

The Procession in the Streets of Jerusalem

Saint Matthew — Chap. 21

Et quum intrasset Jerosolymam, commota est universa civitas dicens : Quis est hic?

11. Populi autem dicebant : Hic est Jesus propheta a Nazareth Galilææ.

AND when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?

11. And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.



The Procession in the streets of Jerusalem.

J.-L.

The streets of Jerusalem are nearly all steep, being built along the flanks of the four hills on which the town is situated. These hills have been worked as quarries from the very earliest times, first for the construction of the Temple and then for the walls surrounding the suburbs round about Mount Sion and Mount Moriah. For the various palaces erected between the time of David and that of Herod, which were built with great lavishness of material, these same quarries were drawn upon, so that beneath the courts of the Temple, and, indeed, under the whole of the town of Jerusalem, are vast subterranean spaces, which may be said to bear a distant resemblance to the catacombs of Paris. All these underground vaults and passages were utilized in

times of war and also during the risings so frequent at Jerusalem during the latter days.

At the present day the only caves that can be identified are those known as the Tombs of the Kings, the entrance to which is near the Gate of Damascus; but that the other quarters of the town also had their subterranean grottoes has

been abundantly proved in the course of the excavations necessitated by all the rebuilding which has been going on.

The Mishna tells us that Jewish women retired to caves beneath the Temple for the birth of their children, and that the little ones born in them were brought up in these retreats until they were seven, or, according to other accounts, even thirteen years old.