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## SOME GARDENS OF ENCHANTMENT AND RENOWN.

“Nebassar's Queen

Fatigued with Babylonia's level plains  
Sighed for her Median home, where Nature's  
hand  
Had scooped the vale and clothed the mountain  
side  
With many a verdant wood; nor long she pined  
Till that uxorious monarch called on Art  
To rival Nature's sweet variety.  
Forthwith two hundred thousand slaves up-  
rear'd  
This hill—egregious work, rich fruit o'erhung  
The sloping vales and odorous shrubs entwine  
Their undulating branches.



SOME time between 590 and 561 B.C., would seem to have been the most probable date of the erection of the famous Hanging Gardens of Babylon. (Fig. 1639.) The lowest stage of these gardens covered between three and four acres. It is not known what their height was. Two ancient writers agree in making their height that of the walls of Babylon, but there is much difference

of opinion as to what the height of these latter were. According to the lowest calculation found in the pages of ancient writers they were seventy-five feet high. Whilst this estimate was probably much too moderate we must consider the statement of Herodotus, that they were 360 feet in height, an exaggeration. The mound Babel, which of late years has come to be generally considered their wreck, is still 140 feet high, though for centuries it has been used as a quarry by the Arabs.

As to the general external appearance of the structure there seems to be two main opinions. One that it was like a lofty, wooded pyramid with several terraces, each smaller than the one below; the other, that as in the Roman amphitheatre, the several tiers of arches were so built that the line of the outer wall from base to summit was perpendicular. All seem now of the opinion that arches