

A Journey to Jerusalem.

BY SIR GEORGE NEWNES, BART.



From a

JERUSALEM.

[*Photograph.*



ERUSALEM within the walls is a city of narrow and dirty lanes—the widest fifteen feet across. Rubbish heaps every few yards, and the smell is not the odour of sanctity.

The houses are dark dens, and it would be difficult to imagine life spent under more gloomy and less salutary surroundings.

From all this squalor we come to the finest of all Mohammedan mosques, the Dome

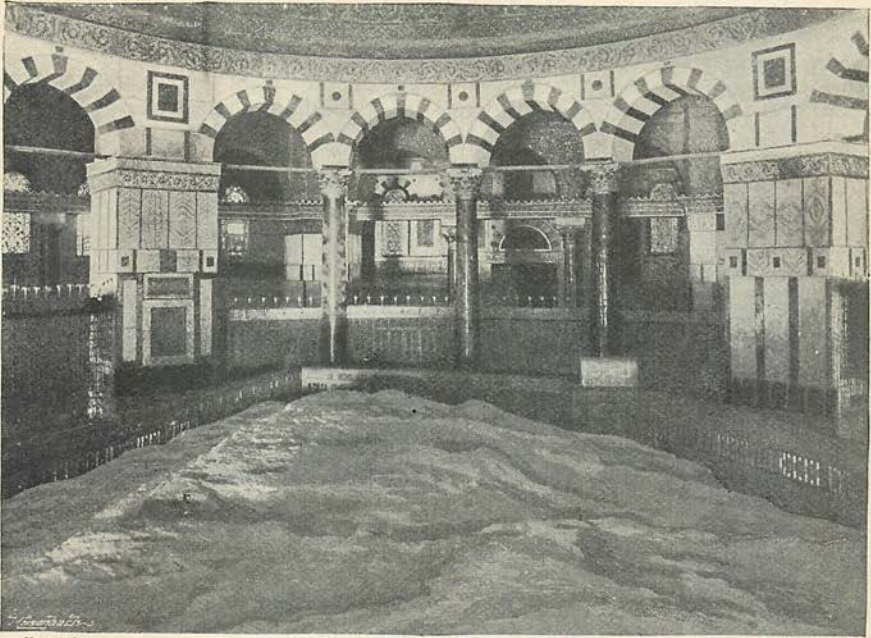
of the Rock, or the Mosque of Omar. In the centre of the church is the rock of Mount Moriah, on which David sacrificed oxen, etc., to stay the plague. It is a wonder that modern Jerusalem is ever free from plague. The Mosque of Omar has a magnificent central dome, and all around are beautiful embellishments of mosaic, of gold, silver, crystals, and precious stones. The rough, natural rock in the centre is a strong contrast to the costly



From a

THE MOSQUE OF OMAR.

[*Photograph.*



From a]

INTERIOR OF MOSQUE OF OMAR—THE ROCK.

[Photograph.

artistic designs surrounding it. From this rock Mohammed is said to have ascended to Heaven, and the holes are shown which the Angel Gabriel's fingers made when he held down the rock, which otherwise would have gone up with the Prophet. The hairs of Mohammed's beard are also exhibited to the credulous visitor. But apart from the mythical legends, the Mosque of Omar is a splendid structure.

It stands on the site of Solomon's Temple, and is no unworthy successor.

When the Sultan of that day saw it upon its completion, he was so struck by its beauty that he ordered the architect to be killed, so that he might not build another like it anywhere else. It seems in bygone times in the East it was no uncommon thing to put out the eyes, cut off the hands, or take the life of a man who had designed a speci-

ally beautiful building, so as to insure its not being duplicated.

One would have thought the architect's profession would be a deserted one, or else that those who followed it would make their structures as ugly as possible. In the rock of Mount Moriah are caves said to be the praying places of Abraham and of Solomon.

A stone slab in the floor is from the ruins



From a]

JEWS' WAILING-PLACE.

[Photograph.

of the Temple, and has had nineteen nails driven into it. Only three are left, and your guide informs you very solemnly that when these three are gone the end of the world will come. If you put backsheesh upon

are said to be by some all that is left of the Temple of Solomon, and every day, but especially on Friday, the Jews come and groan and lament in heartrending tones that their beautiful house has been taken from



From a

MOUNT ZION.

[Photograph.

this sacred stone it will insure your going to Heaven. Two of our party took the insurance policies, but the other three declined, and their future welfare is consequently very uncertain.

Near the Mosque is a building said to be a part of the Temple. It has huge pillars which would take three men to span round.

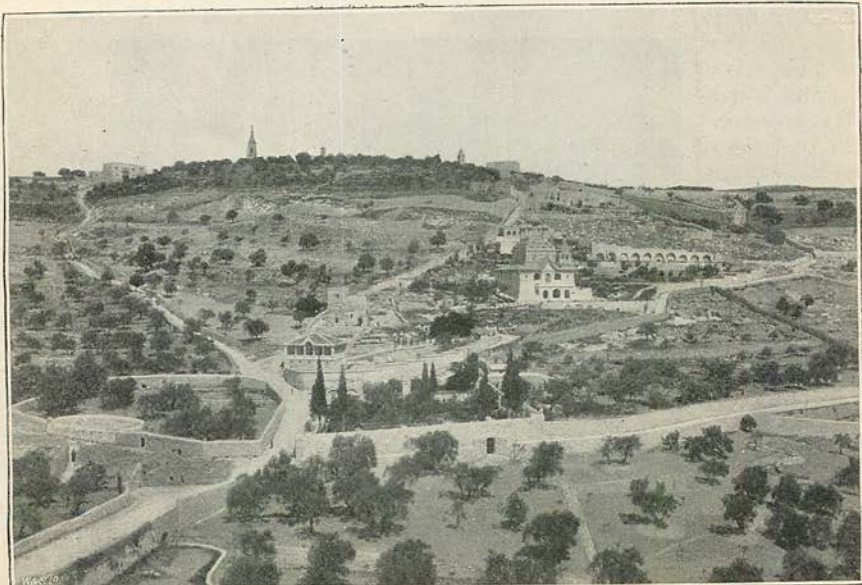
Here it was that Christ entered the Temple when he overthrew the money-changers.

Passing from this through more narrow, dirty, and perfumed streets, we come to the Jews' wailing-place. The stones of the wall

them, and pray that they may be restored to their kingdom. We make our way from here, ascending Mount Zion, and near the top obtain a splendid view of historical places.

Opposite to us is the Mount of Olives, with the Garden of Gethsemane at its base. To the right is the Hill of Offence, where Solomon built an idolatrous house opposite the Temple of the Lord.

Beneath it runs the Brook Kedron, and close by are the village and Pool of Siloam. In the distance are the mountains of Moab,



From a

MOUNT OF OLIVES.

[Photograph.



From a]

POOL OF SILOAM.

[Photograph.

the reply comes that the spot is a month off. Just as in England we say that a place is ten minutes' walk, so in the East you are told that it is a fortnight or a month, etc., away.

We now take carriages and drive to Mount Calvary.

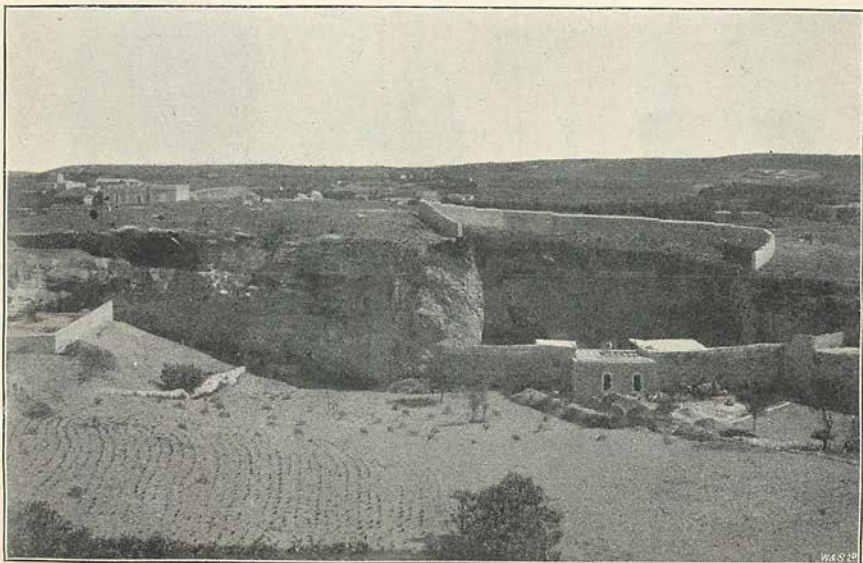
There is a green hill far away,
Without the city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.

It is a strange sequel to the greatest tragedy the world has ever known, that now the spot on which it was enacted is a Moslem burying-place, where sleep the bodies of those who believe not Jesus. The tomb where Christ was buried for three days is pointed out—but, like much else that is shown in Jerusalem, it is conjecture rather than certainty. Calvary itself is located in other parts of the city, notably in the Holy Sepulchre, by those who do not believe in the "green hill far away"; but General Gordon and many authorities place their faith in the latter.

It is said that some Englishman instructed his agent in Jerusalem to buy the "green hill" at any price, but the reply was given that there was not money enough

and beyond these the great Arabian desert. The direction in which Babylon lay is pointed out to us, and when we asked how far it was,

man instructed his agent in Jerusalem to buy the "green hill" at any price, but the reply was given that there was not money enough



From a]

CALVARY (THE "GREEN HILL FAR AWAY").

[Photograph.

in the world to buy Mount Calvary; and it is a Mohammedan cemetery! Returning from this sacred spot, we met a Turkish regiment marching into the town.

Asking what their mission was, we were told that these Mohammedan soldiers had come to Jerusalem and Bethlehem to prevent Christians from fighting and killing each other at Christmas time in the Holy Sepulchre, and in the church where is the Manger in which Christ was born.

It seems that the different sects of Christians have fierce rivalry at Christmas and Easter, as to which shall get



From a]

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE.

[Photograph.

first into the sacred places. Greeks, Armenians, Copts, Abyssinians, Russians, and Roman Catholics, all engage in this unholy strife in holy places. Last Easter a priest who was trying to separate them was shot dead on the steps leading down to the Manger at Bethlehem. The rivalry between the Greek and Latin Christians is such that the lamps and the pictures in the cloister adjoining the sacred Manger are subjects of con-

tinuous strife, each trying to put up more than the other. The Manger itself is surrounded with candles and crucifixes, and



From a]

GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE.

[Photograph.



OLD OLIVE TREE IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE.
From a Photograph.

nothing is left to indicate that the place was ever a stable. A Moslem soldier keeps guard over the Cradle of our Lord!

Bethlehem is six miles from Jerusalem, and to-day the principal industry is the manufacture of olive-wood and mother-of-pearl articles, most of them being from designs representing the life of Christ and the Virgin Mary.

Having thus seen the birthplace of the Saviour, we make a pilgrimage to the scene of His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. This is outside the walls of Jerusalem, opposite the Golden Gate.

This gate is walled up in solid stone, and the Mohammedans believe that when it is opened the rule of their Prophet will come to an end. The Garden of Geth-

semane is surrounded and intersected by iron and wooden palings, which rob it of nearly every natural feature. There is, however, the old olive tree under which Christ passed through His hour of agony and bloody sweat.

Near by is the spot where the disciples slept, and were rebuked because they could not watch with Him for one hour.

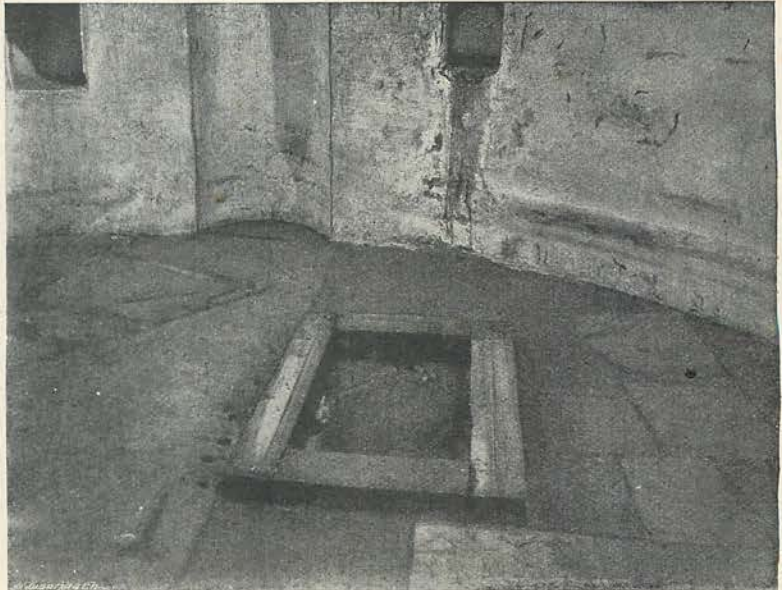
A terrible sight is witnessed as you enter and leave the sacred garden. A number of lepers exhibit their dreadful deformities, to excite pity and extract money.

From Gethsemane we ascend the Mount of Olives, which justifies its name to this day, as olive trees grow in mature profusion around its sides.

At the summit is the Church of the Ascension, and near by a high tower on the spot whence it is supposed Jesus ascended into Heaven. This has been built by Russian Christians.

From the higher balconies of the tower a splendid prospect rewards the trouble of climbing. The mountains of Moab form a strong background to a beautiful panorama. The village of Bethany is immediately below us, and far beyond is the plain of the River Jordan, the fertile Promised Land on which Moses was permitted to look from the rugged and lofty Moab hills, which were the scene of the termination of his journey through the desert, and of his eventful life.

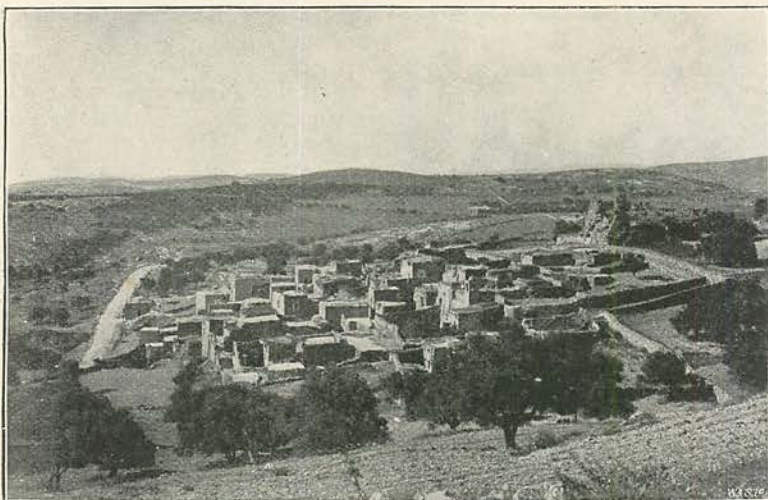
The Dead Sea with the sun upon it and



From a

SPOT OF THE ASCENSION.

[Photograph.]



From a]

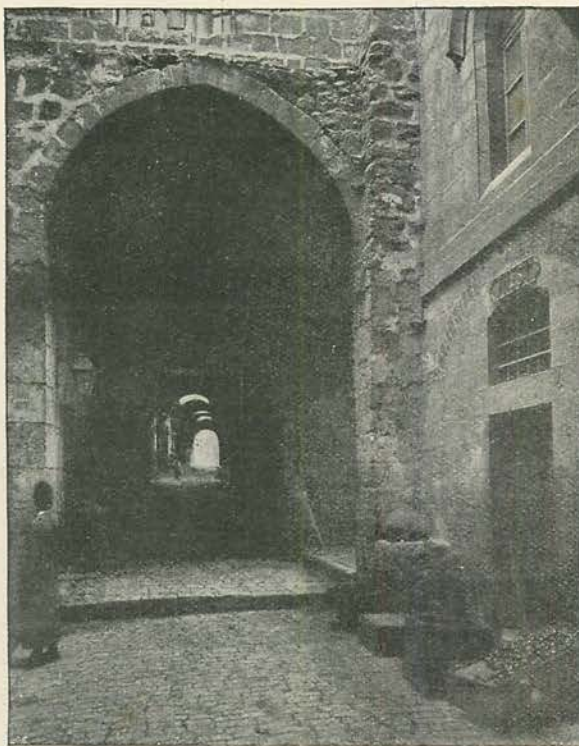
BETHANY.

[Photograph.

twenty miles distant looks like a clear Scotch lake. But as there is no outlet at the southern end, it forms the most extraordinary sheet of water in the world. It is 1,300ft. below the level of the Mediterranean, and is the lowest spot on earth.

The amount of salt in it is greater than in any other sea five times over, and if you put your hand in, it will become crystallized in a few moments. The journey from Jerusalem to Jericho, the Jordan, and the Dead Sea is a long one, and the roads rugged, but it is well worth doing. But we are supposed to be on the tower of the Church of the Ascension, and we must descend and visit a place which is one of the most interesting in the Holy Land. It is the scene of Pontius Pilate judging between Jesus and Barabbas as to who should be set free. The Pretorium is now the site of a Roman Catholic convent, and the alleged identical stone floor is shown where Christ commenced His journey to Calvary by way of the Street of Pain, and went through the fourteen stations of the cross. The Via Dolorosa is now a dark and dirty alley, at corners of which on stone slabs the different stations of the way of the cross are marked. The house of Dives is shown, and the place where Lazarus sat. If one could believe that all that is

told is authentic, it would indeed be awe-inspiring to pass through these scenes of solemn Biblical history. Unfortunately, authorities differ as to where many events took place, and so there is often a feeling of uncertainty.



From a]

THE VIA DOLOROSA.

[Photograph.