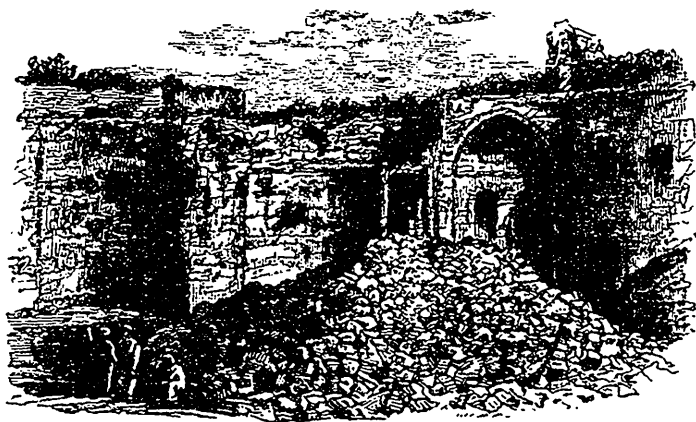


The rotunda of the Holy Sepulchre is some sixty-five feet in diameter. Over this rises the lofty dome. In the centre is the Chapel of the Sepulchre, a small marble structure, shown in cut on page 438. Inside of this is, first, the "Chapel of the Angels," and then the Holy Sepulchre proper, which is very small, holding only about three or four persons at once. The whole area of the rotunda was completely filled with pilgrims of many lands and many tongues—dark-faced Copts, olived-skinned Cypriotes, Greeks, Syrians, swarthy Abyssinians, and European and American tourists, besides a number of Turkish officials. Conspicuous among the pilgrims, by their white, shroud-like mantles, were a number of sweet-faced, dark-eyed Syrian women, with Madonna-like expression of countenance. Beneath the white mantle they



EXCAVATIONS AT THE MURISTAN.

wore bright-coloured silken gowns—pink, pale blue, bright red, or cream-coloured, and gold-embroidered vests and a profusion of jewellery. Their ceaseless motion made them look not unlike a swarm of white butterflies; or, as Canon Farrar has compared them to, a great flower-bed waving in the breeze. Most of them were sitting on the marble pavement; some of them had been waiting there since early dawn. Every coign of vantage, the bases of pillars, and every ledge, where man or boy could cling, held its living burden. With the women were a number of children, playing around as in a pleasant picnic. A buzz and confused noise of many voices arose like the din of the Stock Exchange at Paris or New York.

Presently was heard the steady tramp, tramp, tramp of feet, and some two or three hundred Turkish soldiers with muskets and