

The Awakening of the Older Nations.

The Spirit of Change Has Reached the Holy Land and Its Famous Capital—Religious Sectarianism Has Crowded Holy City With Rival Establishments.

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS.

Jerusalem.—Of three holy cities that are popular places of pilgrimage, Jerusalem, Mecca and Benares, the Turkish empire has two within her borders. The Holy Land, as Christendom calls the little strip of territory along the Mediterranean coast north of Egypt, is an integral part of Turkey. It has always been famous for the persistence of its ancient customs, so that hundreds of clergymen travel over it every year, to get light on the Bible. A generation hence, that search will not be so successful, for it is patent that Palestine is sharing the awakening of the ancient east.

Not only is there a railway from Beirut to Damascus, and from Damascus to Haifa, and from Damascus to Medina, and from Jaffa to Jerusalem, but there is also projected at the present time a new railway that will go down the coast from Beirut through Sidon, Tyre, Acre, Haifa and Jaffa, clear to the Suez canal.

Improving on Solomon. The ancient City of David has come under the new influences of modern times. Negotiations are at present pending for several radical and transforming innovations. The first of these to be pushed to early completion will probably be the water system. Jerusalem still depends on the collected rain supply in cisterns for its water. The very pools built by Solomon are still in use, although the municipal system has greatly deteriorated since his day.

Now it is proposed to bring water from two sources, in Fara, north of the Mount of Olives, and Fawar, another spring in the same valley. It has been found that this water is pure and sufficient for the city's needs. When this has been put into water

old basins, widening the Street of David, carrying passengers past the Mosque of Omar, which is the site of the ancient Temple of the Jews. Imagine the worshippers of the Temple disturbed by the clang of the bell of the electric car!

At present most of the streets are as narrow as footpaths. When the soft-stepping camel comes along, as he does every few minutes, all pedestrians must stand aside in the recesses of the bazars, or against the walls, to make way for his passage. Even the plodding donkey, who, still as of yore, is the favored beast of burden, takes nearly the whole street when he passes.

These electric lines will vastly enhance the comfort of the city, but they will play havoc with its historical aspect. Can sentiment survive the conductor's call, "All out for the Holy Sepulcher!" "This way for the Jews' 'Walling Place.'" "Next stop the Temple Area." "The Damascus Gate," and "Via Dolorosa!"?

New Lights for Old Streets. Jerusalem is not so dark as some Oriental cities, for the municipality placed a thousand kerosene lamps along the principal highways. Now it is on the program of the government to install an electric lighting plant for the streets, and for the stores and houses.

A telephone system also is on the docket. At present practically all the modern business of Jerusalem is done outside of the city walls. Messages can be carried from one part to another only, as in the time of David, by foot messenger. Soon the tinkle of the telephone bell will rival the more musical notes of the camels' bells.

A Pauperized City. Religion has brightened Jerusalem. The Apostle Paul could repeat here his famous words: "I perceive that in all things you are too religious." One looks in vain for the smokestacks of modern industry, and for great warehouses, or temples of business. He sees scores of expensive modern buildings, but all in the name of sectarian religion.

Old Jerusalem, as viewed from the hills, presented one outstanding building, the Temple of the Jews. Today the approaching traveler is confused by the multitude of the spires and towers and noble edifices. Missions of all kinds, and hospices and convents and monasteries and asylums abound.

striking contrast to the famous Christian shrines.

A Nazareth Carpenter's Views. The changes that are bound to transform Jerusalem and Palestine are already to be seen at work. In the bazars of an older day are exhibited foreign styles of dress, and goods of American and European manufacture. The stream of tourists from the west has effected changes in fashions. The economic conditions of the land have altered gravely.

That this has penetrated to the smaller towns and villages, I learned in Nazareth. Here, seated amid the fragrant chips of an old fashioned carpenter's shop, I talked with the carpenter, at work on the floor, hewing out a wooden plow. He complained bitterly of the general advance of prices of living, so that the 30 cents a day, which used to be a good wage for a skilled carpenter, is now inadequate. Some of his relatives have solved the problem by emigrating to America, and he inquired concerning the feasibility of doing likewise.

The world currents of today are pouring the warm stream of transforming life against the ancient east. All that centuries have failed to do in Palestine, the present decade seems destined to accomplish. Paradoxically the Holy Land has furnished the awakening motive that has made western civilization; but the land itself has remained largely untouched. Now Palestine's turn seems to have come. (Copyright, 1911, by Joseph B. Bowles.)

HOW BIRTH WAS ESTABLISHED

Calif's Birthday Was Recorded, Thus the Age of the Human Being Became Known.

Dr. Cressy L. Wilbur, chief statistician of the bureau of census in Washington, tells a story taken from court records which, according to the Woman's Home Companion, fairly typifies the national attitude toward vital statistics.

"Farmer Hadley," he said, "of Indiana on dying left his valuable farm in trust to his unthrifty son, to become the property of his granddaughter on her twenty-first birthday.

"The girl had been told the date of her birth and when her twenty-first anniversary, as she supposed, came around, she claimed her inheritance. But her father refused to surrender the farm, asserting that she was only nineteen.

"The dispute was taken into court. The family Bible was appealed to, but the page for births and deaths was blank. The father had rendered no report to the town authorities; the family doctor was dead. Finally a neighbor remembered that a certain cow, much prized by the grandfather, had given birth to a calf on the very day when the girl was born and he could swear to it.

"Perhaps," the court opined, the grandfather had recorded the birth of the calf! The old farm book, carefully preserved in the family strong box, sustained the judge's theory; all the circumstances of the calf's birth were fully recorded. And thus the birthday of the human being was at length established.

"Talk about the registration of births in the United States!" exclaims Dr. Wilbur, "why, for not much more than one-half of the total population is there a fairly accurate registration of deaths, to say nothing of births, of which we have nowhere in the country reliable or complete information, and many of the states are so little concerned about human life that they make no more account of the deaths of their citizens than of the trees they burn to make clearings."

HOODOOS OF WALL STREET

Men Who for no Apparent Reason Do Not Make a Success in Business.

Wall street people are superstitious. They will deny it when told so, but if you ask any one in the street if he ever knew a hoodoo he will say, "Yes, many a one."

Such a one was a cotton expert who, highly recommended, applied for a place with a Stock Exchange house that had bought a cotton exchange membership and needed a man to open a new field of speculation to its clients.

The applicant was in every way desirable save for the fact that three houses with which he had been connected had failed, though not one for a dishonest reason. He was rejected as a hoodoo.

Shortly afterward he made a connection with another house to fill a similar want and proved a very valuable man in his sphere, but within a year the fourth house failed.

The hoodoo is often a man whom everybody likes, speaks well of and recommends to every one else, with the one reservation—he is a man who unaccountably has not succeeded. There is nothing whatever against him; he is honest and shrewd and all that, but—unsuccessful.

Once the hoodoo becomes known as such he must attach himself to the newcomers—those who do not know, have not been warned or who are so new and confident as not to care. Each connection he makes is a little less desirable, until he finally reaches the stage at which he is ashamed of his associations.

Sign of Popular Affection. "Weren't you indignant when people who didn't know called you by your first name?"

"No," replied Senator Sorghum; "but I've worried a great deal since they've shown a disposition to stop it."

Loss of flesh is generally a sign of good health. It is surely so when the body begins to show a marked decrease of its normal weight. There is a certain fixed relation between the height and the weight which is reckoned on by insurance companies in their estimate of risks, and any marked variation from the scale means rejection for the applicant. Are you losing flesh? Begin the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It cures diseases of the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition, increases the supply of pure, rich blood, and so builds up the body into sound health. A gain in weight, by the addition of good, sound flesh follows the use of the "Discovery" in almost every case.

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City of Palestine.

main, and all the residents have been compelled to install it in their homes. It will mean a revolution in the habits and the life of the people, and, it is hoped, a revolution also in the matter of personal cleanliness.

Where Foreign Governments Interfere.

In order to meet the expenses of the installation of the water system, the government decided to take, as a special tax, the hides of the animals slaughtered within the city. A common sight is a sheep tethered on the sidewalk outside the butcher shop, awaiting its turn. As this bore hardly upon the butchers, many of whom are registered at the various consulates as citizens of foreign countries, these representatives of the powers objected, so some other means of financing the new water system will have to be found. Men seeking the concession are on the ground, and the government seems determined to carry the project to an early settlement.

Allied to the water question is that of sewage. Jerusalem has something in the way of an antiquated system of sewage, but the visitor would never suspect it. Travelers talk of the filthiness of the streets of Jerusalem—and the listeners understand them in the terms of the west, which gives no inkling of the real situation. The proprieties of western life do not permit one to speak freely on this point. But the streets of Jerusalem are as bad as those of the Chinese cities, if not worse. The marvel is that pestilence has not swept away the population. If, along with the proposed new system of sewage, there go vigorous police regulations, a most welcome change will be effected in the sights and smells of Jerusalem.

Down David Street by Trolley.

Until recently it was impossible to travel anywhere in Jerusalem by wheeled vehicle, but various streets have been widened, thanks largely to the visit of various royal personages. But on the whole, the streets of the city are narrow and unfit for vehicle traffic. Many of them are vaulted, so that they are really tunnels, and white plecturesque to the last degree, they do not lend themselves to the purposes of modern streets.

Now the reform government proposes to install four or five lines of electric trolley cars, all of them centering at the Jaffa gate. They will connect the neighboring villages with the city, so that one may go to Bethlehem for a nickel, and in less than half an hour. One line will invade the

Practically all of these are supported from abroad. Concerning the Jewish organizations and Jewish problems here I shall write in another article. At present I deal only with various Christian churches: The Greek, the Armenian, the Roman Catholic, the Syriac, the Coptic, and the Protestant. There are literally hundreds of religious institutions in Jerusalem. One sect alone spends 6,000,000 francs every year for the upkeep of its monasteries and other institutions.

The Rivalry for Sacred Sites.

Every holy sight imaginable has been possessed—and many beyond the imagination of a mere student of the Bible. Some have even been manufactured, so keen is the rivalry of the old churches to possess the holy places that attract the pilgrims. The situation has come to such a pass that visitors are scarcely shown the real antiquities of Jerusalem, so popular with the professional guides are the legendary ones. There is now afoot a plan for an American institution of popular Biblical archaeology, supported and controlled in the United States, which will provide visitors from the west with the information they really desire.

The overlay of superstition and commercialism and professional ecclesiastical rivalry which one finds in Jerusalem is quite as bad as may be seen at Benares. It has become necessary to station Turkish guards in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and in the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem, in order to keep the rival churches from coming to blows. The incongruity of Moslems with guns standing guard in the birthplace of the Prince of Peace strikes an American visitor with greater force than any sanctity the spot may possess.

The vast pilgrimages from Europe and Asiatic Russia are very profitable; and as they promote national prestige, they are encouraged by the various governments which have a stake in the future of Turkey. Russia maintains a huge system of buildings, including a large hospice for visitors. There are also Austrian, German, French and Italian hospices.

Many of these pilgrims are ignorant peasants, who see nothing discordant in the hanging of paper flowers and gilded glass balls amid the carvings and ornamentation of the Holy Sepulchre. The simplicity, dignity, worshipfulness and real beauty of the Mosque of Omar, which is in the keeping of the Moslems, present a