

IL-MALTI U L-GĦARBI

Hafna fost il-kittieba ta' ftit żmien ilu kienu jaħsbu li l-malti ma huwiex għarbi safi; iżda għandu aktar mill-finiċju. Il-lum, wara l-kotba ta' GESENIUS u ta' STUMME, hekk il-Barranin, kif ukoll xi kittieba ta' "IL-MALTI," iżommu li l-malti hu djalett għarbi bħal dak ta' l-Affrika ta' fuq (Tripolitania, Tunes, Algier, Marokk). Dawn il-granet weqgħet f'idejja l-Enciklopedija Kattolika Ingliża u taħt l-isem "Malta" (Vol. IX, pp. 574-576) insib miktub dan, li huwa xieraq li kull qarrej ta' "IL-MALTI" jkun jaf:

"The principal and almost the only monument of the Arab dominion is said to be the Maltese language, which is Semitic and has much in common with Arabic. The weight of the best authority seems, however, to incline decidedly to the view that the present Maltese language is directly descended from the Phoenician with but little modification by the Arabic. The Arabs, in fact, seem to have left the Maltese very much to themselves and to have interfered with their language as little as they interfered with their religion and their popular customs," p. 575^a.

Il-Kittieb ta' dan l-artikolu huwa JAMES KENDAL, S.J., li kiteb ukoll fl-Enciklopedija fuq: Bulawayo, Rhodesia, South Africa. Dan il-Vol. IX gie maħruġ fis-sena 1913.

P. KENDAL ma qalilniex min huma "the best authority," u dak li qal li l-Għarab hallew lill-Maltin għalihom jaqbel hāfna ma' dak li kiteb ma ilux il-Prof. T. ZAMMIT:

"Hawn Malta, art żgħira u mwarrba, [is-Saraċini] ma wrewx u la għerfhom u anqas snienhom. Ftit huma l-hwejjeg li hallew, u la bini, u la fuħħar u anqas flus. Dan juri li kienu ftit u ma ridux hliet li Malta ma' taqāx f'idejn haddieħor." (*Il-Gżejjer ta' Malta u l-Ġrajja Tagħhom*). Valletta, 1925 p. 18.

P. Serafin M. Zarb, O.P.