

and inlaid with mother-of-pearl and precious stones. For twelve centuries no Christian foot was allowed to cross the sacred threshold, and now one must put off the shoes from his feet, for it is holy ground. An enormous chandelier of one thousand lights hangs from the lofty ceiling, which, when lighted during the feast of Ramedan, produces a very brilliant effect.

This great structure is still known as the Mosque of the Lord John. The head of the Saint is said to be here, his heart at Aleppo and one of his fingers at Beyrout. His traditional tomb is enclosed in a marble dome-shaped shrine, with iron grating, shown in our engraving, page 214, and is covered with Oriental rugs with elaborate design in small patterns and low-toned colours. On the huge bronze doors, much battered and dilapidated, and so heavy as to require five men to open or close them, may still be seen the Christian symbol of the sacramental chalice. The dome at the intersection of the aisles and transept is named "Kubbet en-Nisr," Dome of the Vulture, from the fancy that the transept wings resembled those of that bird of prey.

A large court adjoining is paved with costly marble and surrounded by colonnaded corridors. In the centre is a magnificent marble-domed fountain for the ablutions of the faithful. The effect of the bright sky overhead, the gleaming marbles, which, "Cleopatra-like, give the sun their bluest veins to kiss," the high lights and deep shadows, the stately, silk-gowned, turbaned figures of the mollahs and worshippers, their devout



VIEW FROM MINARET OF GREAT MOSQUE.