

Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Balbec, and Palmyra. The French poet and traveller, Lamartine (to whose account of Lady Esther, drawn up from a personal visit, I am indebted on the present occasion), relates that "at Palmyra, the numerous tribes of wandering Arabs who had facilitated her approach to that city's ruins, assembled round her tent, to the number of 40 or 50,000, and, charmed with her beauty, her grace, and her splendour, proclaimed her **QUEEN OF PALMYRA**, and delivered firmans (missives or credentials) into her hands, by which it was agreed that every European to whom she might deign to grant a protection, should be allowed to visit in perfect security the desert and ruins of Balbec and Palmyra, provided he pledged himself to the payment of 1000 piastres as a tribute.

ZENITH and NADIR—The *Zenith* is the uppermost pole of the horizon, an imaginary point in the heavens, directly over our head. On the artificial *Globe*, it is the most elevated point on its surface, in which the eye of the spectator can be placed.

The *Nadir* is the lowest pole of the horizon; that is, an imaginary point directly under the feet, and consequently diametrically opposite to the zenith.

ZODIAC, The, or The ECLIPTIC—Represents that path in the heavens which the sun seems to describe by the earth's annually revolving round it. It is divided into 12 equal parts, called signs, and each sign contains 30° , corresponding to the 12 months of the year, and the days of the months.

It is called the ecliptic, because the eclipses must necessarily happen in this line, where the sun always is.

The names and characters of the 12 signs, with the time of the sun's entrance into them, are as follows:

Aries, or the Ram; March 20th.

Taurus, the Bull; April 20th.

Gemini, the Twins; May 21st.

Cancer, the Crab; June 21st.

Leo, the Lion; July 23rd.

Virgo, the Virgin; August 23rd.

Libra, the Balance; September 23rd.

Scorpio, the Scorpion; October 23rd.

Sagittarius, the Archer; November 22nd.

Capricornus, the Goat; December 22nd.

Aquarius, the Waterman; January 20th.

Pisces, the Fishes; February 19th.