

Josephus, was the eastern cloister of the outer court. Into this the crowd ran to see and hear the Apostles after they had healed the lame man, and near this a multitude was more likely to be assembled, seeing that beside it the cattle and sheep markets were usually held. It may be added that the designation "beautiful," as applied to this gate, admits of explanation on one or other of two perfectly plausible hypotheses—either that the gate was called Shushan, or "Lily," because, in commemoration of Cyrus the Liberator, a picture of the royal residence in Shusan, the City of Lilies, was painted or carved upon its panels; or that it was so styled after the lily-shaped capitals with which it was crowned. Whether this gate should be identified with the Golden Door in the east Haram wall is doubtful. The architecture of the latter proclaims it to belong to the Byzantine period, and to have proceeded, in all probability, from the reign of Constantine—Ferguson regarding it as the "festal portal which Eusebius describes Constantine as erecting in front of his basilica;" yet there is ground for thinking the door it supplanted was the gate Shushan of the Mishna. Besides, if, as has been suggested, the name Golden, *aurea*, originated in a mistranslation of the Greek term for beautiful, *ὡπαία*, an additional presumption will arise that the modern gate occupies the site where once stood the Gate Beautiful of Scripture.<sup>5</sup> The second supposition, that not the Shushan but the Corinthian was the gate at which Peter's miracle was wrought, has this to lend it countenance, that if, as seems probable, this was the door which Josephus represents as having excelled all others which were only covered with gold and silver, whereas it was in addition constructed of Corinthian brass, the epithet *ὡπαία* in its case must have been extremely appropriate. It was "a vastly heavy door," says the Jewish historian,<sup>6</sup> "which could with difficulty be shut by twenty men, and rested on a basis armed with iron, and had bolts fastened very deep into the floor, which was there made of

<sup>5</sup> Schürer, in *Riehm*, p. 1,637; King, *Recent Discoveries*, &c., p. 24; Wilson, in *Picturesque Palestine*, vol. i., pp. 69, 70.

<sup>6</sup> *Wars*, v. 5, 3; vi. 5, 3.