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A Christianized Tribe of Jews near the Caspian Sea. — A peculiar sect of the Greek Catholic Church live in the neighborhood of the Caspian Sea under Russian dominion, and bearing the name of Shabotnics [Subbotniki]. The following account, published in the *Israelite*, is the first correct and reliable statement given of them. It is by a Shabotnic [**Subbotnik**], who became a Jew:

Under the Czar Alexis Michaelowicz [Alexey Mikhailovich Romanov] (1645 to 1676) the Jews of Russia were exposed to great persecutions, and many of them, in order to escape certain death, joined outwardly the Greek Catholic Church, while in heart they remained faithful to the Jewish religion and practiced in secret Jewish rites. To escape, however, the dangers connected with such practices, they concluded to seek more distant regions. They selected for their settlement the region between the Don and Volga, in the neighborhood of the Caspian Sea, where, in the government of Simbirsk, Samaresk [Samara], Savatow [Saratov] and Woronesh [Voronezh], about 7,000 Shabotnics are still living, of whom, however, only 2,000 to 3,000 are descendants of the immigrants. The balance consist of original Christians [Molokane], who joined them, as they considered the celebration of Saturday more in accordance with the Bible. In the course of time, by their exclusion from their former coreligionists, and by the suffering they experienced for disagreeing with the State Church, they lost more and more of the Jewish religion, a decay which intermarriages with foreign elements had largely augmented. Still their origin was remembered in most families, either by verbal or written tradition. So the reporter of these facts is able to give the names of his Jewish forefathers, whose seventh descendant he is.

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