

ment: getting on board difficult, owing to the strong westerly wind, and sailed for Beyrouth.

18th—Arrived Beyrouth 5:30 a.m. Nouvel Hotel, D'Orient kept by Nicholas Bassoul. Beautiful view of the Lebanon, hilly settlements along the coast.

21st—4 a.m. Diligence to Damascus, arriving 6 p.m. Half an hour for lunch at Shtora 11 a.m. Excellent road, spirited horses and mules, frequent changes, distance 70 miles. The work grew out of the French Expedition 1860. The ascent of Lebanon steep from the summit a commanding view of Beyrouth and the Mediterranean. Khan Mizhir, 5,000 feet and Jebel Keneiseh 6630 feet above sea level. The intervening valley is called Bekaa (left) the Ancient Colesyria less cultivated than in ancient times. The bridge across the Nahr-el-Litany, the chief stream of the valley is 2,535 feet above sea level. Descending the Anti-Libanus we reach the waters of the Barada the Ancient Abana which works marvels, giving Damascus, called by the natives Esh Saim, a sylvan freshness mid barren surroundings. So rarely is this great contrast to be seen that Damascus in this respect stands almost unique. The plain has an elevation of 2,200 feet above the sea. Hotel Dimitri. Dimitri, a Greek, sheltered many during the outrages of 1860. Like all houses in Damascus it is a surprise. Ushered into a spacious court, having a fountain of living water, through a dingy entrance in a narrow street. Our bedroom on the 1st floor, opening on the verandah of the Court, an old Chamber, little altered during three hundred years, with numerous quotations from the Koran and good Arab carving.

22nd—Antonio Sawabeey as Valet-de-Place. The Damascus Bazaars the most interesting in existence. Damascus, a noted city in the days of Abraham. Visited the sumptuous Jewish houses of Lisbony and Farky, and, being the Sabbath, the ladies were attired in full oriental dress blazing with gold and jewels. Well received, held a conversation through our dragoman, and directly with the younger members of the family who speak French.

23rd—Visited Sabbabli's, a Christian banker's house, and a Café Jardin by the river side, where the fashionable ladies were smoking in native fashion.

24th—In conjunction with Cook's Party visited the Great Mosque. Ascended the Madinet el Gharbiyeh Minaret a master piece of Arabian skill, excellent view. An oval belt of verdure interposes between the bare masses of buildings and the bare hills. The Kubbes el Khazneh (dome of the treasure) in the W. part of the Court, supported by beautiful antique marble columns, contains old books and precious relics, never to be opened. The Dome is called Kubbet en Nisar (dome of the vulture) the aisles viewed from this point resemble the outspread wings of a vulture. To the East of the transept in a small carved and gilt Kubbeh, under which is a cave, is said to rest the head of St. John Baptist by which (Yahia) the Damascenes swear. Patronised a Turkish bath cleanly and in order. Visited the Tekkiyeh, the hospital, and one of the river cafés. Through a portion of the Bazaars every day. The Horse market attractive. Copper trays of all sizes in common use and fine work.

25th—Walked to the Bab esh Sherki, the East Gate of the city, along the Suk el Jakmak "the street called straight," and ascended the Minaret commanding a good view of several historic spots. Somewhere about here St. Paul "heard the voice which turned the fortunes of mankind." The

heaps of rubbish shew this to have been the site of pottery manufactures. Visit to the Khans. By the Saddler's Bazaar is a huge plane tree nearly forty feet in circumference.

26th—Ramble through the Bazaars and Khans. Visited a Christian lady and sustained a conversation through the dragoman. Quaffed a cup of Café Noir or Arabe, a delicious mouthful, which I have relished in the East. Visited a Café Jardin, Antonio smoked a narghilly (Josef), drawing on the real Persian weed for me. Two bottles iced lemonade allayed thirst. Damascus, which Mahomet from Salahiych deemed an earthly paradise, is full of interest. The Barada ('cool') called by the Greeks Chrysorrhoas ("Golden Stream") is the source of its life.

27th—4:30 a.m. diligence to Beyrouth, arriving 5:30 p.m. Dinner at Shtorn. Abandoned our ride to Basibee, owing to Mrs. Reid's indisposition.

28th—H. M. S. *Pallas* first of the Mediterranean squadron arrived. Visited a house in the suburbs of Beyrouth to see the silk-worms. Drive to the pines at Bas Beirut, &c.

MAY.

1st—Joined a boating party in the evening, examined by torchlight some old stone columns submerged in the harbour. In the streets may be seen fractured columns used on the roadway, and at the bathing house quite a number of pieces of old columns.

2nd—Embarked Austrian Lloyd's steamship *Mars* 5:40 p.m., sailed 7 p.m. for Smyrna—clear moonlight and smooth water. A large number of pilgrims on board helter skelter. Amusing series of studies from the bridge during the evening.

3rd—Arrived Larnaka, Cyprus (the Chittim of the Scriptures) 7 a.m., remained at anchor in the bay—bold mountain outline in the background. Went ashore with Rev. Dr. Boyd, of London, and Mr. Pearson, an American Missionary in China on leave, and called on the American Consul, L. P. De Cesnola, who has since 1835 brought to light several interesting antiquities, chiefly pottery and jewellery. The greater part has been purchased by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Cesnola shewed us a pair of bracelets weighing 3 lbs. gold, of Evander, King of Paphos, 640 B.C. A Cyprian inscription indicates its having been a votive offering. Sailed 5 p.m.

5th—Arrived Rhodes 4 a.m., sailed 7 a.m. Viewed the town from the deck. Passed Patmos 4 p.m. Samos 7 p.m.—wind fresh.

6th—Arrived Chio 1 a.m., bold outline, and Smyrna 9 a.m. Hotel Des Deux Augustes. Intended going by Syra and the Piræus to Athens, but Mrs. Reid's health forbade.

17th—Dr. McCraith successfully treated her for Syrian fever, produced by some malarious inhalation. McCraith's genial qualities and professional skill are widely known. Our landford, Mille, was attentively kind. Meal hours at Smyrna: Dejeuner noon, dinner 8 p.m. The snow is compressed in the mountain gorges and brought to the city packed in bags.

The new docks afford an improved water front, along which have sprung up several cafes, more convenient than ornamental, and a capacious basin protecting shipping from the swell of the *imbati*, a wind which blows up the Gulf in the afternoon, and is of sanitary value. The steamers anchor in the Gulf. A grove of cypresses and a spur of Mount Parnus protect the city from the miasma of the Meles valley. The Levant coasters are highly spiced, carrying a large spread of canvases.