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DAMASCUS—A GLIMPSE OF THE GREAT MOSQUE.

Scenes in Damascus.

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ONE of the most interesting sights in Damascus is the Great Mosque, a few years ago open to none but Moslems, but now open to Christians, by consular order, in parties of not more than twenty. It is larger than the Mosque of Omar at Jerusalem, and shows in its architecture the three great epochs of its history. The site is most probably that of the temple of Rimmon, spoken of by Naaman; and the massive stones and beautiful arches and entrances show the Grecian or Roman epoch which marked its existence as a heathen temple. Under Constantine the temple of Jupiter was dedicated

to the worship of Jesus, and the building became the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

Through a trap-door in the roof of one of the bazaars which adjoins it, we climbed up on the roofs to see a doorway to the mosque which is built up with modern buildings. It is a portal of the early Christian period, richly ornamented with scrolls and foliage, and having over its central arch a cross and the following inscription:

Η ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΑ ΣΟΥ, ΧΕ, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΑ ΠΑΝΤΩΝ
ΤΩΝ ΑΙΩΝΩΝ, ΚΑΙ Η ΔΕΣΠΟΤΙΑ ΣΟΥ
ΕΝ ΠΑΣΑ ΓΕΝΕΑ ΚΑΙ ΓΕΝΕΑ

"Thy kingdom, O Christ, is an everlasting kingdom, and Thy dominion endureth throughout all generations."