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he would soon realize what an awful malediction Israel must have incurred.

But let us rest no longer our eyes on the gloomy souvenir of deicide Jerusalem. Let us rather breathe a silent prayer as we pass by the Onely Rahil; for, beneath this funeral pile lies the grave of Rachel, the mother of Joseph and Benjamin, mother also of the Jewish people her unfortunate children, for whom may the Mercy of God shorten the days of their wandering under the vengeful curse, and hasten the hour when they also shall return to the fold of Christian unity!

From a cloudless sky, all the stars one by one were now waning and dying out while rosy-fingered dawn seemed to draw her white curtains apart beyond the long-lined crest of the Moab mountains; and, as if smiling gracefully, soon woke slumbering nature up with her cool sweet scented breath.

Was the first Christmas night blessed with so many charms? or did the sun rise with such gentle radiancy to salute in the Crib the lovely Child of Mary? It may well be surmised that when Angels came down from Heaven, and caused the air to resound with their hymns of praise to God and peace for man nature must have adorned herself with a serene grandeur worthy of receiving through those heavenly melodies the glad tidings of the new-born Infant.

While thus relishing the delightful scenery before my eyes lo! I suddenly came within sight of Bethlehem.

Before taking a panoramic view of this quaint old city, allow me, kind reader, a short digression which her very name seems to call for. Bethlehem in hebrew means "house of bread; Beit lahm, as it is now called in arabic means "house of flesh." Who could but admire the mysterious plan of divine Providence in thus changing successingly the ancient name of Ephrata, i. e. "fertility" into Bethlehem "house of bread" Beit lahm "house of Flesh" these two appellations being so strikingly expressive of the birthplace of Jesus the Bread of Angels, the Word Incarnate?