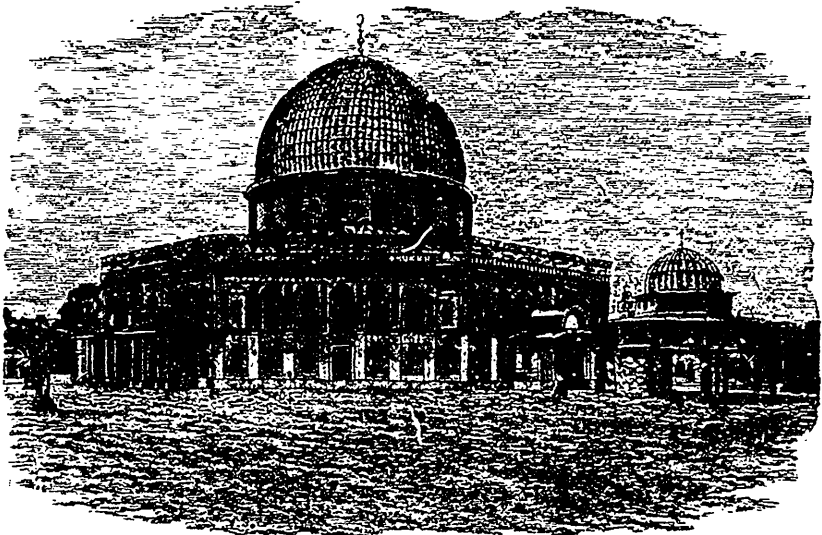


maintained the stately pageant of the temple service. And here One greater than the temple walked and taught the people of the spiritual temple of which He was the foundation and chief corner-stone.

The inclosing walls of the Harem, the excavations of Captain Warren has shown, exist far below the surface of the ground. This noble area was obtained by building lofty substructures and vaulted chambers which still excite our astonishment and admiration. On their very site the Emperor Hadrian built a temple to Jupiter, and now a mosque of the false prophet Mohammed is erected at, or near, the very spot where stood the Holy of



MOSQUE OF OMAR.

Holies; so literally have been fulfilled the words of prophecy of our Lord that the abomination of desolation should be set up in the holy place.

It is only since the Crimean war that travellers have been admitted to this sacred area, and even now we were admonished not to wander away from our guards, nor to exhibit a too curious observance of the religious rites lest the fanaticism of the Moslems should be excited.

The Harem-esh-Sherif is a large irregular quadrangle of 536 yards by 548. It is dotted with many structures, the chief of which are the famous Dome of the Rock and the Mosque El-Aksa. The Dome of the Rock stands on a platform ten feet above the rest of the area, approached by flights of steps. It is