

21. **My journeyings, etc.** *i.e.*, in my previous letters I brought the narrative of journeyings up to my arrival at Jericho.

28. It was the son, Titus, who besieged and captured Jerusalem in A.D. 70. He was emperor of Rome, 79-81. Vespasian his father was emperor 70-79.

29. He gives the various incidents that have befallen him; the picture of the lynx, in its startling effectiveness and brevity, is characteristic of Browning's manner.

37-8. He recognizes the humour of the method of indicating distance to which his professional enthusiasm leads him.

42. **cholera.** In its original sense 'bile.'

43. **tertians.** Fevers which recur every *third* day.

45. **school.** School of medicine.

spider. It is not improbable that this description is based upon some account read by Browning. Perhaps it refers to the particular spider found in Palestine described in the following: "Among them [the spiders of the Holy Land] is one very extraordinary species, the Mason Spider (*Mygale Cementaria*) which excavates a home in the earth, lines it and forms a trap door with a silken hinge, which closely fits the aperture, and is constructed of webs with earth firmly imbedded in them and agglutinated. The door fits so closely and so exactly resembles the surrounding soil that detection is impossible."

48, fol. The letter is to be sent by a Syrian vagabond whom he has picked up; he dares not trust in the hands of such a person the medical recipe which he was about to impart to Abib. Ancient medicine delighted in odd drugs, powdered mummy was one. Pliny speaks of spiders powdered up with oil as an ointment for the eyes.

50. **sublimate.** A common term in elder chemistry for products resulting from heating bodies to a vapour and then allowing the vapour to condense, *e.g.*, corrosive sublimate, a chloride of mercury.

51. **ailing eye.** Diseases of the eye are very common among the poor in the East.

55. **gum-tragacanth** is obtained from thorny shrubs, natives of Asia Minor and Persia. The finest variety is known as flake-tragacanth, consisting of flakes one to three inches long by one inch in breadth.

57. **porphyry** is a name employed for various sorts of ornamental stones used in architecture, in the manufacture of vases, etc. Here the word is used for a mortar made of porphyry.