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Missionary Letters of John Alexander Clark

A letter from Haifa, Palestine

Written by Sister Hilt, to Mrs. Clark

U.S.A., Utah

Dear Sister Clark in the gospel at first I asked to be excused since it very hard for me to write about the death of your son, John. We sympathize deeply with you since he has given life to our home, and now everything is like dead. I have had great joy with him and have not

spared time, but helped him in his learning of the languages and having neglected my own affairs that I am obliged to make up the neglected work now. Dear Sister the dollar which you mentioned in your letter, the doctor did not see, he supposes you have forgotten it and the money you sent John on the first of January I believe is 100 Francs which Bro. Clark received through a check. We would not have known it if he had not asked us to sign the check as it is requested by the bank here. Bro.

Clark should have received books and pamphlets from Bro. Naegle in Berne, Switzerland; which he should have paid the money during his sickness. The books came and after his death, they were returned to Berne. After our quarantine was over six weeks, I inquired at the post

office and by Mr. Dick and learned that the check was not received or acknowledged in London and thus we received English pounds for Bro. Clark's check and Mr. Dick has given us the check, enough of that. Your

Dear Son was always very silent and I asked him frequently about things because he was strange here, he always gave me for an answer that "he was no longer a child, that he had the Priesthood and he knew what to do" and our affection to him has often cost me tears. The cause of his answer Since the Arabic language is very difficult to learn I permitted him to associate with many Arabs in our house, but since the small pox was very prevalent in the city it was strictly forbidden to have

any intercourse with any people from the city I warned your son and bade him be careful, associate only with the teacher with which he was taking lessons and return home immediately but he would not be warned, thus it happened that Bro. Clark went to the city daily to take a

lesson from his teacher at 1:30 p.m. The 30th of Jan. he went there and arranged to pay twenty francs to his teacher, but he also went to the houses to distribute tracts so I am told by an Arab friend of mine also

that he was told not to go in the houses since the smallpox was there. He said that he was not afraid of anything. The night following he called me as he was sick. I had to make him peppermint tea that he was

obliged to through up everything he complained of stomachache and told me it was a year ago today since he was sick in America. Various