

mere "inventions," pure fiction. This is one of the things that sadden us, and arouse our indignation, the lying legends and cheats and impostures, that are mixed up with these venerable, revered, tremendous associations. Thus, in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre are shown the Stone of Unction, where the body of our Lord was laid for anointing; the column of the scourging, the place of the division of the vestments—the centre of the earth—the tomb of Melchizedek; nay, the very place where Adam was buried!

And now we come to the most interesting religious edifice in the world, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which covers all the scenes made memorable by the crucifixion, entombment, and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The Church itself is a venerable structure, the joint property of the Greeks, the Roman Catholics, the Armenians, and the Copts. The open court in front, paved with common flagstones, presents a novel and most extraordinary scene. It is the gathering place of pilgrims from every land. There they are in their different costumes, Latin, Armenian, Russian, Greek, and Coptic priests and friars. Turks with their flowing robes and white turbans, wild Bedouins of the Desert, ragged Arab women, and beggars, halt and blind—a motley throng presenting a motley appearance. It is the market-place for the sale of trinkets, rosaries, amulets, pictures, and curiosities. The venerable structure of Romanesque architecture, with its grand old façade—dilapidated though it be—its stones time-worn and dingy with the dust of ages, nevertheless presents a pleasing appearance. The two wide doorways are elaborately ornamented with mouldings and richly-sculptured architraves, representing Christ's triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. Just inside the principal entrance are stationed Turkish soldiers to keep the peace between the rival sects and nationalities that visit the sacred shrine and prevent the Christians from devouring each other over the very scene of the death and burial of the Prince of Peace. And now we stand upon the very spot around which have centred the hopes and affections of millions of hearts through all the Christian centuries. Although such great authorities as Robinson, Ferguson, Burckhardt, and others, throw doubt upon the tradition, yet I accept the spot, covered by this pile of ecclesiastical buildings, as the *locale* of the most stupendous events that ever occurred on the face of the earth.