

action from the pressure of grief. To this custom in modern times Shakespeare refers in the keen sarcasm of Hamlet, "The funeral baked meats do furnish forth the marriage table."

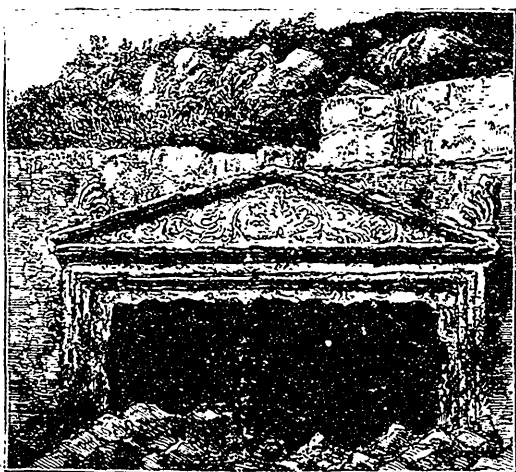
On the limestone hills of Palestine the tombs were generally hewn out of the rock, thus the vale of Hinnom and cliffs of Engeddi, as well as the Libyan ranges of Egypt, were honeycombed with the rock-hewn chambers of the dead. The slopes of Olivet are also burrowed with these rocky tombs. The valley of Jehosaphat is one

From very ancient times this valley seems to have been a favourite place of sepulture. Here we have the tombs of Jehosaphat, Absalom, and Zechariah. The latter is an isolated pyramid, thirty feet in height, hewn entirely from the rock, and bearing a number of Hebrew names.

Near by is the tomb of St. James, with two Doric columns in front, and a number of chambers and rock tombs behind. Tradition avers that here St. James lay concealed after the crucifixion. His tomb in the fifteenth century was occupied by monks, but was afterwards used as a sheep pen.

Next we reach the tomb of Absalom. It is a huge sube about twenty feet square, and about as many high, hewn out of solid rock. Above it is a low spire, about forty-seven feet in height. It is identified with the tomb mentioned in 2 Sam. xviii. 18. Around the base of this monument the ground is covered with stones, thrown there by the Jews in detestation of the unfilial conduct of Absalom.

Before leaving Jerusalem we made a visit to the Tombs of the Kings in the vicinity of that city. They have been better identified as the tombs of Queen Helena, a Jewish proselyte of the first century, and of her family. A large court about ninety feet square and twenty feet deep, has been sunk in the solid rock. To this a flight of steps leads from the surface of the ground. On the west side is an open portico shown in cut, page 9, once supported by two pillars, which are now broken away. Within is an elaborate system of catacomb-like vaults and cells.



"TOMBS OF THE JUDGES."

great cemetery. The Moslems declared that here Mohammed shall judge the world, an idea, perhaps, derived from the prophecy of Joel, "Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehosaphat, for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. . . Multitudes, multitudes, in the Valley of Decision; for the day of the Lord is near in the Valley of Decision." (Joel iii. 12-14.) It has been for ages the place of burial for both Jews and Moslems. Many generations sleep beneath the slabs which literally pave the ground.