

The origin of Damascus is lost in antiquity. Josephus affirms it to have been founded by Uz, the son of Aram, whose family certainly colonized north-eastern Syria, and whose name became the common name of the country. Aram Damesk, Aram of Damascus is mentioned in 2 Sam. viii. 6, and 1 Chron. xviii. 6; and Isaiah says the hand of Syria (Aram) is Damascus. In Abraham's time it was evidently a well-known place, for it is noted that the trusted steward whom he sent to choose a bride for his son, was "Eliezer of Damascus." Under the dynasty of the Hadads, it became the powerful rival of the Jewish kingdom, and it was in connection with one of the forays of this time, that the



DAMASCUS—A GLIMPSE.

little Hebrew maiden was taken captive, and became a slave in the harem of the great Syrian captain Naaman—"a great man with his master, and honourable . . . also a mighty man of valour, but he was a leper,"—whose kindly advice led to his journey to the prophet Elisha at Samaria, his bathing seven times in the Jordan, and his miraculous recovery. In the words addressed to Tyre by the prophet Ezekiel—Tyre was then, as Beyrout is now, the port of Damascus—we have an interesting indication of its commercial importance at that time: "Syria was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of the wares of thy making; they occupied in thy fairs with emeralds, purple and brodered work, and fine linen and coral and agate. Damascus was thy merchant in