

traders whose blood is in their veins, are peddlers of silks, jewellery and Oriental curios throughout Europe and, chiefly, in America. Mr. Read met one at Zahleh who the previous year had been a guest in his own house in Canada. In the popular apprehension America is another synonym for Heaven and the rugged mountains of Lebanon for Gehenna.

Mr. Hotchkiss and two lady missionaries honoured us by sharing five o'clock tea in our tent. Afterwards Mr. Read and I visited the mission house, a refined Christian home, bright with English and American books, pictures and periodicals. Mr. Jessup dined with us in the evening and talked far into the night, recounting the stirring story of missionary progress in Mount Lebanon. Both of the resident missionaries are graduates and post-graduates of American colleges—bright, cultivated, clever men, exerting great influence on the government of Mount Lebanon.

It was our last evening in camp, and our cook honoured the occasion by providing dinner after the manner of the Orientals. One feature of this was meat brayed in a mortar to the consistency of paste, with other dishes which needed a cultivation of taste that we had not yet attained. In the morning as we rode away it was a very touching to see a group of peasant women weeping as we passed because we belonged to that land beyond the sea where so many of their kindred were. It was a curious sight to see a tall, dark-eyed, stately woman carrying three large bowls of milk, one upon another, upon her head.

It is a *détour* of some hours to the famous cedars of Lebanon. This we did not make, but they are thus described by Dr. Ridgaway:

"The cedars are situated on a platform or recess, around which tower all the highest peaks of the mountain, some thousands of feet. They stand upon a knoll at the head of the wild gorge of the Kadisha. There is no other sign of vegetation in the vicinity. As seen from above, the grove appears more remarkable than when it is approached from below, and is not more than a half-mile in circumference. About a dozen only of the oldest trees are left, but there are more than four hundred in all. The largest measure about forty feet in girth, and are thought to be several thousand years old. We lunched under the branches of these old patriarchs, and felt something of the hush which comes to the spirit when overshadowed with a sense of the remotest antiquity.

"The interest attaching to the cedars, which attracts so many visitors to this lonely spot, arises from their great age and Scriptural associations. 1 Kings v. 6; Ezra iii. 7; Psa. xxix. 4, 5; xcii. 12; civ. 16; Ezek. xxxi. 3-10—the latter a singularly noble passage. These trees are not like the American cedar, but more like our pine. The wood is of a