

Palermo, April 30th,
1878.

My dear Müller,

Many thanks for your hints
on my great subject of ~~paradise~~
~~fit~~ now. How ~~at~~ one must be
~~so~~ careful to avoid accidental
likehoods. E.g. I have a paper here
part of which is printed in the
local dialect, and I sometimes
try to make a bit out. Vallis
longa in Sicilian has become
Vaddalunga. How tempting to
see a bit of Arabic in the first
half of the word! But I find that
this change is the regular rule of
the dialect, as bedda for bellus.
Cf. lyssa & l'odduco, Agidius

and Giles, de de.

I can't hear of any place in Sicily where any kind of Arabic is spoken, unless you call either me to call Malta a part of Sicily. (How things turn about.) Charles the Fifth gave that island to be a bulwark of Europe against Asia; the Jew uses it as a means to bring in Asia to coerce Europe.) I asked A. Holm, the Professor here, who is writing a big Geschichte Siciliens to go down to the coming of the Saracens, and one or two others who ought to know. The answer always is that Albanian is spoken (through late settlements) in several places, I believe four, but no form or variety of Arabic

anywhere.

There are one or two 12th cent. inscriptions in the museum which, besides Latin, Greek, and ~~Hebrew~~ Hebrew ~~Arabic~~ Arabic, have a Hebrew version, in the modern square character. One commemorates the mother of a chaplain of King Roger. Why should she be chosen to the Jews? The documents in the royal chapel, which are of extraordinary interest, show that there were Arabic speaking Christians in Sicily, but surely not Hebrew speaking Christians. Roger is in ~~an~~ an two or three inscriptions and documents drawn by other people or Rex Sicilie et Italie; but I cannot

find that he ever used any such title
himself. It reminded me of the
Imperial Diet in the last cent.
When they address the Emperor as
Kaiser, while he modestly calls
himself erwählter Kaiser.

We leave this place tomorrow,
at least I hope so; for we were
to have started on Sunday; as
I set up a fresh cold. But I
hope to be in Oxford for Trinity
Monday, having killed two geese.
I have Merrill, Teormile, Ceteris,
and Syracuse to see, if I find
myself up to it.

I see you are preaching about
very hard things. I always
shut up when I see to, das,
or he followed by an adjective

without a substantive. (I don't
count das Publikum, which
I suppose has become a substan-
-tive.) So I should shrink from
"The Perception of the Infinite."
But I see that you have made
a grand subject out of it.
It is a queer feeling here in
Perthmos and still more up
at Soluntum to feel that one
has got into the land of Seneca,
and that one might help dig
up the foundations of the house
of Beal. I suppose you will
perhaps come to the phenomenon
of a people in many ways highly
civilized burning their children
to Moloch. Did Gelson really
make it an article of his duty

with Carthage, that they should
leave off the practice? If he did,
such an interference with the religion
of an independent people seems
quite unique.

Yours very truly

Edward Freeman