

GEORGE B. WHITING

Jerusalem was at this date (1835) the centre of a great tumult among the people, the mountaineers of Palestine having suddenly risen in general rebellion against the government of Egypt. That government, however, maintained its supremacy, and the whole country of Syria, under the sway of the Pacha of Egypt, was soon disarmed and quiet. In 1836, the Committee, in surveying this field, were able to say, "Almost every change opens the door still wider for missionary work. Lebanon is completely open. Missionaries can go where they please. The Druse population in particular have been rendered accessible to the truth. They are frequently seen at the chapel of the mission." At Jerusalem, Mr. Whiting found much encouragement in the distribution of books and tracts among the pilgrims who visited the Holy City from all quarters. A school was also in operation there, and a few Moslem girls were learning to read and sew.

The station at Jerusalem was reported this year (1843) as having been suspended, the missionary, Mr. Whiting, having joined Mr. Thompson and Dr. Van Dyck at Abeih.

The years 1844 and 1845 were distinguished by a sudden and wonderful Protestant movement at Hasbeiya, a village at the foot of Mount Hermon, containing a population of about 4,000, composed of Greek Arabs, Maronites, Greek Catholics, Jews and Druses. In February, 1844, the brethren of Beirut were visited by a party of about 50 men of the Greek Arabs of Hasbeiya, who declared their intention to become Protestants, and asked for ministers and teachers. After much conversation with them, it was agreed that a native assistant should be sent to them, and that if his report of their case was favorable, the missionaries would visit them. The intelligence proved of so interesting a character, that in May, Messrs. Smith and Whiting proceeded to Hasbeiya, when they were convinced that they had been too slow to credit the sincerity of these professed Protestants. They amounted to about 150 men, besides women and children, and among them were some of the most respectable men in the village, and a large proportion of enterprising young men. -----In June, one month later, another missionary visited Hasbeiya, and wrote: "The Protestants hold out and increase in numbers. They are increasing in knowledge also; some of them quite rapidly. The school has 40 to 50 scholars, and we must establish another soon." In July Mr. Whiting wrote: "We cannot but feel much anxiety for this little band of Protestants, imperfectly instructed as they are, but up to this time, although very strong efforts have been made to induce them to return to the Greek Church, they have, with very few exceptions, remained firm in their adherence to the truth."

1824 Whiting, George B.

Died 1855.

See Monthly Vol. 1, No. 8.

CLASS OF 1824.

GEORGE B. WHITING.

Son of John and Lydia Leffingwell Whiting.

Born August 30, 1801.

Died November 8, 1855 at Beirut, Syria.

He graduated at Union College in 1824.

Married December, 1829, Matilda S. Ward, of Newark, New Jersey, and they went to Syria, as missionaries of the American Board. For twenty-five years, he labored with zeal and success, --of which the files of the Missionary Herald furnish abundant proof,--both at Beirut, Jerusalem, and other places, ending his life while engaged in the work. He was probably the first descendant of Thomas Leffingwell to visit the Holy Land.

The Leffingwell Record p. 84
Albert Leffingwell
Aurora, N. Y.
1897.

Rev. GEORGE B. WHITING, Miss'ry. 1824, of Syria, Asia, was a member of the Philomathean Society.
(Died: 1855)

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*Whiting, George Backus—b. Canaan, N. Y., Aug. 30, 1801; U. C., 1824; *Class of*
(2-); ord. evang. Cong., Aug. 5, '29; miss. A. B. C. F. M. Syria, '30-~~35~~; 1825
d. Beirut, Syria, Nov. 8, 1855. *Princeton Hist. Cat 1844.*