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but the Holy Places have escaped a destruction. Some of the original structures built over sacred spots in early A.D. have been partly rebuilt, mainly by the Crusaders so that it is possible to see two floors in places, the old original one in mosaic a foot or more below a more recent one but constructed on the same pattern.

We saw the grotto in the rock - a cave really, where Jesus was born. The original rock is still there, very hard & old looking. Owing to the fact that the so-called manger has been built over by this "Church of the Nativity", one has to try & forget that the stone walls & roof exist - not an easy thing to do.

On our return to Jerusalem, we carried on right to the summit of the Mount of Olives from where a marvellous view was obtained, over all Jerusalem.