John Murray in 1835, and compiled by his son J. B. B. Clarke of Trinity College, Cambridge. . . . I have of course asked the authorities at the Bodleian, and you must be well acquainted with all Cambridge Syriac stores. Sotheby can give no help at that distant date and Lawlor, their expert, died, as you probably know, some years past, though he was not an old man and could hardly have given any information.

“I believe that the present Thorp has nothing in common with the former bookseller who was buying Oriental books in the thirties, and I know nothing about the other buyer Cochran, mentioned in Sotheby’s catalogue at the British Museum. . . .”

Mr. Horner’s reference to the possibility of the lost MS. being at Cambridge does not become fruitful. There is only one MS. of Dr. Adam Clarke’s collection at Cambridge, it is a Lectionary in Syriac from Southern India of no greater age than the eighteenth century, and is labelled on the back

Evang. Chald. Malab. 246.

It is described as follows in the Cambridge Catalogue of Syriac MSS. :—

“Add. 1167, a late MS. of the XVIIIth century.

“On f. 6 b is this entry :—

“Baker, *Cat.* 135, No. 882.

311 (? 3·11) 1873.

“This is evidently No. 246 in the Catalogue of the MSS. of Dr. A. Clarke (1835), and No. 14 in the *Cat. of Baynes & Son* (1836), where it is priced £7 7s.”

The MS. came therefore from the Christians of St. Thomas in Southern India, etc., and is, no doubt, the one described in a foregoing note.

Venit ex India Orientali, ubi olim inserviebat usibus Ecclesiae Christianorum qui a St. Thoma denominantur, et in regionibus Malabaricis et Coromandelicis dispersi sunt, quique in sacris lingua Syriaca utuntur, Patriarchamque Antiochenum antistitem habent. Codex sane preciosus, cum hactenus nullos N. Foederis lingua Syriaca exaratos habuerimus codices. Character nostri codicis abludit aliquantulum a caractere impressorum librorum, quod forsan inde factum quia currente calamo scriptus est.”

Well! this cannot be what we are in search of, for our MS. is No. 447 in the sale catalogue of the Clarke MSS.

On turning to the catalogue in question (I use a copy in the Cheetham Library, Manchester) we find as follows :—

“No. 447. The Life and Passion of our Blessed Lord in Syriac. Imp. 4° in stamped Russia, pp. 368.

“Collected from the four Evangelists : one of the old Evangelistaria : it is a *kind of harmony of the Gospels*, giving our Lord's life in the words of the Evangelists.”

The following is a note in the handwriting of Mr. Edward Ives of Titchfield, Hants :—

“Turkey, July 2nd, Sunday, 1758.

“At a poor Christian town called *Camalisk Gawerkoe*, situated about six hours' journey S. of Mosul (ancient *Nineveh*), this MS. I bought of a Deacon belonging to the old Christian Church there ; and the town, he informed me, was once the seat of a Christian Bishop.”

“It is written in the ancient *Estrangelian* (a Syriac uncial) character, in a very bold hand : this MS. was much damaged and in ruins, but it has been most beautifully inlaid and arranged by Dr. Clarke, and now forms one of the best preserved and most ancient Syriac MSS. extant, being probably upwards of 1000 years old. It formerly belonged to Jacob Bryant.”

It appears then, that the list of owners of the lost MS. is a series :—

Edward Ives.
Jacob Bryant.
Adam Clarke.
? Baynes.

Bryant is a well-known scholar of the early nineteenth century, famous for his outspoken scepticism with regard to the siege of Troy, which he believed to be altogether mythical. He need not detain us, for we have a complete account of the journey of Edward Ives, on which the MS. was purchased, as well as some supplementary information concerning it, which will relieve us from the necessity of any further research. The title of the book is as follows :—

“A Voyage from England to India in the year MDCCLIV., etc. also,

"A Journey from Persia to England, by an unusual route, etc. By Edward Ives, Esq. : formerly surgeon of Admiral Watson's ship, and of His Majesty's Hospital in the East Indies.

"4° London (printed for Edward and Charles Dilly MDCCLXXIII.)"

The following extracts will suffice us :—

"p. 318. About five o'clock we came to a poor town inhabited by *Christians*, called *Camalisk Gawerkoe*, which, I was told, means *Christian Gawerkoe*. The chief of it informed me that it was once a city, the seat of a *Chaldean* bishop, and larger than Mosul is at present, but that it suffered great persecution, and was almost entirely destroyed, when *Mahometanism* first took place in this part of the world. . . .

"The present inhabitants (as we are informed) speak the original *Chaldean* languages, as well as the Turkish and Arabian. At a little distance from the town they show you the tomb of St. Barbara, who, according to the *Papas* account, died a martyr by the hand of her own father, a *Pagan*, because she persisted to believe in Jesus Christ. . . .

"Mr. Doidge bought of one of the inhabitants, the *Old Testament*, as he supposed, for the seller called it an history of the *Prophets*, and one of the Deacons sold me an old Manuscript, which on the word of a *Christian* he declared to be the *Gospel*. Of the truth of these assertions neither of us is the least able to judge, we only intended them as curiosities for our learned friends in *England*."

A foot-note is added to the following effect :—

"A Specimen of the MS. purchased by the author, having been since laid before Dr. *Morton* and Mr. *Ridley* of the Royal Society, they both decisively pronounced it to be the old or simpler *Syriac Version* of the *New Testament*.

"An extract hereof is in the annexed plate."

From the copper-plate in question it is easy to see that the MS. is a *Syriac Lectionary* of the usual type. No doubt the Harmony referred to is a description of the Gospels read through the circle of the year *plus* the Passion Harmony of the Harkleian Version (a version with which Mr. *Ridley* was familiar).

The script as shown in the plate is of no great age, nor need we spend any further time over the MS. and its present location. Mr.

Ives has told us all we need to know on the matter. Dr. Mingana, my colleague, to whom the neighbourhood where the MS. was purchased is quite familiar, knows the Church of St. Barbara quite well ; he has often ministered there and describes it as four hours' journey to the S. of Mosul. The name which Ives gives as Camalisk, Dr. Mingana says is Karmles.