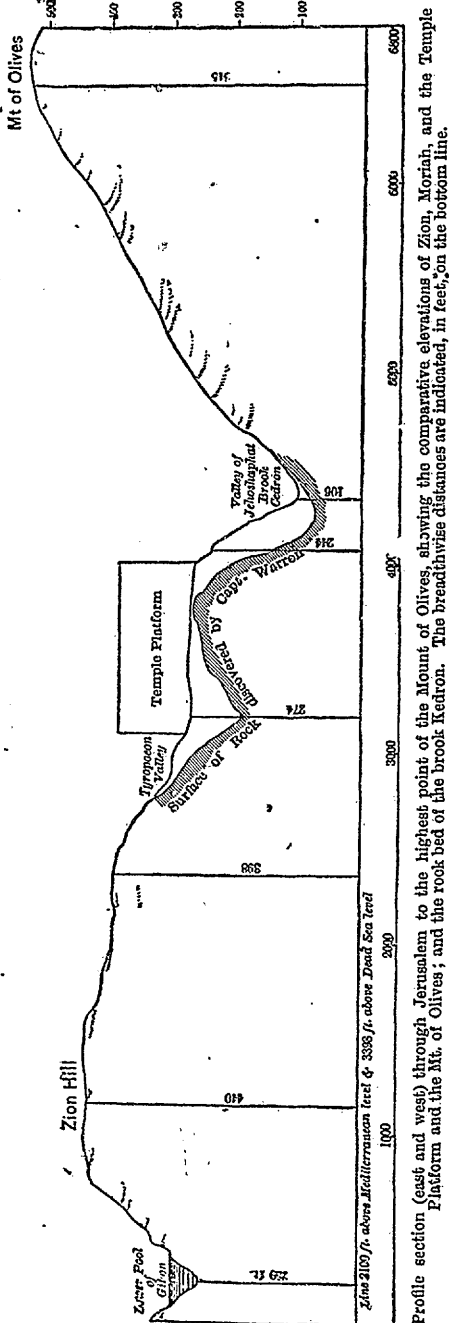


## THE SITE OF THE TEMPLE.



The Temple was built upon the summit of Mount Moriah, a spot already consecrated by the Trial of Abraham's Faith, and the sacrifice offered by David on the threshing-floor of Araunah. The rugged hill-top was levelled into a series of terraces, the peak being reserved as a foundation for the great altar of burnt offering. The surrounding courts occupied the receding levels from this central and most sacred spot. The precipitous sides of the rocky hill were faced with masonry, some of the stones of which were of enormous size, and are still in their original positions, bearing upon them the quarry marks of the Phœnician stonecutters. At the southeast corner this outer retaining wall rose from the Valley of Kedron to the dizzy height of 300 feet. Within these walls, and supported by massive arches, the solid floor of the temple court was laid, palaces and colonnades were erected and trees and shrubs planted. The diagram in the margin (taken from *Buller's Bible Work*) exhibits the comparative height of Mounts Zion, Moriah and Olivet. The rock foundation of the outer wall of the temple platform is shewn, the line above it represents the present surface. Although no streamlet now meanders between Moriah and Olivet the true Kedron has been found still flowing over its ancient pebbles deep below the rubbish which now forms the surface of the ground. The Temple built by Solomon in B. C. 1005 was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in B. C. 588. The second temple was built under the superintendence of Zerubbabel in B. C. 516. This building, having become greatly dilapidated, was almost wholly rebuilt by Herod the Great, and was finally destroyed by Titus in A. D. 70.

"The sunbeam of the orient day,  
Saw nought on earth more bright and fair  
But desolation swept away  
And left no form of glory there.

But God, who reared that chiselled stone,  
Now builds upon a higher plan,  
And rears the columns of his throne,  
His temple in the heart of man."