

and the proportions of the mighty dome covering the sacred rock, all lend an impression of dignity and majesty to the holy hill, especially when contrasted with the surrounding squalor. The Stables of Solomon, as they are called, under the south-east corner of the area, show how the elevation was carried out over the lower ground for more than a hundred yards on arches resting on rows of heavy masonry, a stupendous and costly work. When admitted to all that remains of the place of ancient Jewish worship by a scowling devotee of the False Prophet, I could heartily sympathize with the Crusaders. It is a shame that the insolent Moslem should have been permitted for so many centuries to desecrate the ancient shrine and lord it over the disciples of every Christian creed at the cradle of the Christian faith.

The recently discovered Pool of Bethesda, behind the Church of St. Anne, is, in all probability the true one. Its great depth below the present surface and its five arched recesses seem to support the claim made for it. The passage of Scripture referring to the miracles performed at it is on the gateway in all the principal languages of the world from Hebrew to Chinese.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is one of the chief objects of interest to the pilgrims of the Greek and Latin faith who throng the city. And it has a certain interest from the long history of religious observance which lies behind it. But very few intelligent Protestants now believe that either Calvary or the Sepulchre was here, much less that Eden and the grave of Adam and the centre of the world are all in this place.

Among many scenes rich in hallowed memories, three impressed me more than the rest and have left tender recollections behind. One was that spot in the Church of the Nativity, in Bethlehem, which is marked by a silver star in the rock and the simple inscription, "Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christus natus est." The birth of the Holy Child certainly took place not far from this place. To every believer in a real incarnation this is holy ground, and without a real incarnation we have no gospel which is worth preaching