

all its dust is precious, yet most of all does the Christian long to walk the streets of Jerusalem, the holy city, because here were spent the last hours of the mortal life of the glorious Redeemer, the Son of God and the Son of Man! We envy not him who feels no kindling of soul as, in imagination, he visits the scenes consecrated by the Saviour's presence; whose heart does not burn within him as, in fancy, he accompanies the chosen three as they ascend with their master the Mount of Transfiguration, or retire to the Garden of Gethsemane.

The events which immortalize the Jerusalem of old are, to the Christian, the earnest of the joys he hopes to possess in the new Jerusalem above.

But a visit to modern Jerusalem must awaken emotions of sadness, for, instead of a city magnificent in its splendor, as was the ancient city, it presents a most poor, dirty, and miserable appearance.

Ancient Jerusalem is thought by some to have been founded by Melchisedec, king of Salem; if this be true, it was one of the oldest cities in the world. The first certain knowledge we have of it is when Joshua led the twelve tribes to the promised land. It was then in the possession of the Jebusites. Only a part of it was conquered by Joshua. The place was then called Jebus, and the conquered portion was inhabited by the tribes of Benjamin and Judah. It thus remained till king David's time, when it was taken by that brave and war-like prince. He made Mount Zion his chosen residence, expending much labor and skill in fortifying it. Here was his palace; and here, too, he found his grave, so that Mount Zion was appropriately called "the city of David."

The palmiest days of Jerusalem, as regards earthly splendor, were in the reign of Solomon, who greatly extended and beautified it. He built on Mount Moriah, one of its three hills, the magnificent temple, so much the pride of Israel; and he made the city so rich and splendid that it had no equal in the then known world. Those were its most glorious times. Then all the Jewish nation used to go up to worship at its temple, and hold their solemn feasts within its sacred walls. But these times of pomp and splendor lasted not long. Scarcely had Solomon been laid in his grave, ere its glory began to decline. In punishment for the sins of its inhabitants, God sent