

An inscription found on a stone at one of the principal gates, some fifty years ago, records that "This church of blessed John Baptist was restored by Arcadius the son of Theodosius." That was about A.D. 395, seventy years after the establishment of Christianity.

On the establishment of the Moslem Empire in the seventh century, the building was equally divided between the Christians and the Mohammedans; but, in less than another century, the latter, in defiance of a solemn treaty, seized the whole of it.

Through a trap-door in the roof of one of the bazaars which adjoins it, we climbed up on the roofs to see a doorway to the mosque which is built up with modern buildings. It is a portal of the early Christian period, richly ornamented with scrolls



ENTERING A MOSQUE.

and foliage, and having over its central arch a cross and the following inscription:

Η ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΑ ΣΟΥ, ΧΕ, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΑ ΠΑΝΤΩΝ ΤΩΝ ΑΙΩΝΩΝ, ΚΑΙ Η
ΔΕΣΠΟΤΙΑ ΣΟΥ ΕΝ ΠΑΣΑ ΓΕΝΕΑ ΚΑΙ ΓΕΝΕΑ

"Thy kingdom, O Christ, is an everlasting kingdom, and Thy dominion endureth throughout all generations."

How wonderful that such an inscription should have been allowed to remain on this great Mohammedan mosque for twelve hundred years! What pledge and prophecy it has maintained, through all the centuries of desecration of His sanctuary, and despoliation of His people, and yet there shall be an end. He reigns, and He must reign. Despite frenzy and fanaticism,