

the few cedars that remain may be called *the glory of Lebanon*. Their fine shade, conical form, beautiful symmetry, and lofty height fully justify the figurative language of the Bible. He found some upwards of two feet deep, that had lain through the hot months.

Lebanon and Carmel, being the most remarkable among the mountains of Palestine, are frequently celebrated in the sacred poetry. The one remarkable as well for its height as for its magnitude, and the abundance of the cedars which adorned its summit, exhibiting a striking and substantial appearance of strength and majesty; the other, rich and fruitful, abounding with vines, olives, and delicious fruits, in a most flourishing state both by nature and cultivation, and displaying a delightful appearance of fertility, beauty, and grace.

The population is from 100,000 to 150,000, consisting of Syrian and Armenian Catholics, Greeks, and Greek Catholics, Druses, and Maronites.—The wine of Lebanon is still celebrated, and its air pure, and its prospects enchanting. Some of Isaiah's most elegant imagery is derived from this mountain and its appurtenances.—Moses mentions, in his earnest prayer to God, as a reason for wishing to go over Jordan, his desire to see this delightful region.

**CEDAR.**—One of the most valuable and majestic trees of eastern forests. It grows to the height of seventy or eighty feet. The branches are thick and long, spreading out almost horizontally from the trunk, which is sometimes thirty or forty feet in circumference. Maundrell measured one which was thirty-six feet and six inches in the girth, and one hundred and eleven feet in the spread of its boughs. The wood is of a red color and bitter taste, which is offensive to insects, and hence it is very durable, having been known to last (as historians assert) upwards of two thousand years. It was used for the most noble and costly edifices. This timber served not only for beams for

the frame, and boards for covering buildings, but was also wrought into walls. The mountains of Lebanon were famous for the growth of the cedar, but travellers tell us that the words of prophecy are verified, 'or now a child may write them.'

In the days of the prophet Isaiah the mountains of Lebanon were thickly covered with forests of this stately tree. A knowledge of this fact may aid in the application of the words, "Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering." Isa. xl. 16. Though the trembling sinner were to make choice of these lofty mountains for the altar, and were to take all the herds of cattle that feed on them for a sacrifice, costly as the offering would be esteemed; and then were to cut down all their forests for fuel, precious and fragrant as the incense would be—all would not avail to atone for one sin. The just and holy law of God requires a nobler altar and a more precious sacrifice: these we behold in our Lord Jesus Christ; for us he was offered on the cross; for our salvation he shed his blood; and now a full pardon and eternal life are offered to all that repent and believe on him.

### A STORY OF SLAVES.

There lived in a town, called Benguela, in Western Africa, a cruel heathen chief. Everybody was afraid of him. His wives and his children trembled at the sound of his voice. Yet he had one little girl whom he loved very much. His hard heart was softened whenever he looked upon his little girl. Her name was Mandarin.

Mandarin had a little friend, named Yabba. They used often to play together, and to sit together under the pleasant shade of the mango tree. They did not go to school, or learn to read. There was no one to teach these dear children to love God.

Mandarin's father drank a great deal of rum, and this made him more furious still. One day he wanted to