

The other manuscripts in the hands of the messenger from the Syrian Archbishop, although somewhat fragmentary, ^{WERE ALSO} of considerable interest. One was a commentary on Habbakuk; another was the Manual of Discipline of an ancient Jewish sect. It was not ^{long before} everywhere the original story that these manuscripts had been found in the monastery library, was withdrawn, and it was stated had been purchased from some Arabs who had discovered them in a cave in the desert.

The Isaiah Scroll was completely photographed at once. As scholars noted its close similarity to the text of Isaiah which is found in our present Hebrew Bible, some of them were thrilled at this remarkable evidence, carrying back our knowledge of the Hebrew text of Isaiah almost a thousand years, and showing how excellently on the whole our Biblical Hebrew text has been preserved by the great care of the scribes. Others, however, found it impossible to believe that the ^{de} manuscript was actually as old, as ^{THAT}. They recalled the words of the original messenger of the archbishop, that these scrolls had been found in the archbishop's library, and insisted that they were not ancient at all, but that they came from the Middle Ages. For a time it looked as if scholarly opinion would veer in this direction. The genuineness ^{ne} of the scrolls and their dating ^{have} been discussed by numerous scholars from many lands. Now, however, new facts have come to light which seem definitely to settle the matter.

It was very hard to do much investigating in Palestine immediately after the scrolls became known, since the land was then in the throes of war between the Jews and the Arabs. After the situation had quieted down, and a definite borderline had been established, it became possible to examine the cave from which the Bedouins said that the scrolls had been taken. Here many jars were found, together with hundreds of fragments of manuscripts, some of which demonstrably came from the very manuscripts which the Bedouins had sold. Archeologists, who have examined the jars found in the cave, declare that many of them are of a type which was not produced after 100 B.C. Paleographers have argued strongly for a similar date for most of the scrolls. Some of the linen cloth found in the cave was sent to the Institute for Nuclear Studies of the