

Jerusalem,

July 25, 1884.

My dear Mr. Feltner,

I now write from the holy City which has ~~now~~ been our headquarters for some days, and though the weather has been very broken, we have been doing our best to explore the many interesting spots around Jerusalem. The road from Luffa affords magnificent sections of the Cretaceous limestones which constitute the Hill Country of Judea, and the scenery which they afford is in some respects different from any I have before seen, and gives a very marked character to the region — a character of uniformity, yet with many local variations; and giving a greater variety and grandeur of scenery than I could

have suffered from.

We have visited the supposed Calvary and Sepulchre in the celebrated Church, and the real Calvary, "without the gate", which, but for a few Moslem tombs, is much as it was in the time of Christ, and fortunately remains free from the murmurings & abominations of the false site within the city. We have ~~visited~~ <sup>studied</sup> the Mount of Olives, the old Temple area, Bethany and Bethlehem, and the Gardens and Pools of Solomon, and many others of the certain historical sites that give this little spot of earth pre-eminence above all others, and the consideration of its physical features, structure and productions, shows an appropriateness to its



Historical destiny greater than a  
 superficial observer would suppose.  
 It is interesting to notice the dif-  
 ference between modern villages  
 like Bethany, and those inhab-  
 ited by Christians, like Bethlehem,  
 or by the new German colonists.  
 In the former all is neglect &  
 squalor, in the latter there is  
 good culture and progress.  
 The improvements now going  
 on in the rocky hills near  
 Bethlehem, and the restoration  
 of Solomon's gardens near the  
 same place, show what can  
 be done by labour and capital,  
 and that a great future may  
 still be in store for this  
 country; though of course  
 this hilly and elevated  
 region around Jerusalem

is not one of its best parts.

It is also curious to observe how the different nationalities & creeds are endeavouring to acquire property and erect buildings around Jerusalem, instigated no doubt by jealousy, but evidencing an unconscious confidence in the future of the place. The buildings erected by the Russian and French governments, not yet entirely finished, constitute quite a new town, south and west of the Suffer Gate. Some times they are ironically called "New Jerusalem". Dr Friedlander tells me that of late there has been a large immigration of Jews - partly in consequence of the persecutions in Russia and Germany, and he thinks there is an increasing interest on their



part in Christianity.

In the mean time the present poverty and filth of the City present a strange contrast with its historical fame; but fortunately so much remains of marked natural features and indestructible human work, that one can realize the walks of the Saviour and the still older sites connected with the Hebrew history in a clearer manner than it is possible to do in Rome and in Egypt.

The wet and stormy weather which we have experienced here, impeded us very strongly with the actual toil and exposure endured by the man of sorrows who had no where to lay his

head; and the country is evidently  
 are fitted to rear a vigorous and  
 hardy people.

We hope if the weather improves  
 to go down to Iceland and the Dead  
 Sea this week, and to leave for  
 Beyrout on Friday. I do not ex-  
 pect to receive letters from Canada  
 here, where the mails are very  
 irregular, but hope to find  
 letters at Beyrout. I learn from  
 Mr. Boyner that the Botany chair  
 was to occupy the attention of the  
 Board. I hope they will see their  
 way clear to retain Penhallow,  
 and feel quite sure that this will  
 be a good and fruitful step in  
 our progress. I can find enough  
 to do without the botany, even  
 though, as I hope, I may return  
 more vigorous and fit for work



them when I left,<sup>1</sup>  
I feel that this letter but easily surpasses  
the many things I will this old and  
I have said for one's mind; but I cannot  
express these in. I beg you to  
their reading please to the word of the triumph  
ends from Anthony and the feet of the  
Batherson, speaks to the heart as well as to  
the eye.

With kind regards to all friends at  
Oxford and Orono  
from sincerely  
your friend

W. D. Owen