

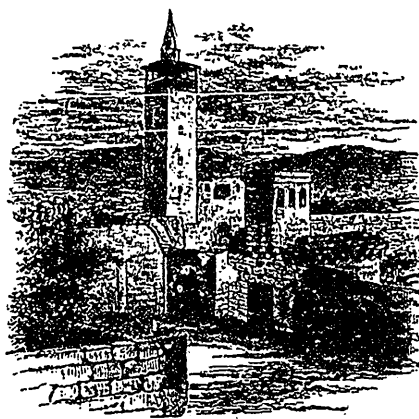
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VAGABOND VIGNETTES.

BY THE REV. GEO. J. BOND, B.A.

THE EYE OF THE EAST—DAMASCUS AND THEREABOUTS.



EAST GATE OF DAMASCUS.

THE lofty peak of Hermon is the most prominent landmark of Palestine. Its snowy summit, glittering white against the blue sky, may be seen from many distant points. It was called Sirion, the glittering, by the Sidonians, and Shenir, the clattering, by the Amorites—both these words mean breastplate. The scriptural name Hermon means the lofty peak, and the Arabs call it Jebel-es-

Sheikh—the chief mountain. Ten thousand feet above sea-level, it raises its snowy summit toward the sky. The three loftiest heights are some two or three thousand feet above the main chain; the highest on the north, the second three hundred yards farther south, and the third to the west, a quarter of a mile away. To the south it slopes down to the plain of Huleh, its foot hills buried in luxuriant foliage; on the north a ravine separates it from the long chain of Anti-Liban us. The snow never wholly leaves its summit, though the full whiteness of its winter drapery remains but in the ravines which streak its slopes when the summer sun has played upon it.