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Antakia—Antioch in Syria.

NEXT to Jerusalem, no city is of greater interest in apostolic history than Antioch, the old capital of Syria, situate on the river Orontes about 300 miles north from Jerusalem and 16 miles from the sea. It was founded B. C. 300, by Seleucius Nicator, and named after his father Antiochus. It was encompassed with walls 50 feet high and 15 feet thick, carried at enormous expense over ravines and the ridge of mountains on the south. In apostolic times Antioch was a splendid city of nearly 500,000 inhabitants, renowned as a seat of art and learning, foremost in so-called refinement and culture; foremost also in luxury and vice. Many were attached to it by its delightful climate. "Poets have spent their young days at Antioch, great generals have died there, emperors have visited and admired it. But, for the most part, its population was a worthless rabble. The frivolous amusements of the theatre were the occupation of their life." Barnabas and Saul ministered for a whole year at Antioch. From it Paul started on his first two missionary journeys. Here the disciples were first called Christians. Chrysostom, the most famous of the Greek Fathers, was born at Antioch, A.D. 347. It ranked with Jerusalem and Alexandria as the site of a patriarchal see. It has been repeatedly devastated by earthquakes. The modern town *Antakia* is little more than a mean village surrounded by heaps of ruins.