

measure of protection from the rapacity of Turk officials, thirty-five per cent were subsisting directly or indirectly on charity, and at least twenty per cent were absolutely dependent on foreign benevolence. One-half have sought in Palestine freedom from persecution in Poland, Russia and Roumania. Others in age are there to die and be buried on the slopes of the Mount of Olives, the sentiment being the chief incentive in bringing other Jews than described above to live in such a woe-begone country. However, there are optimists who hold out much promise for this Zionist movement, but it is idealistic rather than practical. At any rate, should an experiment be attempted on a large scale, the benefits of good government and the effort of several American advance agents who are on the spot will do much to give it the required impetus. The beauties of the Holy Land are many and varied, and when you can close your eyes and mind to the deficiencies one is apt to respectfully consider much in the life of Biblical lore. We are apt in sentimental moments to say, "Well, Christ has walked this path, perhaps laid him down at this spot, here He addressed His disciples, and here He prayed before going to His death." There in the Garden of Gethsemane, a most beautiful spot or spots (for there are

touch with the very ground on which our Saviour walked. Since that day this land has been desecrated times without number, and desolated until war seems to be its natural heritage. During the war, by common consent, Jerusalem was placed outside the zone of fighting, and, I believe, only one shell, a Turk, fell inside the new city limits. Much improvement was effected at Jerusalem in the matter of sewerage, and beautiful cold spring water was brought right into the city from the source, some fourteen miles away on the Hebron road, where a new reservoir has been built, a complete pumping plant installed, water running by gravity through two six-inch pipes laid side by side; part of this pipe was supplied from America and part from England, giving each of the two dominant nations of to-day an equal share in the civilizing of Jerusalem.

The railway now runs from Cairo across the Suez canal at Kantara, from there as far as Jerusalem, taking in Gaza, Beresheba, Ramleh and other towns of prominence. The water supply and railway were opened by General Allenby on the same day, and it is safe to say that all the Arab children and many adults within thirty miles splashed around in the cool, clear water on that epoch-making day. On the opening of the railway at Beresheba on Wednesday, May 8th,



Holy Stone in the Mosque of Omar, Jerusalem.

two), just close the eyes to the mercenary consideration as to why there are two adjoining, and one can enjoy the feeling of proximity to the spot where the Redeemer prayed for mankind and sweated great drops of blood by realization that His great sacrifice may be in vain, or incomplete before the Father. Then we have the Mount of Olives rising up from Gethsemane, a walk of half an hour and full of interesting and remarkable things. The first pointed out is a light grey rock, where the madonna dropped her girdle when she ascended to Heaven; a little further is a stone on which Jesus stood when he beheld the city and wept. Another stone from which Mary mounted the ass when starting for Egypt with her son, and here again Christ forgave Peter all his sins. Then where Christ met His sainted mother when he was on His way to Jerusalem and she to Bethany, is a cross. And we are shown many cavities in rocks which guides solemnly swear are the footprints of saints.

The barren fig tree which our Saviour cursed still grows on the Bethany side, and in the village itself two miles away are no less than four houses in which Mary and Martha lived with Lazarus. These things, meant to deceive the pilgrim, nevertheless failed to rob the vision of the charm which surely comes to those who are in close

1918, Lieutenant-Colonel Parker, D.S.O., took some thirty Bedu Sheiks on a pleasure trip to Raffa, the junction of the main line. Here some notables of Kahn Yunes had assembled to fittingly welcome their tribal friends. A gaily decorated engine was provided to take the party back to Beresheba, which was reached in less than an hour and a half. The train was played into town by a military band and in the station, all dolled up for the occasion, the military governor, the Mufti of Jerusalem, many military officers and notables of Beresheba greeted Colonel Parker, who addressed them as follows:—

"Oh, Sheiks, oh, Arabs: It is with the greatest pleasure that I address you here to-day. For many years have I known you and heard all about you from across the border. But we were far apart in those days, and now the desert which kept us asunder is nought. The iron road has bridged the space. Brought by war, may the railway be an earnest of everlasting peace. May all the blessings of civilization be brought to your door. May the noble Arab nation, with its ancient art and learning, once more become eminent and famous. May the fertile fields, too many of which alas, this year are barren, once more be covered with the golden burden of ripening corn.

"The journey to Egypt once reckoned

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