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WALKS WITHIN JERUSALEM.

(Correspondence of the New York Herald.)

Jerusalem stands beautifully on the inland promontory that rises out of the tangled, fantastic hills of southern Palestine. This rocky plateau, intermediate in position between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean, has an elevation of even 2000 feet; so that the city is nearly as high as the highest ground in England. Mount Zion is 200 feet above the deep, narrow valleys of Jehoshaphat and Hinnom, and is the crowning point of the mountain sanctuary of Israel. It is generally regarded as confined to the southern corner of the city; but the theory is now gaining ground that the name of Zion embraced the whole western ridge, and that Acra was located at the northeastern angle. The walks make a circuit of two miles and a half, and vary in hight from twenty-five to seventy-five feet. Most Oriental cities are entered gradually; Cairo and Damascus have out-stripped their limits. But Jerusalem is now as it never has been, "a city that is compacted together;" there are scarcely half a dozen dwellings outside the walls.

Viewed from Olivet or Scopus, Jerusalem is not only beautiful, but even dignified and imposing. Upon entering it, however, all our ideas of grandeur, and that enchantment which distance lends, gave way to a wretched reality. The streets are foul of inequalities, many of which result from the accumulation of the rubbish of ages, and are also narrow and badly paved, pitching from the sides into the middle to form a sewer and a passage for beasts of burden. These lanes, for lanes they are, are dark and delightful; and in the religion of the bazaars are dismal enough. With few exceptions, the houses look as if they had been burnt down fifty times. The majority are covered with little plastered domes, so that the appearance of the city from a house top, is that of a collection of Mohammedan tombs. The permanent population amounts at the least to 20,000, and is on the increase. Indeed the city is cramped, and house rent is enormously high. At Easter the walls received many thousands more; but how the pilgrims manage to pack themselves away, we know not. Though the population is so various, each particular people has a quarter which it almost exclusively inhabits. The Jews cling to the rugged slope of Zion—the darkest, filthiest spot in Jerusalem; the Moslems dwell around the sacred enclosure of the Haram; the Roman Catholics near their convent of St. Salvador, on the northwest corner; and the Greeks about the Holy sepulchre. Besides these are Copts, Druses, Abyssinians, Nestorians, Georgians, Maronites, Arguenas and Hindoos. The Jews are descendants of the Moors who were exiled from Spain by Ferdinand and Isabella. The architects of the Alhambra have become porters at Jerusalem. The Armenians are more of wealth and influence; and their convent is the most magnificent in the city, though seem to be eclipsed by the Austrian edifice now half-finished. But the Jews—the descendants of those who crucified Christ—the Jews—who cares for them? We entered the city on Friday morning, and in the afternoon we visited, first of all, and we think very appropriately, the Place of Wailing, where the Jews assemble each week to mourn over their desolations. It is a short narrow lane under a lofty wall adjacent to Mount Zion, in the lower corner of which are enormous blocks of great antiquity—the awful monuments of the past spotless and misery of the Jews. At a great price they have purchased a place to shed their tears on the borders of the temple area. Before Constantine, they could not approach so as to see Jerusalem from the adjacent hills. We found a congregation of about fifty—perhaps fifty—the women dressed in the Syrian white robe; the men with their forelocks and long, ungainly gowns. They were all busily reading, in a low voice, Hebrew scriptures—some sitting upon the ground, others standing close to the wall and going through divers bodily flexions akin to those of the Arab dervishes. Now and then, one would dash his head against the wall, and break forth into a loud voice, at which the rest would join for a long, loud wail, till the vaulted roof of the mountain sanctuary of Israel. It is generally regarded as confined to the southern corner of the city; but the theory is now gaining ground that the name of Zion embraced the whole western ridge, and that Acra was located at the northeastern angle. The walks make a circuit of two miles and a half, and vary in hight from twenty-five to seventy-five feet. Most Oriental cities are entered gradually; Cairo and Damascus have out-stripped their limits. But Jerusalem is now as it never has been, "a city that is compacted together;" there are scarcely half a dozen dwellings outside the walls.

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