

beautiful of all Moslem shrines." We have entered the north-west corner of the Temple area, and the first thing that strikes us is the magnitude of the sacred enclosure. It is an oblong quadrangle, extending about fifteen hundred feet on the east and west sides, and about a thousand feet at the northern and southern ends. Within this area are many shrines, marked by graceful



APPROACHING MOSQUE OF OMAR.

minarets, and small domes, columns, and oratories, airy arches, and carved niches; but the larger portion of the court is covered with grass in vernal beauty, enamelled with flowers, and dotted over with trees: the sombre olive, the stately palm, the graceful cypress, the spreading cedar, just as of old, for we read: "In Salem is His Tabernacle," or leafy covert. We walked in our ordinary shoes towards the centre of the area, and ascended the