

an old olive tree, on which ignorant pilgrims are told that Judas hanged himself in his grief after the crucifixion.

About midway between Jerusalem and Bethlehem is a building, known as the Tomb of Rachael, and it covers the spot where she is said to be buried. In that vicinity also is the spot that David had his fight with Goliath.

Bethlehem to-day stands on the site of the Saviour's birth. Its combination of one, two, and three-storey houses stretches along the edges and to the summit of the hill. The streets are narrow and winding, and here and there are arched by the houses. The numerous quarries in the proximity afford copious building material, and consequently the inhabitants of the town are mainly quarrymen, stone-cutters and masons. The business section of the city is made up of stores and rude workshops which have structures bearing a striking resemblance to caves. The inmates of these workshops are engaged in the manufacture of crosses, rosaries, and articles of wood and mother of pearls to be sold to tourists and pilgrims, and for shipment to all parts of the world. This town is known to all as the town of independent inhabitants, who have become such on account of their comfortable circumstances. Although the town is not apparently clean to a foreigner, yet it is claimed to be the cleanest in Palestine.

That venerable grotto in which Our Saviour, the Prince of Peace, was born is in the very heart of the town. Over it is built a magnificent church known as the Church of the Nativity. The entrance to this church resembles that of a hole cut through a stone wall, and is so low that even small children who wish to enter must stoop. This church belongs to the Greeks, Latins, and Armenians, each party is compelled to worship in turn and in its own quarters. Mohammedan soldiers are always kept on guard to prevent quarrels which may arise from racial differences and religious dissensions; they also keep guard over the stable or grotto below where Christ was born.

This grotto is under the church, and is reached by a winding staircase. It resembles a cave, and is about twelve feet wide, forty feet long and ten feet in height. The floor is covered with marble. At one end there is a beautiful altar under which is a silver star set into the pavement, and above it is a Latin inscription saying that the star denotes the spot where Jesus was born. At one side of the cave is a recess called the "Chapel of the Manger," where Our Saviour was laid after his birth. The