

or in part, the quadrangular enclosure on which rests the modern *Haram esh-Sherif*, or Noble Sanctuary of the Mohammedans. The level area on which Herod's temple upreared its polished walls and golden gates, marble pillars and glittering roofs, had been first artificially prepared by Solomon, and afterwards enlarged, in fact, doubled, by Herod. It was surrounded by a massive wall, in the estimation of Josephus,<sup>4</sup> "the most prodigious work that was ever heard of by man." Towards the north end of this area—according to Warren, "on the raised platform, paved with stone, from which now rises the well-known Mosque Kubbet es-Sakhra, with its beautifully-proportioned dome;" according to Ferguson,<sup>5</sup> more towards the south-west part of the Haram—the temple, with its cloisters and courts, stretched from east to west. It also was encompassed by a wall or "partition made of stone all round, whose height was three cubits," of "elegant construction," and having pillars standing upon it at equal distances from one another, declaring the law of purity, "some in Greek and some in Roman letters, that no foreigner should go within that sanctuary."<sup>6</sup> One of these pillars, with the above inscription, was recently found by M. Clermont Ganneau when inspecting an old wall near the north-west angle of the Haram.<sup>7</sup> The temple proper, or "house," was erected on the last of a series of ascending terraces, reached by successive flights of steps—an architectural device not wholly dissimilar to that employed by the Chaldeans<sup>8</sup> in constructing the temple of the Seven Spheres at Birs Nunrûd, and that of Jupiter Belus at Babylon, in the former of which seven, and in the latter eight, of such terraces conducted to a summit crowned with a shrine. As to outward appearance, the sacred edifice on Mount Moriah, if Josephus<sup>9</sup> may be credited, "wanted nothing that was likely to surprise men's minds or their eyes, for it

<sup>4</sup> *Antiquities*, xv. 11, 3.

<sup>5</sup> Smith's *Dictionary of the Bible, Arts*, "Jerusalem" and "Temple."

<sup>6</sup> Josephus, *Wars of the Jews*, v. 5, 2.

<sup>7</sup> Warren, *Underground Jerusalem*, p. 75.

<sup>8</sup> Budge, *Babylonian Life and History*, p. 23.

<sup>9</sup> *Wars*, v. 5, 6.