

THE MALULA DIALECT.

THE interesting paper in last *Quarterly Statement* by Dr. Bliss on the Syriac Dialect of Malula gives several indications of the archaic character of the ordinary Fellah dialect of Palestine to which I have lately again called attention.

As regards the phonology—

ك, pronounced ch (as in “chaff”), is the common Fellah pronunciation of the letter.

ق pronounced without guttural sound is also not uncommon among Fellahin.

ع for hamza, is also a Fellah change (“Lanberg,” p. 82, gives many examples).

ش, pronounced س, as in *sejratha*, “tree,” is the Fellah *sejerah* for *shejerah*, “tree.”

In grammatical forms—

o for 3rd person singular possessive is the Fellah و. *Abu*, “his father,” for literary *Ab-hu*.

Phash answers to the common Fellah *Fihâsh*.

Some of the words are also so used in Fellah speech, e.g., *Shenna*, “rock” (as in Hebrew); *Ho*, or *Hey*, “this”; *Blato* (Fellah, *Blâd*), “country”; *Blota* (Fellah, *Belled*), “village.”

The Fellah dialect, indeed, seems to have been but little affected by the literary Arabic, and retains much of its old Aramaic character.

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MAR TUKLA.

IN the paper on “Ma'lula and its Dialect,” by Mr. Bliss, he says, “Mar Tukla is said to have been a companion of St. Paul’s, the tradition is doubtless ancient.” (*Quarterly Statement*, April, 1890, page 83.) This would, I think, hardly lead one to understand that the story of St. Paul and Thecla, as related in the apocryphal “Acts of Paul and Thecla” (to which I imagine Mr. Bliss refers) was as old as 170 or 180 A.D., which is the date Dr. Salmon assigns to it.

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