

**THE TEMPLE OR THE TOMB. GIVING FURTHER
EVIDENCE IN FAVOUR OF THE AUTHENTICITY
OF THE PRESENT SITE OF THE HOLY
SEPULCHRE, AND POINTING OUT SOME OF
THE PRINCIPAL MISCONCEPTIONS CONTAINED
IN FERGUSSON'S 'HOLY SEPULCHRE' AND 'THE
TEMPLES OF THE JEWS.'**

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The temple or the tomb. Giving further evidence in favour of the authenticity of the present site of the Holy Sepulchre, and pointing out some of the principal misconceptions contained in Fergusson's 'Holy Sepulchre' and 'The temples of the Jews.' by Charles Warren

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CHARLES WARREN

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BY

CHARLES WARREN,

FORMERLY IN CHARGE OF THE EXPLORATIONS AT JERUSALEM.

'It would be demanding a little too much from human nature to ask any one in his position to confess the errors of his ways, and to admit the success of a rival.—*The Temples of the Jews*, p. vii.



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PREFACE.

DURING the last fifteen years a vast amount of real information has been collected together concerning the sacred sites and existing buildings round about Jerusalem, which has in a great measure narrowed the old limits of controversy on topographical points, and left the various antagonists free to grapple more fully, and at leisure, with subjects of detail which a few years since could not be approached with any prospect of success, for want of knowledge of the general outlines.

On no theory have recent discoveries exercised so great an effect as on that original and bold hazard of Mr. Fergusson, the proposal that on the site of Solomon's Temple is the Sepulchre of our Lord; for to all who know anything of the subject, every additional item of information which recent years has afforded, has only more clearly demonstrated how entirely chimerical and illusory his views are, until at last the only sentiment remaining, is wonder why he should not abandon his theory in as cheerful a manner as practicable under the circumstances.

Apparently, however, this unhesitating writer has

no such intention, and with truly British characteristics, unable to realise that his cause is hopeless, that he has been signally vanquished by facts, he nails his colours to the mast, and crying 'No surrender!' pours out a broadside, even while in the act of sinking.

His last 'broadside' is entitled 'The Temples of the Jews,' a volume which continues to put forward with undiminished belief in his theory, and with considerable ingenuity, the views he has for so many years advocated; the ill effects of which I trust I may in some measure diminish or counteract by this volume, in which I intend to point out that many of his statements are incorrect, that his deductions cannot stand the ordeal of 'sound criticism,' and that local indications, historical facts, traditional reminiscences, architectural remains, and topographical details, all unite with one consent in protesting against the practicability of his theory.

Far be it from me to say that Mr. Fergusson has not assisted (after his manner) in promoting the discoveries which have so signally resulted in his own discomfiture, for it is obvious to all that the vehemence of his opinions, his warmth of expression, and strength of invective have stimulated his opponents to fresh exertions, to sift difficult questions, and to aid in the explorations, with an enthusiasm which could scarcely have been so strongly evinced had not party feeling strongly influenced them.

But now Mr. Fergusson's part is played out in this matter. The real battle rages in a different quarter, far away from his theory ; the space is narrowed, and his last broadside may injure his individual antagonists, but cannot help his cause.

This being the case, there are many who, knowing that his theory is doomed, would rather it died a natural death. They do not, however, perceive that while in a moribund state it may do more harm than it ever did in full vigour, while attacked and kept under by the champions of facts ; for his teaching is being industriously scattered over the land in atlases, in Biblical dictionaries, and in architectural text-books, and our youths are growing accustomed to the extraordinary errors he propounds before they are sufficiently experienced to judge for themselves. To use Mr. Fergusson's own words, ' Unless the heresy can be uprooted, it will inevitably come to be accepted in the course of time.'

There is, therefore, no time to be lost in pointing out the errors upon which he has grounded his theory, before they have spread too far and wide to be easily counteracted. This is more especially necessary, as Mr. Fergusson has stated constantly that his views have never yet been grappled with.

With this object before me, I propose to give a short historical account of the Holy Sepulchre, showing how all traditions, local indications, and other arguments, point out the present site of the Holy Sepulchre to be that which Constantine recovered, and on which