

Our Canadian party had made the acquaintance at Damascus of a number of bright post-graduate students of Berlin University, who were making an archæological tour through Palestine and the Levant, among them the Rev. Dr. Patton, of Chicago, Rev. W. F. Steel, of Denver, Rev. S. W. Brown, a graduate of Yale and Andover, and other enthusiastic sight-seers full of archæological enthusiasm.

Our first walk was across the new bridge over the Golden Horn—the crowded thoroughfare between Pera and Stamboul.* The extreme south-eastern point of Europe known as the Old Seraglio, with its gardens and palaces, covers an area of three miles in circuit. Its buildings have been erected at different eras, from the time of Mohamet II., according to the whims of princesses and sultanas. Here, in the times of the pomp and pride of the Caliphate, forty thousand oxen a year were consumed; and here in later times the fierce Janissaries exercised their turbulent control. It is now a vast aggregate of deserted palaces, the abodes of imperial widows and deposed wives.

We explored with greatest interest the imperial museum, with its priceless archæological treasures brought from many lands. Among these was a unique inscribed stone style or slab from the temple of Herod at Jerusalem, which stood in the temple court, whose rescript threatened death to all Gentile intruders within the sacred precincts. This must have often been seen by our Lord when He visited the temple. So careless was the Sublime Porte of these treasures that for fourteen years this monument of such unique interest was forgotten in a dark celiar and only by accident was re-discovered.

The most exquisite high-relief sculpture I ever saw, surpassing even that of the tomb of Maximilian at Innsbruck, was the so-called tomb of Alexander, probably made by Lysippus at the command of Alexander for his friend Clytus whom he had slain in a fit of passion. My notes of this are necessarily imperfect, because the custodian of the museum peremptorily interrupted all use of pencil or paper. I, therefore, condense from a Constantinople newspaper the following account by a tourist who had ampler opportunity than I of studying these exquisite sculptures:

"I have yet to speak of two glorious works of art, which are almost without rival in any part of the world. I mean the sarcophagi which were discovered some ten or twelve years ago at Sidon. The first alto-relief consists of a series of statuettes only just attached to the slabs of the sarco-

*"Stamboul": Turkish Istamboul, from the Greek *εις την πολην*; as they say in London, "the City."