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### JERUSALEM.

Letter from W. E. H. Massey, Esq., to the Massey Memorial Hall Sabbath School.—Continued.

MEDITERRANEAN HOTEL, JERUSALEM, PALESTINE, April 19, 1888.

MY FELLOW BIBLE STUDENTS:

My pen could run on for hours telling you of the interesting sights and places I have seen about Jerusalem, but I must confine my remarks to the two principal places—those about which you would be sure to inquire first and of which you will be most interested to hear. I refer to the site of the Holy Temple and that of Calvary, and the tomb in which our Saviour was laid.

Where once stood the magnificent Temple designed by King David and built by Solomon, rebuilt and restored by Zerubbabel and Herod, is now the Mosque of Omar, called also the "Dome of the Rock," or *Kubbel-es-Sukhrak*. It stands in the spacious enclosure called the *Haram-esh-Sherif* ("The Noble Sanctuary"), which occupies nearly a sixth of the city of Jerusalem and covers the former site of the Temple area. The Haram is enclosed by a wall entered by several gates—its east and part of the south wall being really portions of the city wall—and it is only within recent years that any but Mahomedans were allowed to enter its sacred precincts, and now only by special permit and considerable "red tape." Our dragoman, a Jerusalem guide, a consular cavass, and a Turkish soldier, accompanied my brother and myself upon our visit there. The two last to prevent any mischief befalling us, or our intruding in forbidden holy places and in any way misconducting ourselves. It is positively stated that to enter without such protection would involve being stoned!

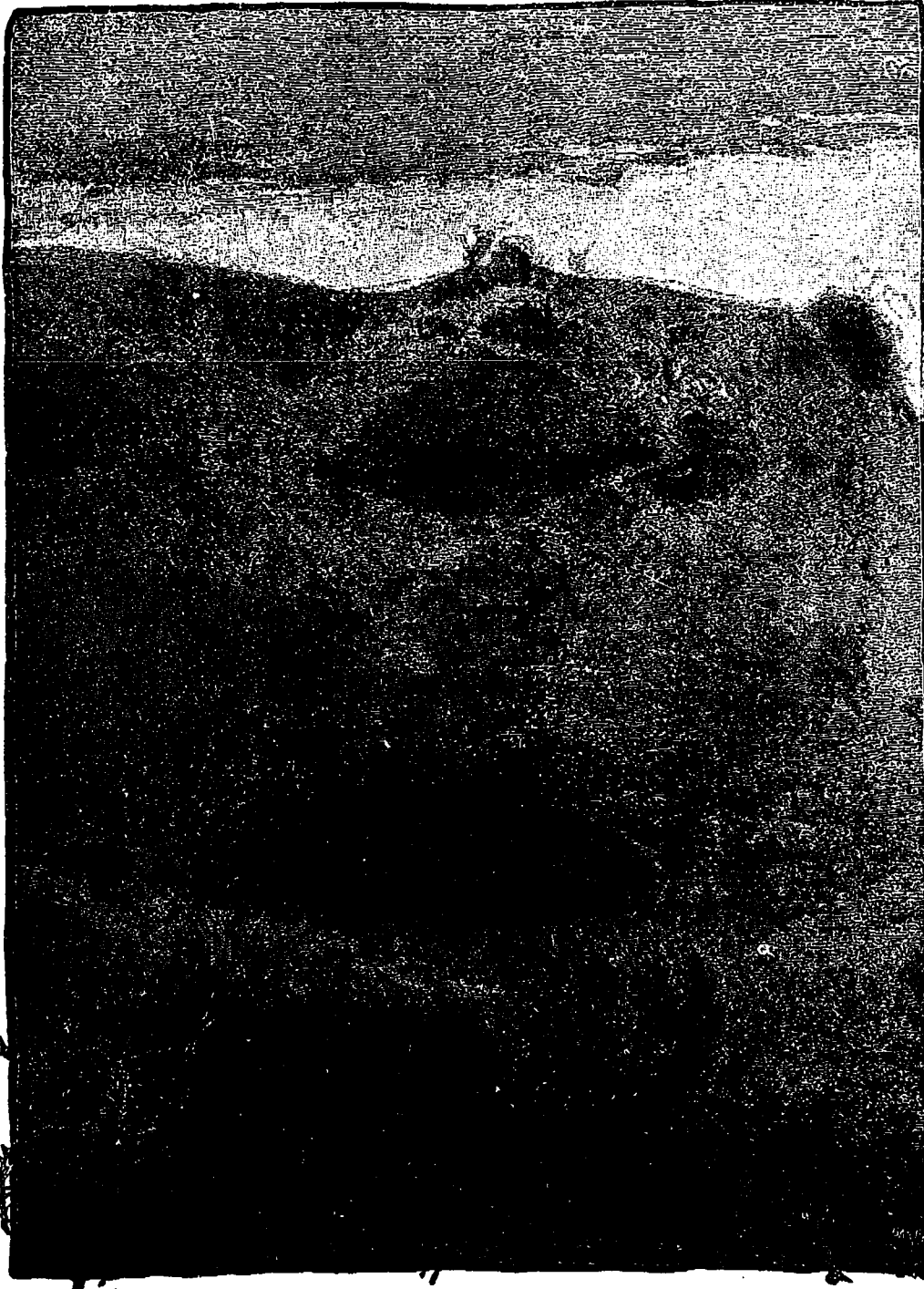
Only think of it! A Christian may not enter the courts of this enclosure, every foot of the ground of which is so dear to him, be-

cause of its most sacred associations, without being accompanied by armed attendants! Does it not seem strange that Christian nations have thus long tolerated such indignities on the part of Muslims? Here where Christian scholars long most to study and make investigation, the Turks make it difficult to even enter, and as for turning a stone or excavating, it is utterly impossible. But it was God's will that it should have been so and "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." (Luke, xxi. 24.) One day when God's people shall again rule Jerusalem and scholarly men and scientific investigators shall have full sway, such revelation will doubtless be made as will greatly enhance the interest in His Word—

the Holy Bible—the Book of Books—which has engrossed men's attention as no other book ever did. None is so much read, none so much studied and so widely circulated, nor was book ever so greatly beloved, and also so deeply hated, but hated only by those whose evil consciences rebel against its teachings. The Scriptures have now been translated and published in over three hundred different languages! Truly Christ's messengers have obeyed his command and gone into all the world and preached the Gospel (Mark, xvi. 15).

Of the Holy Temple itself there are no traces left—"not one stone upon another," so literally has the Messiah's thrice-narrated prophecy regarding its utter destruction been fulfilled (Matt. xxiv. 1, 2; Mark, xiii. 1, 2; Luke, xxi. 5, 6). The magnificent Mosque of Omar, which is the pride of Mahomedans, was probably built about 600 or 700 years after Christ, and stands on the summit of Mount Moriah, over the bare rock—the "sacred rock"—and the very spot where tradition says Ornan had his threshing floor; where Abraham took Isaac for sacrifice; where David pleaded for the plague-stricken people, and where the Jewish Temple, the glory of Israel, stood. The building is octagonal in shape, and the sides, measuring 68 feet long, are covered with richly-colored porcelain tiles. There are four portals facing the cardinal points of the compass. The grand dome, which is so conspicuous from nearly all parts of Jerusalem and the hills about it, is 98 feet high and 66 feet in diameter, and is just over the Sacred Rock—whence the "Dome of the Rock."

With its colored tiles glistening in the sunlight, this splendid piece of architecture makes an imposing structure, and in connection with the sacred associations of its location, one can scarce look upon it without deep reflection. Here transpired so many of the events of Old Testament history, in which the most important kings and prophets figured. Here the little Child was brought by the Holy Mother. Here He was found



PLACE OF THE SKULL, OR THE SUPPOSED SITE OF CALVARY.