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THE BEAUTIFUL GATE OF THE TEMPLE.

A CHAPTER IN APOSTOLIC CHURCH HISTORY.

BUILT of immense blocks of beautiful white limestone from the royal quarries under Bezetha¹, a hill in the north of Jerusalem, and gleaming with gold and marble, the temple of Herod must have been a splendid spectacle. When Christ stepped within its precincts, at the beginning of His public ministry, six and forty years had passed since the Judæan king, in the eighteenth year of his reign, laid its foundation, as much for the honour of himself as for the glory of Almighty God. It stood upon the site formerly occupied by the temples of Solomon and Zerubbabel, the threshing floor of Araunah, upon the summit of Mount Moriah, where Jehovah had appeared to David.² According to Maimonides, this was the exact spot on which Abraham had reared his altar when about to offer Isaac, and Noah his when he issued from the ark, the precise locality in which Cain and Abel had presented their gifts unto Jehovah, and Adam had first adored the Unseen. More reliable is the information supplied by recent explorations,³ that to it corresponds, either in whole

¹ Warren, *Underground Jerusalem*, p. 60.

² 2 Chron. iii. 1.

³ Warren, *The Recovery of Jerusalem*, p. 8; Conder, *Handbook to the Bible*, p. 359; King, *Recent Discoveries on the Temple Hill*, p. 192; Schürer, in *Riehm's Handwörterbuch*, p. 1,637.