

# Utah Photographer In The Holy Land.

Jerusalem, Palestine, March 1, 1904.  
To My Many Friends, Through the  
Kindness of the "News":

WHEN I left home to visit the Holy Land, I promised to send you some photos. Circumstances have prevented me until now from finishing any of those I have taken. Today I send you a photo of the Mount of Olives as seen from the platform or area of the Temple of Solomon—or where now stands the grand and beautiful, and unique, seventh wonder of the world, the Mosque of Omar. You have the advantage of seeing what happens but few times in a generation—the Mount of Olives covered with snow. I prefer to send this one, as it shows the snow to better advantage than the magazine. The fine olive trees seen in the foreground, are in the grounds of the mosque, and their characteristics are shown best against the snow.

## ANCIENT OLIVE TREES.

Olive trees in this land hold the past of honor. They live to be several hundred years old, and provide much food for the inhabitants. The olives are rarely used green, as with us, but are mostly allowed to ripen, and for food are cured in oil. They are then very nutritious, and are used by the mass of people much the same as we use butter. "Bread and olives" make a very convenient and good meal, and to this fact, in part, may be attributed the wonderful life sustaining power of this land, where there is, comparatively, little water. An olive tree, once planted, goes on for hundreds of years producing food, and with never a bit of water except the rain, and with no attention whatever. People of wealth leave in their wills specified olive trees, the "income" from which shall be devoted to some specified charity, or church, or to keep certain lamps filled with oil, to their memory. This is a land of candles and lamps, and to keep a lamp burning for several hundred years will keep a good big olive tree healthy, but the income is more sure than a gold mine.

You will never realize, until you come to Jerusalem, how important the olive tree is. A person raised in Utah could scarcely imagine it possible that every mountain for hundreds of miles in every direction has been for thousands of years denuded of every vestige of timber. That every tree you see growing in a week of travel is artificial and created by some person. All Jerusalem has not a tree, so far as I can learn, that is common property. With this fact in mind you go about the country and behold hill after hill—thousands of hills—covered with the soft silvery foliage of the olive tree. Ancient and gnarled and blackened, but ever and forever sending out of seemingly impossible stumps, bright sprigs and branches, to go on forever providing food and shelter for man and beast and bird.

## GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE.

The immense trees in the Garden of Gethsemane I have not the least doubt are the same trees under which the Savior walked and prayed. "You will really believe this when I show you the pictures of them on my return home. Not only does the tree give its fruit to man, but, in the end its new body to serve the hundreds of people who gain a livelihood by making the Olivewood souvenirs for sale. Most beautiful are the markings, and of the millions of pieces made, there are never two alike. This is a very important industry here, and many of the workers and carvers are very clever and ingenious. For instance, a small, four feet high, carved from olive wood, opens and forms a lady's dress, most beautiful. The head opening to form a jewel case, and the arms of the wood being matched in

the most artistic mosaic patterns. There are also hundreds of smaller articles, such as rulers, jewel boxes, crosses, etc.

## THORNY FUEL.

The reason why there is no timber in the immediate neighborhood of Jerusalem is, firstly, an indisposition to grow where there is so little water, and, secondly, the great scarcity of fuel in the land. Every scrap and chip of wood, every shaving and sawdust and root or weed is saved for burning. The olives for bread are heated with the "grass of the field" which is in reality a plant so thorny and prickly that I hesitate to even touch it. Nearly every plant that grows here that is of the nature of a shrub, is prickly. The hills are ablaze with wild flowers, (anemones) but everything that is not protected by thorns has long ago been used to death.

You are not to infer from this that the country is either barren or desolate. Far from it. The hills and valleys are a perfect carpet of verdure and bright flowers, very much as our Utah hills look in spring and summer. Wild flowers in endless variety and beauty are seen on every side; added to this the hillside are all farmed and planted to grain. Utah people will never be able to imagine what nooks and corners among the rocks are planted to grain. I have seen people plowing a piece that did not contain 10 superficial yards, and this high up on the hillside where it was difficult to climb with the camera. The reason this land is cultivated, is because all the land is cultivated—and these rocky hills were the only ones left for this man. You are not to think that this infers over population. It means simply that there is no waste here. The land is all owned by somebody.

## TERRACED GROVES.

If you own a farm, and it is more than you can use, you lease part of it. There are plenty who do not own any, who are ready to use it. Everywhere are terraces. Terraces upon terraces. From the bottom to the top of a mountain perhaps 10,000 various shaped terraces, large and small, high and low. And these are the farms and olive groves. You travel for hours and days, and still there are terraces, ancient and modern. Of course there are valleys, but mostly narrow. For instance, the valley of Jehoshaphat, where are the great vegetable gardens of Silwan, is but what we would call rocky gorge. The vale of Hinnom is very similar—in fact they run in together just below Mount Zion. All these steep gorges are terraced into small garden patches, in the aggregate almost supplying the whole city of Jerusalem with vegetables. And such vegetables as only a Utah state fair could show.

## USEFUL BOULDERS.

Next to the olive trees, as friends to the people, are the stones. Stones on the ground, stones in the hills, stones in the houses—stones everywhere. Stones hollowed out for utensils, stones for weights and measures, stones to cook upon and stones to sleep upon. Stones for floors and stones for roofs. You will scarcely believe me that nine-tenths of all the roofs here are made from thick paving stones, laid in cement as we lay the stone flags. The commonest "ashak" here is made of stones, and usually nicely hammer-faced. I don't think I have seen a half dozen lumber shanties in the whole of Palestine—the only one I think of, being the small police station that has been built near the Jaffa gate, which is of lumber, and painted blue—a striking example of "civilization." (a word much used here by Europeans).

## CIVILIZATION.

If you take the trouble to run this word to earth you find that their idea of civilization is to introduce European goods—coal oil, brass jewelry, canned fruit, smoked ham, cheap tinware, French neckties and French pictures. Ostensibly they are to teach "Chris-

"Charlie" Johnson Writes an Interesting Letter Regarding Customs and Scenes in Palestine—  
The Famous Trees of the Mt. of Olives go on Producing Fruit for Hundreds of Years—  
The Terrible Turk not so Black as He is Painted—Has to Keep Soldiers in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher to Keep the "Christians" from Tearing Each Other Asunder—Some "Christian" Riots—The Follower of Allah Minds His Own Business but Naturally Resents the Prying of Strangers Into His Personal Affairs.



THE SNOW WOMAN AND OTHERS—  
IN JERUSALEM, PALESTINE.  
PHOTO BY THE OTHERS.

Photographed for the Deseret News.

CHARLEY JOHNSON, "SNOW WOMAN," AND MADAM MOUNTFORD.

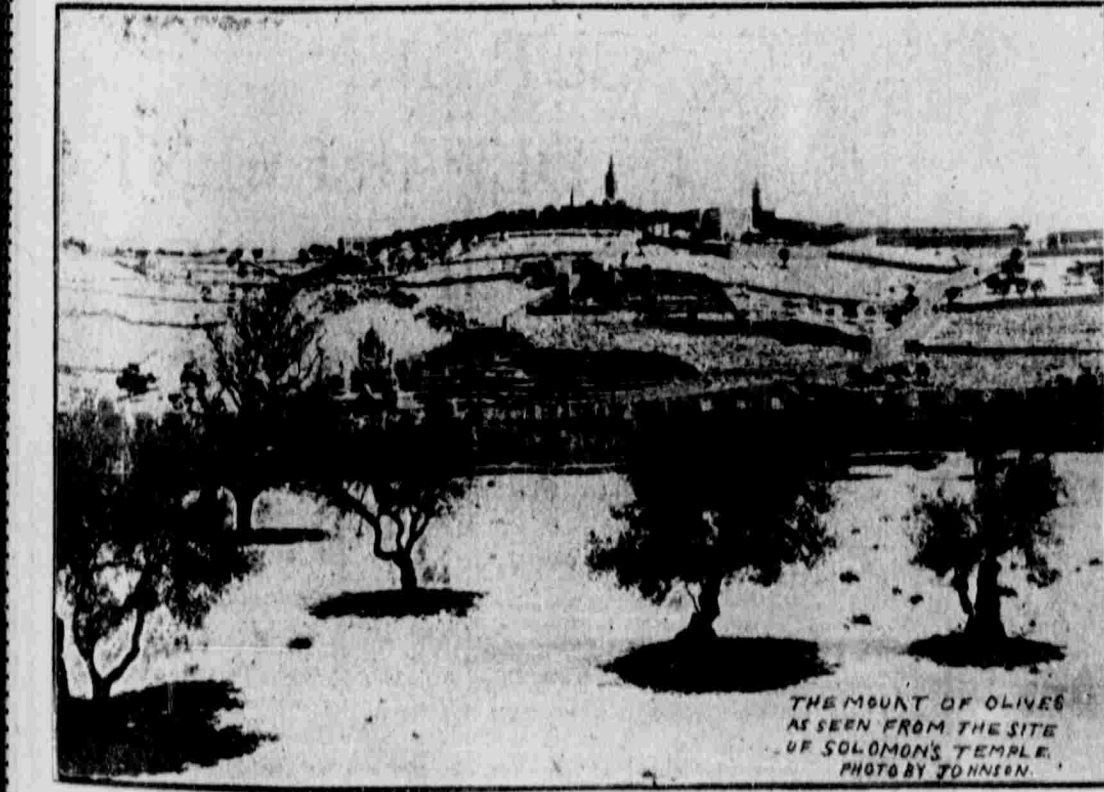
## PHOTOGRAPHS OF SACRED PLACES.

Mr. Johnson and Madam Mountford left Salt Lake several months ago to secure rare photographs to be used in the Holy Land exhibit of the world's fair. Madam Mountford will be remembered for her interesting lectures on the old world, delivered in the Tabernacle and other places in Utah, three or four years ago. Mr. Johnson writes that by reason of her influence he has been enabled to obtain 2,000 negatives, every one of them of interest and some of them of places as sacredly regarded by the people of Palestine as our Temples are regarded at home. Madam Mountford, who is greatly respected in the Holy Land, and Mr. Johnson have both left Jerusalem. They reached London some time since and may sail for America this week. They will go direct to St. Louis and prepare for the marvelous exhibit they are to make in conjunction with the Holy Land display. This done, Mr. Johnson will return to Utah.



Photographed for the Deseret News.

A SCENE ON THE SHORES OF THE DEAD SEA.



Photographed for the Deseret News.

THE MOUNT OF OLIVES AS IT LOOKS TODAY.

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