TWO FAYOUMIC FRAGMENTS OF THE ACTS.

Part of the British Museum MS Or. 6948 consists of two vellum leaves which were bought from Mr Chester in 1879, but were not included in Mr Crum's Catalogue. They contain Acts 7:14–28 and 9:28–39 in the Fayoumic dialect: and any portions of the Bible in this dialect of Coptic are so rare that it seems worth while to publish them. This is particularly the case, as the MS has every indication of being very early: from the character of the writing it can hardly be later than the sixth century, and it might even be earlier. The ụ and the ọ have the peculiar Middle Egyptian forms mentioned by Mr Crum in No. 498 of his B. M. Catalogue: in the present instance the ọ particularly is curious, the loop being very small and high up in the line, and the stroke quite horizontal.

The dialect is a broad Fayoumic; λαναπ appears for πορευε, λατ for πατ, ἀλλα for ἀλλατ: but it is not quite consistent; the preformative of the future is twice ἐκ and once πα, ἀλα (a place) appears alongside of ἀλπικά, and ἀης and ἀρι both appear. Attention may be called to 9:38 ῥη = Sah. αξ, Boh. ọξ, emitere, shewing the etymological formation of the word from the causative ῥ and ῥ, ῥ; to 9:39 εὔταλεεε (unless a mere copyist's mistake) for εὔταση or εὔτασε εὔταση: to the omission of ɛ in 7:24 ἐπηνεαττεεεκα (but cf. 7:19 ἐφτ- γεεεκε): and to 9:31 ἐπτατάτη ( = Boh. θωτ νριτ).

The text is as follows:

ACTS VII

14. . . . . . . ἐκ τεγκνηπεία ττλε ἀτω [ὅλων ὑπ] ὑπ ἐκατεχα
15. ᾑ ὑπ ῶκαιβ ὕ[λ]νκ εκεε[ν] ἀτω ἀκεεον ἐπταγ ὑν ἦναι
16. ἀτω ἀτοτάτβοτ εὐχεεε ἀτκοετ γεε πει- γεον ἐταγγουν ὑπε αβραεε εα ὑττεεκ ὑγετ' ἐπτατον ἐποιηλι πειεερ ἐν εὐχεεε
17. κατὰ τον ἐταγγουν ὑπε πολαὶ ὑτε πελλαετ πνετα φ' ὅλκ ετβατε αβραεε: ἄγμαει ὑπε πνας ἀγμαει ὕλας ὑν κνεε
The text on the whole resembles that of the other Egyptian versions, and cannot be said to incline to either the Bohairic or the Sahidic more than to the other. The following points seem worthy of notice:

715. τάξις is omitted: as Tischendorf says, 'deleta est coniunctio ut verba ἐν ψυχαῖς ἐξομιλήσαντα cum κατέβη coniungentur—id quod ex LXX fluxit'. So D and the Syr. post: the present version goes still further in the same direction by the insertion of ἄγιος (= καὶ) before the words ἐν ψυχαῖς.

724. The present version, like D and the Ethiopic, gives the addition from the LXX, καὶ ἐκρυθέν αὐτῶν ἐν τῇ ἄμμῳ. The variant '38 years' is of course only the result of a dittography, as the word before ends with λ.
938. Apparently in the second clause of the verse the copula must have been ὁ ἐν. This reading does not seem to be represented in any Greek MS or version.

939. The Coptic represents ἴματια πόντα. Of this reading too there does not seem to be any other trace.

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