

responded to. R. W. Bro. Kerr, in addressing the Brethren spoke in warm terms of the efficient manner in which the work of the Lodge was conducted and eulogized the officers for their attention and ability, congratulating the Brethren upon the handsome and suitable rooms, which they had erected since his last visit. R. W. Bro. Macpherson and W. Bro. Menot, (who accompanied R. W. Bro. Kerr,) also addressed the brethren and expressed their satisfaction with the manner in which the Lodge was conducted.

ES-SAKHRAH.

A MASONIC MYTH OF THE DAYS OF SOLOMON.

From the "Evergreen."

Every reader of Holy Land literature, and few there are at the present day who do not give some attention to it, has read of that mysterious rock, called by the Mohammedans *Es-Sakhrāh* ("the rock") that rears up its head in nature's own assumption, in the very centre of Mount Moriah at Jerusalem, marking out it is justly thought, the central point of the Temple of Solomon. A masonic myth embodies the history of this mysterious stone.

The rock, *Es-Sakhrāh*, is sixty feet in length, in the direction of the mountain (North and South) and fifty-five feet in breadth. From the level of the ridge it rises about fifteen feet. Its northern end is scarped or smoothed artificially as if it had once sustained and formed a part of a wall. In the estimation of the Jew, this venerated rock is the most hallowed spot on earth. The Mohammedan tradition concerning it, is the strangest imaginable. It affirms that the Meccan prophet, having fastened his mule here, ascended to heaven and the stone after him, nor could it be stayed in its upward flight until an angel had grasped it and retained it by his best strength. In confirmation of this fanciful flight, the Moslems still exhibit the ring to which the mule was fastened, and point out the impress of the angelic fingers, and the footprint of Mohammed, upon the surface of the rock itself.

The *masonic myth* refers only to the existence of this rude, unsightly ashlar, at so conspicuous a point. No visitor to Mount Moriah can avoid an expression of surprise when entering the splendid mosk of Omar, and admiring its matchless porcelain, its rich marble veneerings of various colors and devices, its fifty-six elegant windows of stained glass, its four doors and corresponding porches, and its noble dome and circular shaft, when seeing and admiring these architectural beauties, he observes that the whole noble structure is evidently built merely to enclose, and honor this rude rock! The thoughtful visitor will naturally enquire what there is about so unsightly a mass as to merit such exercise of skill and expenditure of treasure.

The original eminence, entitled *Moriah* could never have been called a *mountain* except as the English translation of the Bible adapts itself to Hebrew notions. When the small fresh water Lake of Genesareth receives the title of *Sea of Galilee*, it is allowable that a narrow, low ridge, honored to be the most renowned locality upon earth, should be desig-