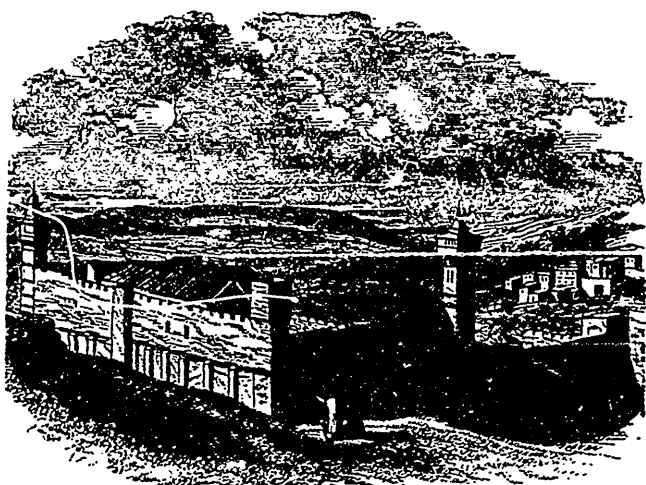


Heth that he "might bury his dead out of his sight," the only portion of that land he could ever call his own. The whole transaction recorded in Genesis has the exactness of a legal document. In this cave of Machpelah were buried Sarah and Abraham, Isaac and Rebekah, and Leah. Hither the embalmed body of Jacob was brought out of Egypt, and here, according to tradition, was buried also the body of Joseph. "This," says Dr. Thompson, "is the most interesting of all sepulchres upon the earth." "The identification," Dr. Manning affirms, "is absolute, beyond the reach of skepticism."

Over this sacred cave has been built the fortress-like mosque shown in our engraving. Many of its stones are of great size,



MOSQUE AT HEBRON, COVERING CAVE OF MACHPELAH.

one measuring thirty-eight feet long, and are marked with the characteristic ancient Jewish bevel. The fanatical Moslems guard this tomb with extreme jealousy. The utmost we were allowed to do was to approach the wall and thrust our hands into an opening which we were told led to the sacred cave of Machpelah.

Only the most powerful influence has prevailed to procure entrance. The Prince of Wales, as heir apparent to the British Empire, the late Emperor Frederick of Germany when Crown Prince, and the Crown Prince of Austria, with a few attendants, have been thus favoured. Dean Stanley, who accompanied the Prince of Wales, thus describes the sacred sepulchre:

"The shrines of Abraham and Sarah are each guarded by silver gates, the other chapels are enclosed with gates of iron. The chambers are