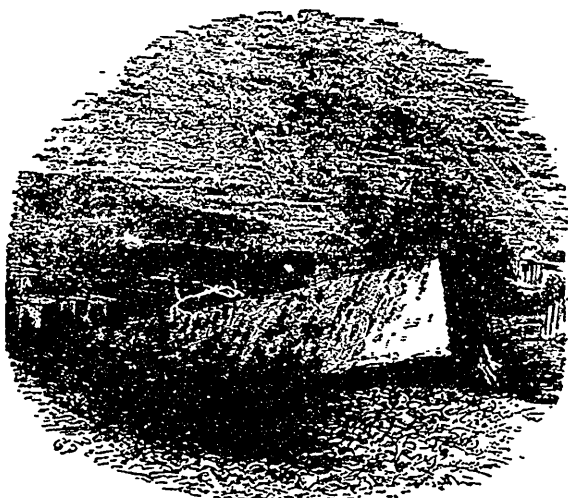


largest stones ever handled by man, thirteen feet in height and thickness, and respectively sixty-four feet, sixty-three feet eight inches, and sixty-three feet in length. They contain 32,000 cubic feet and weigh about 91,000 tons each. With such exactness were they cut and polished that the blade of a penknife can scarcely be inserted in the joint, and even now they look like one huge stone, nearly 200 feet long.

In the adjacent wall are nine cyclopean stones, each about 31 feet long, 13 feet high and ten in breadth.

It is believed that the vast masses were raised to their position, as were also the mighty columns and architraves, by making a great mound of earth, and by the main force of thousands of men, dragging them to their place.



GREAT STONE IN QUARRY, BAALBEC.

Only when one measures his pigmy proportions against these huge masses does he realize the greatness as well as the littleness of man, by whose strength and skill they have been heaved high in the air.

Before leaving these mighty ruins, speaking of the past unto the present, I climbed a huge stone like a fallen crag, and mused and moralized upon the scene. All was silent save the distant voices or light laugh of the tourist group beside the temple of Jupiter. The gay-gowned figure of an Arab glided noiselessly beneath the shadow. Lithe lizards, flashing like living jewels, darted here and there. Shattered columns, architraves and lintels lay half-buried in the sand. The carved niches were empty now of their idols and statues of the emperors. The gods were defaced and mutilated. The prostrate columns lay like fallen giants upon their faces, like Dagon before the Ark of the Lord. The little Christian church, erected in the great court with the fragments of these temples, was itself a wreck. The all-beholding sun, to whose worship this vast structure was erected, looked down,