

A rippling rill still flows, "The waters of Siloah that go softly,"
as described in the words of Isaiah; the

"Siloah's brook that flowed,
Fast by the oracle of God,"



TOMB OF ABSALOM.

"By cool Siloam's shady rill,
How sweet the lily grows,
How soft the breath, 'neath Zion's hill,
Of Sharon's dewy rose,"

it was an utter disappointment to find the crumbling and ruinous structure shown in our cut.

A few minutes' ride brings us to the so-called Mary's well, or fountain of the Virgin, because, according to Catholic tradition, the Virgin Mary here washed the swaddling clothes of the infant Christ. This spring is curiously intermittent, which the Moslems affirm is caused by the sleeping and waking of a dragon who has his lair in its depths. We climbed down the crumbling depths, some thirty steps, and found an Arab woman washing clothes beneath the arch.

Dr. Robinson suggests that this pool was really the ancient Pool of Bethesda, described in John v., 2-9. The intermittent character of the spring would explain the allusion to the periodical troubling of the waters by the angel, mentioned in the sacred narrative. It was, probably, also the same as the King's Pool, of Nehemiah, and Solomon's Pool, of Josephus.

The waters of this fountain pass by a tunnel to the Pool of

of Milton. The Pool of Siloam, an open structure 52 feet long, 18 feet wide and 20 feet deep, presents a picture of ruin and dilapidation. Nevertheless, the miracle of the healing of the blind man who was told to wash in the Pool of Siloam, invests the spot with sacred memories which can never die. With our mind filled with the beautiful hymn,