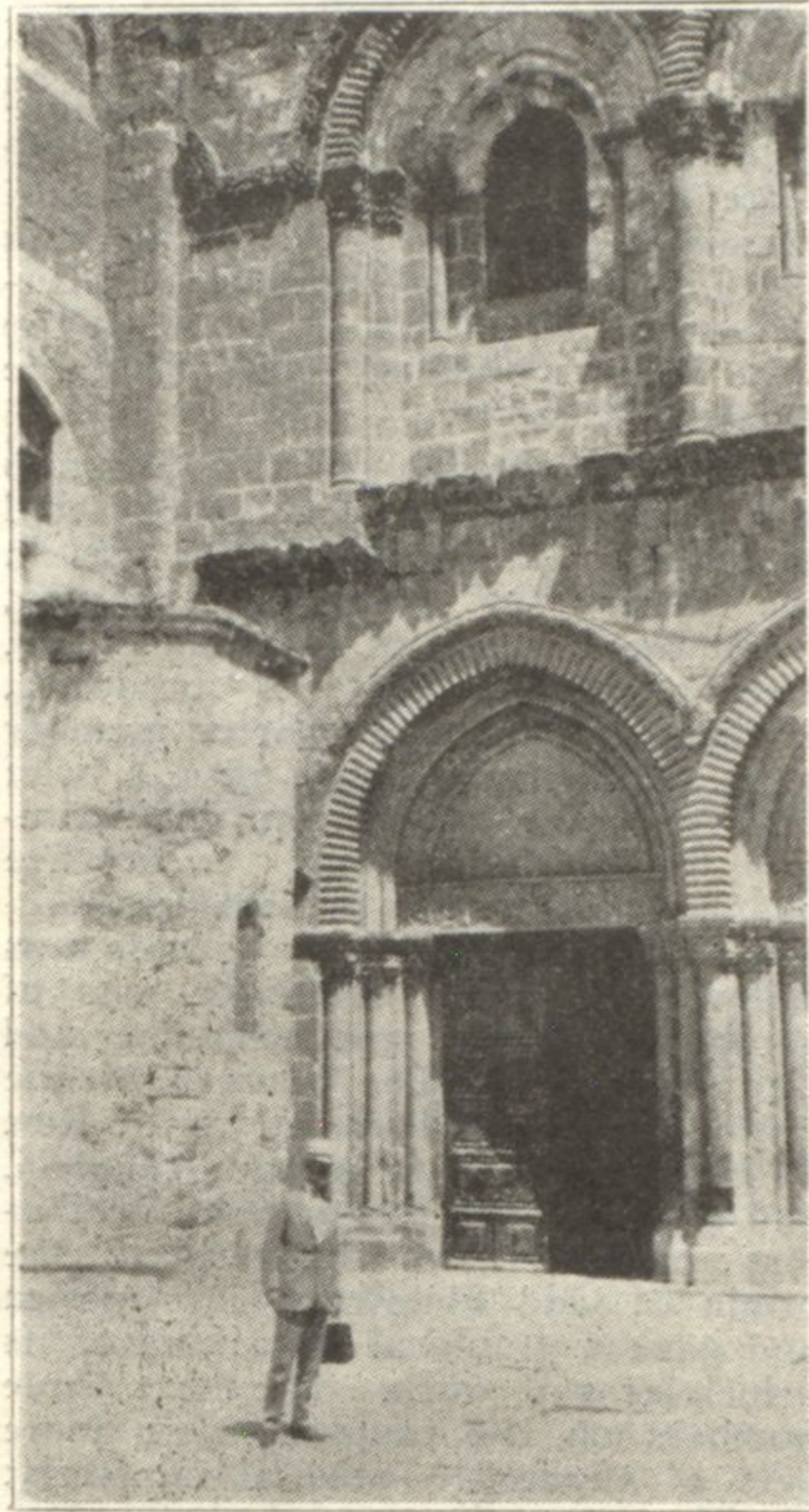


# REV. F. C. STIFLER SEES THOUSANDS ENTER GATE

(Continued from Page 22)

was a 33% sale on at Isaac Cohen's store. There was the Post Office, and the American Express and Cooks' and the Allenby hotel and the British drug store and many English signs.

I have said nothing of the sacred



Entrance to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

sights of Old Jerusalem. I had rather not and I had better not. Rather, because there is so much of disappointment about them. They are so entrusted with slender probability. And better because Religion is my business and I know I would grow technical and I am sure I would hurt the sectarian sensibilities of some good reader. Come and talk with me and I will tell



Steps to the Holy of Holies in Temple area.

you all I saw about the Tower of David, Mt. Zion, the Jews Wailing

Place, the Pools of Bethesda and Siloam, the Temple Area, the Stations of the Cross, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and a hundred more such places. There is very little Christianity exhibited in them. They are show places now existing for profit. Soldiers are required about some of them to keep peace between the warring sects who claim them. The stories that are told are plainly fables for the most part anyhow.

### Story of Christian Americans

Come rather with me to a spot a mile beyond the north wall of the city. Here you will feel at home for it is called the American Colony. In my opinion it has more of the Spirit of Jesus in it than any other institution in Jerusalem, ancient or modern. It is not a church. It is not a mission station. It is a settlement of Christian Americans in Jerusalem who live their lives in commerce, the professions, philanthropy, education, but live them on the high plan of Christian faith and Christian practice. They run a large store for tourists within the walled city. They have the agency for Dodge automobiles. They do what practically amounts to a hotel business on a limited scale with an added touch of home and its comforts. When I visit

Jerusalem again I want to be their guest. The American Colony is best understood when you know its history. Let me give it briefly.

Horatio G. Spafford was a Chicago lawyer living in what was then the suburban village of Lake View. He had a wife and four daughters. They had a beautiful home life. Then came a terrible bereavement. In 1873 Mrs. Spafford and her four daughters sailed on the "Ville De Havre" intending to spend the winter in Europe. In mid-ocean the ship was struck by another vessel and in fifteen minutes it sank with all on board.

There was no wireless telegraphy then to summon friendly ships to rescue. The loss of life was appalling. Mrs. Spafford was one of the twenty-two rescued, but her children were lost. When the splash of an oar brought her to consciousness, she realized that she must face life without her children. In the midst of physical suffering Mrs. Spafford fought a great battle and won. She wired from Cardiff in Wales where the survivors were landed in sailors' clothes, "saved alone." In Lake View, Mr. Spafford won his battle against the waves of affliction that this brief message swept over him and out of that night of darkness came two

things: one a hymn that has comforted many:—

*"When Peace like a river attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea-billows roll,  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
'It is well, it is well with my soul.'"*

and the other is the American Colony.

### Spirit of the Godly

When Mr. and Mrs. Spafford were reunited they dedicated their lives to Christian work. In 1881 they went to Jerusalem with two daughters born after the tragedy and founded the American Colony. I met the two daughters, Mrs. Vester and Mrs. Whiting. I never sat in the presence of more radiant Christian character than these two women possessed. They told us about their work especially for young girls. They took us to the "Anna Baby Home" where we saw the most fortunate little Arabs in all Palestine. Their mothers had died when they arrived. It is the most unique charity I have ever seen and so efficiently run.

One is sometimes ashamed of America when he is abroad. But not in Jerusalem. The word "American" is here attached to the noblest and most Christlike institution in the Holy City.

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