

HISTORY SECTION**JERUSALEM, THE SACRED CITY OF TWO FAITHS***Wailing Place of the Jews in Jerusalem-*

"IF I FORGET THEE, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning!" So sang the Hebrew psalmist as he thought with passionate devotion of the holy city from which he was exiled. In the Middle Ages the Crusaders, who had toiled the long weary way from their homes in Europe to wrest the city of Christ from Mohammedan rule, knelt in the dust and wept with joy as they beheld from afar the city of their dreams. Today, Jerusalem still draws hosts of pilgrims who come to kiss its crumbling ruins, to look upon the place of Christ's death and resurrection, and to approach with reverent awe its other holy places.

Standing on a rocky plateau, 2,500 feet above sea level, in the mountain region of Palestine between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, Jerusalem as seen from the neighboring hills is still as the Bible describes it, "beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth."

Jerusalem is a natural fortress, and

few cities have suffered more terrible sieges. Had it not been for the lack of water within its walls, it would in ancient days have been almost impregnable, for deep-cut ravines protect it on three sides.

Separating the city from the famous Mount of Olives on the east and northeast is the ancient valley of Kidron. On the west and south is the hated valley of Gehenna. This ravine was accursed in ancient times, for here at one time human sacrifices were made to the Phoenician god Moloch, and later the bodies of criminals were thrown there. For this reason the name Gehenna was used to mean Hell, a place for torment after death.

In ancient times there was another valley which separated western Jerusalem from Zion, the city of David, and the Temple hill. But during the centuries this ravine has been filled by rubbish.

The walls surrounding Jerusalem have been many times destroyed and rebuilt. Portions of the present walls probably

*The Garden of Gethsemane*

rest upon more ancient foundations.

Of the splendid Temple, which was the center of Hebrew worship, no part remains standing today. A Mohammedan place of worship, the Mosque of Omar, now stands on the holy spot. Eight gateways open into its courtyard, within which is the Dome of the Rock. This famous rock is said to have been used by ancient Hebrew priests when they slaughtered animals for sacrifice, and where Abraham offered to sacrifice Isaac. To Mohammedans it is a very holy place. The spot in Jerusalem most visited by Christian pilgrims is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, built over the supposed tomb of Jesus. No one knows for certain the exact spot where Jesus was crucified or the place of the tomb of Jesus; but for ages men have made long, long pilgrimages to visit these holy places, and have struggled and suffered and died for them. So we look with feelings of awe and reverence upon these places.

Franciscan monks tend with loving care the place which they believe is the Garden of Gethsemane. Here several ancient olive trees are pointed out as the very ones in whose shadow Jesus knelt and prayed in anguish the night before His death.

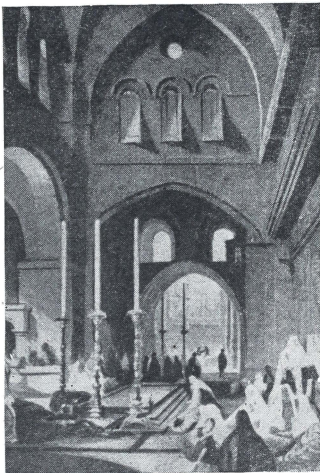
Rising above the garden and overlook-

ing the whole city is the Mount of Olives, associated with many scenes in the history of Christianity.

The history of Jerusalem goes back to the 15th century before Christ, when it was occupied, we are told, by the Egyptians. When the Israelites entered Palestine, it was held by the Jebusites, a Canaanite tribe. David conquered the city and made it the capital of his kingdom.

It reached its greatest splendor under Solomon. After the division of the Israelite kingdom, it remained the capital of Judah until destroyed by the Romans under Titus in 70 A. D.

About 130 A. D. the Roman emperor Hadrian rebuilt the city. Its history from that time until the 4th century is obscure, when Constantine the Great, after his conversion to Christianity, gave orders for the recovery of the holy places and the erection of two magnifi-



Church of the Holy Sepulcher

cent churches.

In 637 Jerusalem was captured by the Mohammedans. It was recaptured by the Crusaders in 1099 and held by them until 1187, when it was reconquered by the Saracens (Mohammedans). It remained in the hands of the Mohammedans most of the time until it was taken by British forces in 1917.

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GREEDY HERON

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"Get out of my way, you!" ordered the Crab.

"No, sir," said the Heron proudly. "I have eaten the Frog; I have eaten the old Mudfish, and I have eaten the old Snake. What is to stop me from eating you?"

But before the Heron could finish what he was saying, the Crab raised up his two mighty pinchers and pinched the Heron's neck.

SOME QUESTIONS

1. Do you think the Heron was polite?
2. What did the Heron do to the Frog?

MOUSIE

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(They bury the treasure again; cover it with soil and run toward a clump of trees nearby. They climb a tall one).

MOUSIE: *(Excitedly)* Look, dad! They've changed their course. They aren't coming here.

MOUSIE'S DAD: Sure enough, son. I thought they would land and make us prisoners once more—with the treasure we found.

MOUSIE: Let's get down. It's safe now. Then we can get the treasure again and sail for home.

CURTAIN

PIED PIPER

(Continued from page 322)

and the children went on their way to the mountain is called the "Street of the Children." In this street there is set up a large stone. On its side is cut the date, "June 26, A.D. 1284." That is the day on which the Piper is said to have lead the boys and girls away. Up the street a little farther there is a statue of the Piper.

Every year, when the twenty-sixth of June comes around, all the people who live in Hamelin have a great holiday in memory of the children who followed the Piper.

On that day, the whole town is full of rats again. But these are not live rats. Instead, they are little cakes and cookies made into the shape of a rat. And all the stores in town have for sale little flutes, like the one the Piper played.

The boys and girls of Hamelin still love music, and they sing and play it all the year round. But no one is ever allowed to sing or play any music on the street through which the children followed the Piper, so long ago. That is to be a silent street forever.

JERUSALEM

(Continued from page 324)

One of the famous places of Jerusalem is known as the Wailing Place of the Jews. This is a wall of very ancient stones, once supposed to have been a part of the temple erected by Solomon but now known to belong to later times. Every Friday Jews gather at this wall, kiss the ancient stones, mourn the loss of Jerusalem, and pray. There are Hebrew carvings on these stones; these are the prayers of pilgrims.

Except for its memories of the past, Jerusalem is not an attractive city today. The streets are narrow and dirty, shut in by the high gloomy walls of the buildings, and often overarched, so that they seem almost like passages through caves. The houses are square and flat-topped, with few outside courts. The streets are crowded with traders, beggars, and pilgrims and travelers from all over the world.

Old Jerusalem is buried deep in the ground; modern Jerusalem is partly an old Crusaders' town with Mohammedan additions, and partly a uninteresting travel resort, but to the followers of two faiths Jerusalem will ever be a sacred city.